



21613 THE REVEN

THE MONTHLY BULLETIN OF THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY

Published at Lynchburg, Virginia.

Editor: Dr. J. J. Murray, Lexington, Va.

Vol. 1.

January, 1930

No. 1.

Officers of the Virginia Society of Ornithology.

President: Prof. Ruskin S. Freer, Head of Biology Dept.,
Lynchburg College, Lynchburg, Va.

Vice-President: Mr. Chas. O. Handley, Commission of Game and
Inland Fisheries, Richmond, Va.

Secretary-Treasurer: Miss Lena B. Jefferson, Biology Dept.,
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Editor of "The Raven": Dr. J. J. Murray, Lexington, Va.

Chairman, Publication Committee: Dr. J. I. Yamaker, Head of
Biology Dept., Randolph-Macon Women's College,
Lynchburg, Va.

Member, Executive Com: Mr. H. G. Lewis, Lexington, Va.

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Charter Members of the V. S. C.

Honorary Life Members: Dr. Am. C. Rives, 1702 Rhode Island Ave.,
Washington, D. C.

Dr. Ellisen A. Smyth, Jr., R. F. D., Salem, Va.

Foot note:

1. The annual dues of \$1.50 are payable at once and prompt payment will facilitate organization work. Send check to the Secretary-Treasurer.

2. The raven in the heading is taken from Thorburn's British Birds drawn by the author. There is very slight difference between the European and American species.

Active Members: (In addition to the officers named above, the following have expressed the desire to become members).

Mrs. R. C. Bardwell, 3211 Hanover Ave., Richmond, Va.
Mr. Ralph M. Brown, Librarian, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, Va.
Mrs. C. L. Burgess, 1900 Memorial Ave., Lynchburg, Va.
Prof. Robert P. Carroll, Head of Biology Dept., Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Va.
Dr. Wm. P. Caton, Accotink, Va.
Mr. A. B. Claytor, Jr., 25 W. Princeton Circle, Lynchburg, Va.
Miss Katherine P. Claytor, Bedford, Va.
Mr. Aristide Croonenberghs, Sr., Lynnhaven, Va.
Miss Bertha Daniel, Naruna, Va.
Mrs. Joseph Dise, 5 Liberty St., Charleston, S. C.
Mr. A. O. English, 105 Granby St., Norfolk, Va.
Mr. J. Bowie Ferneyhough, P. O. Box 1458, Richmond, Va.
Mr. Jos. E. Gould, 1920 Springfield Ave., Campostella Hts., Norfolk, Va.
Miss Florence Hague, Biology Dept., Sweetbriar College, Sweetbriar, Va.
Mrs. A. G. James, 4100 Grove Ave., Richmond, Va.
Dr. I. E. Lewis, Miller School of Biology, U. of Va., University, Va.
Mr. John B. Lewis, Lawrenceville, Va.
Mr. J. L. McAtee, Bureau of Biological Survey, USDA., Washington, D. C.
Mr. H. M. Nicklem, R. F. D. 1, Shipman, Va.
Miss Mary L. Percy, 708 Chestnut St., Lynchburg, Va.
Dr. J. A. Plecker, Bureau of Vital Statistics, State Board of Health, Richmond, Va.
Mr. G. L. Shirley, Dayton, Va.
Mrs. R. B. Smithy, Ashland, Va.
Miss Grace W. Taylor, Biology Dept., Randolph-Macon Woman's College, Lynchburg, Va.
Mr. Joe S. Wade, Bureau of Entomology, USDA., Washington, D. C.
Mrs. I. E. Ward, 520 Federal St., Lynchburg, Va.
Mr. Carlo Zeimet, Bureau of Entomology, USDA., Washington, D. C.

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

At the request of the editor, Dr. J. J. Murray, the following account of the organizing of the Virginia Society of Ornithologists was prepared, with a statement as to its immediate plans and aspirations for the future.

The idea of working for some such organization grew out of the writer's desire to make the acquaintance of other ornithologists, amateur and otherwise, who were particularly interested in working on Virginia birds. The late Miss Katherine Stuart, who at the time of her death last June was president of the Alexandria, Arlington and Mt. Vernon Audubon Association, and who was well acquainted with Virginia ornithologists, assisted in working for the proposed organization by lending her interest, and submitting a list of people in various parts of the state who had made more or less of a study of birds. Mrs. Joseph Dise, formerly of Amherst, Va., now living in Glen Rock, Pa., has also been much interested in the proposed organization, and also furnished a list of additional names of people who might be interested in a state organization.

Early in October, 1929, I sent out mimeographed letters to all of the people whose names had been suggested by Miss Stuart and Mrs. Dise, and to others whose acquaintance I had made. These people were requested to send in names of others who might be interested in the proposed organization. Altogether between sixty and seventy names were thus secured, and to all these the form letter was sent. About thirty-five replies were received. Some of these replies were pessimistic as to the possibilities of a state organization, but the majority enthusiastically favored it.

The principal objection raised was that due to the small number of Virginia bird students and distances separating them, a state-wide organization would be impracticable. We feel that this objection will be taken care of by two provisions in our general plans, viz., first, the publication of a monthly bulletin, to which corresponding members from various parts of the state will contribute; second, by the organization of local groups, as at Lynchburg, Richmond, Norfolk and Alexandria. The bulletin is to be mimeographed at a price that will make it available to all who are really interested. The local groups can meet more frequently than would be possible for the entire state membership.

As replies to my form letter began to come in, I called on Dr. J. J. Murray, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Lexington, and his ornithological partner, Mr. M. G. Lewis, county agent for Rockbridge County, for counsel. We decided to call a meeting at Lynchburg College for Dec. 7.

We felt that if six or eight interested people attended, we would be well satisfied. There were eighteen present. Greetings from many others were read at the meeting. Beginning at ten o'clock, organization affairs were fairly complete by one o'clock, when the group adjourned for lunch.

In the morning meeting Mr. M. G. Lewis gave a talk on the past, present, and future of bird work in Virginia. It was decided to organize as The Virginia Society of Ornithologists, with local affiliated organizations wherever the number of members justified. A

motion was passed providing for the appointment of a committee on constitution. Officers were elected as follows: Ruskin S. Freer, head of Biology Department, Lynchburg College, president; Chas. O. Handley, State Game Commission, Richmond, vice-president; Miss Lena B. Henderson, Biology Department, Randolph-Macon Woman's College, Lynchburg, secretary-treasurer; Dr. J. J. Murray, pastor, Lexington Presbyterian Church, Lexington, Editor of the bulletin.

Matters pertaining to the bulletin, including membership fee, were left to the publication committee, consisting of Dr. J. I. Hamaker, head of Biology Department, Randolph-Macon Woman's College, chairman; Miss Lena B. Henderson, Mr. Chas. O. Handley, and Dr. J. J. Murray.

The amount of the membership fee will depend largely upon the expense of publishing the bulletin, as only a small margin above that will be necessary to meet expenses of operating the organization.

Others attending the meeting were: Prof. Robert B. Carroll, V. M. I., Lexington; Mrs. C. L. Burgess, Mrs. J. E. Jard, Miss Grace Taylor, Miss Percy, and Mr. J. T. Dameron, of Lynchburg; Mr. Ralph M. Brown, V. P. I., Blacksburg; Miss Bertha Daniel and Miss Rosa Gilliam of Neruna.

Editorial Notes.

1. The Program of the V. S. O. It is important for all prospective members of the V. S. O. to have a clear idea of the purpose of the society, as formulated at the organization meeting. There are two primary aims. The first of these is, To draw together the bird students of the state into a group where they may know and help one another. The second aim is, To gather and assemble data on the birds of Virginia. That means to encourage the keeping of careful individual records; to compile in the pages of "The Raven" data on distribution, breeding ranges, migration dates, etc.; and thus to lay the foundation for the preparation of a revised catalogue of the birds of Virginia. We are ready to encourage in any way the protecting of our birds and all wild life, but the society is primarily for the study of birds in the field.

2. The Name of the Bulletin. This name, "The Raven", was first suggested by Mr. Chas. O. Handley, and at once won the support of the executive committee. As Mr. Handley writes in proposing the name, "The raven is a bird of wisdom--as canny as the crow--yet it has not flourished under the advance of the white man into its nesting grounds. It is a bird of the crags and remote places and carries with it a breath of the wilderness". The editor feels that the choice of this name is doubly appropriate, since it gives to our bulletin the name of a bird that once was common in our state from the coast to the mountains, and since it serves as a memorial to a bird which in our section is fast being driven out of existence by the advance of civilization.

3. Membership. The V. S. O. extends to all bird students and bird lovers in Virginia, and to all others who have an interest in the birds of Virginia, a cordial invitation to membership. Possibly the very existence of the society and certainly the value of its projected study of the birds of the state will depend on the securing

of a fairly large and representative group of members. The list of charter members will be held open until April 1st, and all who send their names and membership fees to the Secretary by that date will be so enrolled. The President requests that members also send in to him or to the Secretary the names of other people who might be interested.

4. Dr. Wm. C. Rives of Washington, D. C., and Dr. Ellison A. Smyth, Jr., of Salem, Va., have been named Honorary Life Members of the society. Dr. Rives published in 1890 "A Catalogue of the Birds of the Virginias". This catalogue gave an annotated list of 305 species, and is the only extensive Virginia list in print, Bailey's splendid book only covering the breeding birds. Dr. Smyth put in thirty-five years of work with the birds of the section around Blacksburg and published in "The Auk" (1912 & 1927) a most remarkable county list for Montgomery County, an annotated list of 208 species. Both of these veteran ornithologists are now retired. The Society is honored to have two such men to put on its membership list.

5. Monthly reports. If "The Raven" is to consist mainly of notes on field ornithology, we must have members who will send in regular reports of their observations. The editor wants these reports to cover the various sections of the state. We need a reporter from Norfolk or somewhere on the southern coast; one from the eastern shore; some from Richmond or the center of the state; one from Alexandria or the northern part of the state; some from the piedmont; and some from the Valley. The things desired especially in these reports are arrival or departure dates for species that are moving during the month reported, nesting dates in summer, notes as to the abundance or scarcity of any species as compared with what is normal, and, of course, the occurrence of any unusual species. We want each reporter to send a report every month, to let that report cover a calendar month (the next report, e. g., to cover January, and to get it to the Editor within five days after the month closes. It will be helpful if one person in a community will gather into one report the observations of all the students of that community. As our space will be quite limited for the reports on which we are counting, the editor must reserve the right to cut or condense in these reports.

6. The President has appointed the following committee on the formation of a constitution: Mr. M. C. Lewis, Chairman, Mr. Ralph M. Brown, and Miss Florence Hague. They are to report by March 1st. That committee would like very much to have suggestions from the members as to what should be included in the constitution.

7. This first issue of "The Raven" is being sent out to a large number of people who may be interested in the news from the society. This is made possible by the generosity of the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, which recently appropriated \$50.00 to help start our organization and bulletin. The Commission has made this grant because of the belief that the work of this society in gathering information on the bird life of the state would be of value to the state. The Society very greatly appreciates this assistance, and the backing of the Commission.

Christmas Census Reports.

HENRICO COUNTY, VIRGINIA. (Curles Neck Farm).--December 26; 7:45 A. M. to 5 P. M. Clear to cirrus clouds; snow and ice in shady places and backwaters; birds very active until about 10 A. M. when a brisk, cold, south wind sprung up, geese and ducks active all day; temperature 18 at start and 36 at return. Thirty six miles by automobile, 10 miles by boat and two miles on foot.

Herring Gull, 1; ring-billed gull, 9; American merganser, 29; Mallard, 1018 (part est.); Black Duck, 38; Gadwall, 1; Canada Goose, 2100 (est.); Great Blue Heron, 1; Killdeer, 15; Bobwhite, 16 (1 covey); Mourning Dove, 63 (part est.); Turkey Vulture, 20; Black Vulture, 5; Marsh Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 2; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Bald Eagle, 3; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Belted Kingfisher, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 3; Pileated Woodpecker, 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 3; Flicker, 6; Prairie-horned Lark, 550 (est.); American Crow, 56; Starling, 225 (part est.); Purple Grackle, 1; Goldfinch, 7; White-throated sparrow, 35; Field Sparrow, 20; Slate-colored Junco, 155 (part est.); Song Sparrow, 13; Swamp Sparrow, 6; Cardinal, 31; Loggerhead Shrike, 2; American pipit, 25; Mockingbird, 3; Carolina Wren, 9; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Tufted Titmouse, 1; Carolina Chickadee, 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 2; Hermit Thrush, 1; Bluebird, 15. Total, 47 species, about 5071 individuals.

Chas. G. Handley

NARUN4, VA. The following notes were sent in by Miss Bertha Daniel. Ill health prevented Miss Daniel spending a long period of time in the field on her Christmas census, but these notes are of interest nevertheless.

Dec. 24; 9:00 A. M. No wind, perfectly clear; 15 minute observation in back yard yielded 30 Meadowlarks flying over, 2 Crows, 1 Mockingbird. Temp. 18. Snow, 6 in. deep.

Dec. 25; afternoon, $\frac{1}{2}$ hour observation, walked $\frac{1}{2}$ mile and back. 5 Turkey Vultures, 6 Crows, 2 Mourning Doves, 1 Junco, 2 Cardinals, 1 Goldfinch, 2 Song Sparrows, 1 Wren. Cloudy, slight wind from west; 18 degrees; snow, 6 in. deep.

Dec. 26; 15 minute observation, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile walk and return. 30 Juncos, 1 Field Sparrow, 1 White-throated Sparrow, 1 Meadowlark, 5 Turkey Vultures, 1 Crow. Sunshine and white hazy clouds; slight wind from south; temp. 40 degrees, snow 3 in.

Randolph-Macon Woman's College Campus, Lynchburg, Va. Pine clad hills, small deciduous trees and underbrush. Dec. 25. Temp. 32; no wind; snowing; ground covered with snow for three days. 11:30 A. M. to 1 P. M. Mourning Dove, 1; Goldfinch, 1; White-throated sparrow, 7; Slate-colored Junco, 35; Song Sparrow, 1; Cardinal, 5; Carolina Wren, 1; Winter Wren, 1; Chickadee, 6; Tufted Titmouse, 2; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 3; Hermit Thrush, 1. 13 species, 65 individual. Dec. 27. Temp. 50; clear; 3:30 to 4:30. Blue Jay; Starling, numerous; Mockingbird, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, numerous.

Lena B. Henderson.

(Christmas Census Reports--Continued).

Sweet Brier, Va. Dec. 25. 12 to 1:30 P. M. Temp. 32; snowing; ground had been covered with snow for three days. Turkey Vulture, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Flicker (?) 1; Crow, 30; Starling, 50; Goldfinch, 1; Junco, 10; Song Sparrow, 1; Cardinal, 4; 10 species; 102 individuals. Dec. 26. Meadowlark, 3; Dec. 27. Temp. 40 to 50; snow melting. Between 8 A. M. and 5 P. M. these additional species noted: Pileated Woodpecker, 2; Horned Lark, (subsp. ?) 12; Mockingbird, 2; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Bluebird, 6.

Florence Hague.

Old Flood Estate, 8 miles down James River from Lynchburg, Va. Dec. 27; fair and warm. Duck (sp?) 1; Killdeer, 1; Bob-white, 14; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Flicker, 1; Crow, 200; Meadowlark, 5; Goldfinch, 3; White-throated sparrow, 1; Tree sparrow, 6; Junco, 150; Song sparrow, 20; Cardinal, 6; Carolina wren, 8; Winter wren, 1; Brown creeper, 1; White-breasted nuthatch, 2; Tufted titmouse, 5; Chickadee, 7; Golden-crowned kinglet, 2; Robin, 1; Bluebird, 3. Total, 22 species, 440 individuals.

Mrs. C. I. Harris.

Lexington, Va. Dec. 24; 9 A. M. to 2 P. M. Generally clear; 6 in. of fresh snow; wind brisk at times; temp. 18 at start, 30 at return. Twenty miles by auto, four on foot. Four points: farm land, pine woods, Big Spring Pond, and cliffs on North River. Horned Grebe, 1; Black Duck, 3; Gadwall, 3; Great Blue Heron, 1; Killdeer, 5; Bob-white, 19 (2 convey); Mourning Dove, 3; Turkey Vulture, 14; Black Vulture, 3; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Kingfisher, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 7; Flicker, 2; Phoebe, 3; Crow, 24; Starling, 175; Meadowlark, 4; White-throated Sparrow, 1; Tree Sparrow, 300; Junco, 200; Song Sparrow, 12; Cardinal, 19; Mockingbird, 4; Carolina Wren, 5; Winter Wren, 1; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Tufted Titmouse, 8; Carolina Chickadee, 4; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 12; Bluebird, 5. Total, 31 species, about 844 individuals. The Great Blue Heron is wintering here, north of its usual winter range, on a pond that is fed by strong springs and never completely freezes. The Gadwall, seen several times in December, is the first record for that duck in this county.

H. G. Lewis and J. J. Murrey.

Prof. Freer spent his Christmas in Ohio and consequently was not able to take a Virginia census. In an account of his Christmas activities he makes the following interesting comparison between northern Ohio and central Virginia: "It has been interesting to note a reversal in the in the abundance of Tree Sparrows and Juncos, when Ohio is compared with Virginia. In Virginia the woods and, particularly, the fields and fence fows are liberally sprinkled with Juncos, and a flock of Tree Sparrows is a rather unusual find. On my two Ohio trips it was quite the reverse. Tree Sparrows were everywhere and Juncos were scarce". This is even more true in eastern Virginia, where Mr. Hendley's fine list did not have the Tree sparrow at all. But it is not true this winter of the Valley, for recently Mr. Lewis and the editor have found Tree Sparrows largely outnumbering Juncos about Lexington.



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Raven

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Fisheries, Richmond, Va.

Sec.-Treas.: Miss Lena B. Henderson, Biology Dept., Randolph-Macon
Woman's College, Lynchburg, Va.

Editor of "The Raven": Dr. J. J. Murray, Lexington, Va.

Chairman, Pub. Com.: Dr. J. I. Hamaker, Head of Biology Dept.,
Randolph-Macon Woman's College, Lynchburg, Va.

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Editorial Notes.

The primary object of this Society and of "The Raven" is to provide a medium for the exchange of field notes and for the compiling of data on Virginia birds. It may not be amiss, therefore, to say something as to the type of reports desired for the bulletin.

The first thing that we must have is Accuracy. That cannot be stressed too much. The fundamental of fundamentals in bird study is accuracy of identification. If our contributors are careless in this respect, our bulletin will have no value. Remember that a dubious identification is worthless to others. It may be of considerable interest to the observer himself. Much uncertainty of identification is unavoidable with a beginner, and we only learn birds by much patient checking of our mistakes. But do not report for "The Raven" anything of which you are not sure. If there is the slightest doubt in your mind, indicate it by a question mark in your report. Thus we will build up a dependable body of data. This habit of accuracy is

just as important for your own records as it is for your reports to a bird paper. The great mistake that we who are amateurs are apt to make is to allow ourselves to be betrayed by our eagerness to make large local lists.

Another fact to keep in mind is that it is not always the most unusual reports that are of the most value. For example, a report of the status of the White-throated Sparrow throughout the year in your locality made from careful records is of much more value than the report of a single occurrence of some unusual bird, such as the isolated occurrence of a Cormorant or a Bonaparte's Gull in the interior. We do need to enlarge our list of Virginia birds. There are undoubtedly many birds to be added to the 1890 Catalogue of Dr. Rives. But what we need much more is detailed information as to the status of our fairly common birds in different parts of the state, breeding ranges, migration dates, etc. And here is where the amateur has his opportunity. Systematic bird study is in its infancy in Virginia. Probably less ornithological work has been done in Virginia, if you exclude the region immediately about Washington, than in any Atlantic state, with the possible exception of Georgia. There is much that each of us can contribute. There cannot be room, of course, in such limited space for stories about the cardinals in our yards, but there will always be room for distributional facts. At times the editor expects to send our calls for specific information. The first of such calls, which he wishes to send out right now, is for a report on the status of the Black Vulture. Does it occur in your locality? How common is it? When is it most common? Is it increasing in numbers? Is it a permanent resident? Have you any evidence of its breeding?

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New members: Mrs. R. W. Bobbitt, Keysville, Va.
Mr. R. M. Barger, 861 W. Main St., Charlottesville, Va.
Prof. Geo. W. Jeffers, State Teachers College, Farmville,
Virginia
Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson, Pres. Nat. Assoc. Audubon Soci-
eties, 1974 Broadway, New York City.

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Names of new members will be printed as they send in their dues. Some of these whose names were entered in the first issue have not yet sent in dues. That should be done soon if they wish their names retained as members. We now have twenty-five paid up members. We must have at least fifty if the publication of "The Raven" is to be made financially secure. Some sixty people have indicated an interest in the Society. We want all these as full fledged members. And let each member seek a new member.

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Cordial letters have been received by the Secretary from Dr. Wm. C. Rives and Dr. Allison A. Smyth, Jr., expressing their interest in the work of the Society and their appreciation of their election to Honorary Life Membership. Dr. Smyth invites the members to visit his home near Salem, Va., and see his collection. The Editor has had the privilege of seeing this splendid collection of Virginia birds.

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Please remember that the Editor wishes your reports on or before the 45th of each month so that the consolidated matter may be sent to the publication committee by the 10th and THE RAVEN appear by the 15th.

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The Editor would appreciate it very much if each member of the Society who has compiled a list of birds for any locality in the state, with notes as to abundance and times of occurrence of species, would send him a copy. It would help him a great deal in making THE RAVEN worth while.

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Prof. Freer has a number of mimeographed lists of the birds of the Lynchburg region. They are preferably for exchange, but he will be glad to send one to any member who desires it.

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The Editor heard Prof. Freer give a splendid lecture on birds before the Izaak Walton League at Lexington on January 30. The lecture was illustrated with beautiful slides. Mr. Freer has not much time for this sort of work, but any community that can secure him will be fortunate.

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There have been favorable comments on the organization of the V. S. O. in "Science", which is the organ of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, in "Nature Magazine", in "American Forests & Forest Life", and in various newspapers of the state.

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Notes From The Field

Richmond. Mr. Chas. O. Handley sends in notes from a scattered territory. He writes that a Towhee was seen at the State Game Refuge in Surrey Co. on Feb. 1. He saw a flock of 30 or more Robins between Ashland and Richmond on Jan. 21, the first seen for several months. After the 26th they were common. While driving in deep snow from Ashland to Lexington and returning on Jan. 30 and 31, Robins were seen at many places, feeding on berries and fruits. Turkey Vultures were very active especially in the western part of the state, 85 being seen between Lexington and the top of the Blue Ridge and 52 east of the Blue Ridge, of which only 3 were seen between Charlottesville and Ashland. Two Black Vultures were noted 8 miles southwest of Waynesboro, and another over a spur of the Blue Ridge near Basic. "Crows were especially numerous between Lexington and Waynesboro. This is of particular interest to me in that crows were abundant in this area in winter during the period of my observations at Lexington (Jan. 3, 1919 to April 24, 1924). During that time a roost accomodating 10,000 or more crows was located on Brushy Hill west of Lexington".

Charlottesville. Mr. R. N. Barger writes that he has been working on a local list for Charlottesville since 1919. His own list has reached 140, and some 15 or 20 additional species have been listed by other observers. Some of the more unusual birds on their lists are Loon, Woodcock, Greater Yellowlegs, American Rough-legged Hawk, Pileated Woodpecker, Lark Sparrow, Cerulean Warbler. For January Mr. Barger reports several Red-bellied Woodpeckers. Mourning Doves have been absent, in contrast with the fact that small flocks are usually observed during Jan.

No Black Vultures noted, although they have occurred in Jan. in other years. Screech Owls are said to be common in the wooded parts of the city. The warm days early in Jan. brought an increase of gnats with a corresponding increase in the numbers of Myrtle Warblers, Bluebirds and Ruby-crowned Kinglets.

Charlottesville. Mr. Paul Bowman, of the University of Va., reports 5 Purple Finches feeding with some White-throats on Jan. 28, and another flock on Feb. 7. He also reports Blue Jays and Mockingbirds in evidence about the University Campus during Jan.

Bedford. Miss Katharine P. Claytor has secured a banding permit and has begun this fascinating and useful form of bird study. She writes that she obtained two traps, a drop trap for ground feeders and a tree trap for climbers, and began operations on Jan. 4. Her report of birds banded during the month is as follows: Downy Woodpecker, 5; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Sterling, 1; White-throated Sparrow, 1; Slate-colored Junco, 8; Song Sparrow, 2; Cardinal, 3; Mockingbird, 3; Carolina Wren, 1; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Tufted Titmouse, 4; --species, 11; total, 31. Her record of "repeats", or birds re-trapped, is as follows: 4 birds re-taken once; 5 birds twice; 2 birds 3 times; 3 birds 4 times; and 1 bird 5 times. This last bird, a Tufted Titmouse, was banded Jan. 7, and re-taken Jan. 10, 11, 14, 26, and Feb. 2. If other bird students in the state are doing this type of work, we would like to hear from them.

Naruna. Miss Bertah Daniel reports a list of 26 species seen in Jan., with a total of 2409 birds. She noted the Cardinal 110 times, Mourning Dove 52, Goldfinch 68, Winter Wren 19, White-throated Sparrow 30, Red-breasted Nuthatch 2, and Robin 186 times. Four large Hawks (sp?) were seen.

Dayton. Through Prof. Freer, Mr. G. L. Shirley reports 3 Wood Ducks as permanent residents on a lake near Dayton.

Norfolk. A newspaper dispatch reports great flocks of wild geese offshore at Lynnhaven on Feb. 5. They seemed to be resting after flight.

Lexington. About the middle of Jan. Prof. R. B. Carrell saw a bird at the Big Spring Pond which seemed, from his description, to be a Yellow Palm Warbler, though that would be an unusual date for this species in our region. On Feb. 1 I saw the same bird, or another like it, and satisfied myself that he had made our first winter record for the Yellow Palm Warbler. A Great Blue Heron has been wintering at the same pond, which never freezes over. I saw a Wilson's Snipe at the same place on Jan. 13, my only winter record. A female American Merganser was brought to me on Jan. 17, the first record for this Co. and, so far as I know, for the Valley. Dr. Smythe did not have it on his long list of ducks. It was one of 3 taken out of a flock of 12. Red-tailed Hawks have not been uncommon in Jan. Red-shouldered and Cooper's Hawks were each noted 3 times. Pileated Woodpeckers noted 4 times. Prof. Freer and I saw a Rusty Blackbird on Jan. 30 at Big Spring Pond, my first Jan. record. Mr. H. G. Lewis and I have regularly heard through the winter Crows which, from the voice quality, we feel sure are Fish Crows. As none have been taken, the identification must remain doubtful. The Fish Crow has been recorded from the Valley by Mr. A. L. Pickens in "The Auk" for Jan. 1928, p. 67. Flocks of Prairie Horned Larks were noted on Jan. 1 and 4. I took one of the birds to be sure as to the sub-species. The Phoebe occurs sparingly but regularly in winter. Robins first appeared on Jan. 8, seven of them, then 18 on the 27th, and commonly since.

J. J. Murray

Lynchburg. The January waterfowl census, taken at Timberlake, included nine Black Ducks, eleven Mallards and two Lesser Scaups. This census was taken on Jan. 11. Robins have been observed frequently since the

first of the month. I saw my first bird on Jan. 7, and a few individuals were observed during the following week. On Jan. 24 a flock of a dozen flew over. A hundred or more individuals were observed, in several flocks, on a trip to Lexington just after the big snow of Jan. 29 and 30. Mrs. C. W. Harris, who lives eight miles from the city, down the James River, reports Robings for Jan. 17 and 27. Mrs. Harris reports the Phoebe for Jan. 8, 9, and 27; Miss Hague observed a Phoebe on Jan. 4. I have not found the Phoebe near Lynchburg this winter, although during the winter of '27-'28 they were observed frequently. Miss Hague, in a list of 19 species for the Sweet Briar campus on Jan. 2, includes a Red-tailed Hawk, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, White-throated Sparrows, and Field Sparrows. She reports four Myrtle Warblers for Jan. 8, with others seen frequently later. She also lists a Sharp-shinned Hawk and a Shrike for Jan. 26, and a Robin for Jan. 30. Mrs. Harris reports the fact that two Wild Turkeys flew over her home on Jan. 20, from one river bluff to another. She wanted this kept secret, but I am sure it can be trusted to the readers of The Raven. She states that White-throated Sparrows have been seen almost every day during January; Bluebirds have been seen very frequently; Ducks of undetermined species have been abundant on the river; Swamp Sparrow, Jan. 30; Tree Sparrows, several times; Blackbirds (sp?), of frequent occurrence. At the time of taking the January waterfowl census, 19 species of land birds were also listed around the Lake. Included in the list were several Red-breasted Nuthatches and Brown Creepers.--Ruskin S. Freer.



THE RAVEN



THE MONTHLY BULLETIN OF THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY

Published at Lynchburg, Virginia.

Editor: Dr. J. J. Murray, Lexington, Va.

Vol. 1.

March, 1930.

No. 3.

Officers of the Virginia Society of Ornithology.

President: Prof. Ruskin S. Peck, Lynchburg College, Lynchburg, Va.

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Editorial Notes.

The importance to the bird student of keeping written notes and of compiling records cannot be too much stressed. Without that his study of birds may be of interest and pleasure to himself but it can furnish little information of value to others. And when he begins to keep notes it is all important to have some system that will make his notes easy of reference. The editor has been asked several times lately to recommend some system of keeping records. He can only recommend the type that he himself has found useful. That consists of two loose leaf books of medium size. In one of them is kept monthly record sheets. A separate sheet, or sheets, as the need may be, is kept for the birds observed in any month. These sheets are cross-ruled into little squares. The names of the birds seen in that month are listed at the shorter side of the page. Thus there is a vertical column for each day of the month and in that column opposite each bird's name is listed the number of that species seen that day. When the month's list has been finished there is a complete record of the number of birds of each species seen each day for that month. And the whole book gives a similarly complete record of all the birds the observer has ever seen. With such a record there is no need of guesswork to tell the status of a species at any time of the year for the locality. Of course, after records have been kept in one locality for several years, there may be no need of the full listing of the birds that are known to be common in a given month.

The other book is for notes. In it there is kept a separate sheet or sheets, as time goes on, for each species that the student has seen. On this sheet are copied the more important notes from the monthly record sheets. And on this sheet are made all notes about the habits, etc., of that species. Thus one of these sheets or sets of sheets will give you

in compact form a complete history of all your observations of that species. By using the loose leaf method all your notes about one species are kept together instead of being scattered through a mass of note book

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New members: Mrs. R. L. Overstreet, Bellevue, Va.; Mr. V. M. Davidson, Assoc. Entomologist, Silver Springs, Md.; Mrs. C. M. Kilby, Lynchburg, Va.; Mrs. N. H. W. Moore, Lynchburg, Va.; Miss E. H. Moore, Lynchburg, Va.; Mr. Paul W. Bowman, Biology Dept., University, Va.; and Mr. Harold H. Bailey, 206 Exchange Bldg., Miami, Fla.

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We are glad to welcome Mr. H. H. Bailey into the ranks of the Society. Mr. Bailey has done a great deal of work on Virginia birds in past days. Much of the results of his study is to be found in his book, "The Birds of Virginia". We understand that Mr. Bailey still has some copies of this book, which can be obtained from him.

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Mr. John B. Lewis, a charter member of the Society, has returned to the state from Cornell University where he was doing graduate work in science. He is taking up work as County Agent of Amelia County, with his address at Amelia.

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Mrs. Mary D. Dise has sent in to the President a lot of data on birds observed by her at Craig Healing Springs in the spring of 1927. There is too much of this material for publication in the limited space of The Raven, but it is kept in the files of the Society as valuable data. One of the purposes of the Society is to collect and make available such material as this. Her list is an annotated list of 60 species observed during a sixteen day stay, including some of the rarer warblers.

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It is the earnest request of the publication committee that all copy sent in for The Raven be typewritten, when possible, and that it be double spaced.

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Field Notes

Charlottesville. Feb. 1st marks the arrival of Robins in numbers; Towhees on the 16th; Purple Grackle on 22nd. Mr. V. C. Dawson, an experienced naturalist, reports a Wilson's Snipe on 25th. On March 3d, despite the cold wind, 27 species were seen, of which the following were notable: Pied billed Grebe, 2; American Merganser, 2; Fox Sparrow, 1; Pine Warbler, 3 (possible first migrants); Hermit Thrush, 3. H. R. Langer.

Charlottesville. Feb. 2, Killdeer; Feb. 3, first Robins. Cardinals actively singing from Feb. 3 on. Feb. 7, flock of purple finches. Feb. 12 Tufted Titmouse singing. Feb. 15, Screech Owl heard. Feb. 20, Robins numerous. Feb. 27, Mourning Doves Singing. Mar. 2, Grackles reported here, I saw some at Clarendon, Va. These observations made on University grounds, except as noted. Paul W. Bowman.

Charlottesville. Feb. 14, Mockingbirds "displaying". Feb. 19, Phoebe returns to University grounds. Feb. 24, Purple Grackles arrive. Feb. 28 first Fox Sparrows and Red-headed Woodpeckers. Mar. 1, first Red-winged Blackbirds; two Black Vultures; a number of Tree Sparrows. Martin Currier (Note: Mr. Currier is a graduate student at the U. of Va., and a member of the British Ornithologist's Union. We are glad to have his interest and help in our work.)

Bedford, Va. Bird Banding Station. Although the open weather in February greatly increased the number of birds in this vicinity, it checked trapping activities; for there were many warm bright days when the feeding boards were not visited at all and other days when there were only a few visitors. Of the 49 birds handled during the month, 12 were new birds banded and 37 were repeats. New birds banded were as follows:

1 Chewink, 1 Junco, 2 Mocking Birds, 2 Doves and 6 Song Sparrows. (This brings the total number new birds banded since Jan. 4 to 43 and the number of different species to 13.) The two Doves mentioned above are to be mated, as do also a pair of White-breasted Nuthatches and a pair of Tufted Titmice which are observed daily. A Carolina Wren, one of the birds banded in Jan. seems entirely unconcerned over his band and is a source of great delight to me. Natharine P. Claytor.

Lynchburg: This has been the best Feb. for this area in the writer's experience, largely because of more intensive field work. During the last nine days of the month an hour was spent in the field daily just after sunrise. It has proved to be such a valuable experience in every way that I am keeping it up. Forty-seven species were listed during the month, 41 these during the last week. Thirty-three were listed on Feb. 28. These facts are given, not to boast of mere numbers, but to show how one's knowledge of birds of a region can be fortified by regular daily trips, even though the time on each trip be short. Meadow-land, woods and Timberlake are visited alternately, to get a comprehensive idea of the occurrence of the species peculiar to each type of country. The Feb. waterfowl census at Timberlake was the poorest yet, only ten Black Ducks being found. The last week of the month, a Holboell's Grebe, a male and two female Goldeneyes, and 2 male Lesser Scaups were on the lake. The date they were first seen was Feb. 21. The Bluebird became common Feb. 20, Meadowlark, Feb. 24; Field Sparrow, Feb. 22; these three are winter residents. Chewink, Feb. 14; Myrtle Warbler, Feb. 18; Pine Warbler, Feb. 21; Phoebe, Feb. 22; Kingfisher, Feb. 22; Purple Grackle, Feb. 24; Cowbird, Feb. 26; Red-winged Blackbird, Feb. 28. Pine Warblers abundant, and singing since Feb. 21. Purple Finches abundant, invariably found in vicinity of tulip, poplars, feeding on the seeds. Cardinals, Song Sparrows, Tufted Titmice and Carolina Wrens have been singing throughout the whole month. Their songs fill the air wherever one goes. Golden-crowned Kinglets, Brown Creepers and Redbreasted Nuthatches are seen frequently.

Mrs. C. W. Harris reports the following species as being observed through the month: Winter Wren, Fox Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Myrtle Warbler, Red-winged Blackbirds and Pine Warbler. She sends in the following dates for first arrivals which are earlier than mine: Phoebe, Feb. 13; Pine Warbler, Feb. 14; Red-winged Blackbird, Feb. 23. Ruskin S. Freer. Naruna: Robins abundant since December. Feb. 7, Black Vulture, 17; and 8 on Feb. 10; Hermit Thrush on Feb. 15; Pine Warblers, 22nd to 26th; Phoebe on 25th. Bertae Daniel.

Vienna. (Fairfax Co.) The warm weather during the larger portion of Feb. has lured a great number of migratory birds from the south to their northern breeding places and more or less large flocks of Robins, Blue birds, Grackles, Song Sparrows, Mourning doves could be seen and heard in transit. Stationary birds as Starlings, Juncos, Blue Jays and Cardinals retreated with the receding snow from the artificial feeding places near dwellings to their natural feeding haunts in woods and dense brush.

The following birds were trapped at this banding-station since February: 14 Juncos, 1 Downy Woodpecker, 2 White-breasted Nuthatch, 4 Titmice, 1 Mocking bird, 2 Blue Jays, 5 Cardinals, 1 Swamp Sparrow, 1 Robin 1 Song Sparrow. The latter was a bird having a band and was banded by me last year, thus indicating that it came back to the same place.

Killdeer, which are regular nesting birds with us on a swampy section nearby, were heard since Feb. 21, and Grackles became very noisy since Feb. 22. The first Robin was noticed here on Feb. 13 and Song Sparrow appeared in small flocks on Feb. 10. The Mocking bird referred to above, was a stationary guest all thru the cold spell and answered the writer's call every morning, when he was fed with raisins and currants. He withdrew from the feeding platform, which he monopolized for several

weeks, when the arrogant behavior of a bunch of starlings was too much for him and he was unable to fight them off effectively. A pair appeared in elderberry bushes at a short distance from the barn yard. A Blue Jay and a Cardinal were trapped, which had been banded years before and were to be stationary residents in this vicinity. A limited number of Crows were pressed by the scarcity of food ventured as close as the nearest pasture to the barn building, joining a flock of starlings for a few days and vanished into the distant woods and open fields with the melting snow. Blue birds, Nuthatches, Titmice and Woodpeckers appeared lately in single pairs busily engaged in the investigation of nesting boxes and other convenient cavities in trees for prospective homes. Carle Zeimet.

Note. The Song Sparrow, of course, is a permanent resident throughout Virginia. It is quite likely that our winter and summer birds are not the same individuals. Banding experiments will throw light on this. Ed. Mountain Lake. Mr. A. O. English of Norfolk sends in the following note: "During a stay at Mountain Lake the latter part of August 1929, I found the nest of a Cedar Waxwing (*Bombusilla cedrorum*) in a chestnut tree, but due to its location on the end of a limb it was inaccessible. I did observe with glasses, however, the feeding of the young on several occasions, and the parent bird at closer range feeding on a blackberry bush. The altitude at Mountain Lake is approximately 4500 feet, and on several nights the temperature was as low as 56".

Lexington: Black Duck, 6 on Feb. 1st; Great Blue Heron, throughout the month; Red-shouldered Hawk, 3 times; Red-tailed Hawk, 4 times (3 seen one day); Sparrow Hawk, 2 times; Prairie Horned Larks, flock on 3rd and 25th; Rusty Blackbird on 1st; Red-winged Blackbirds appeared on 24th (singing); Purple Grackles on 22nd; Purple Finch, 2 females on 26th; Savannah Sparrow, which sometimes winters but which did not winter this year, returned on 21st; Myrtle Warbler, first seen on 10th and then on several later days; the Yellow Palm Warbler that appeared at Big Spring Pond in January was seen again on 1st and 13th. The song period began unusually early for many birds this spring. The following birds began to sing on the days noted: Mourning Dove on Feb. 20, never heard by me in Feb. before; Meadowlark on 3rd; Red-winged Blackbird on 24th, day of arrival; Phoebe on 24th, not the "chip" which is heard in winter but the regular whistle; Field Sparrow on 24th; Slate-colored Junco on 24th; and Mockingbird in full song on 17th. J. J. Murrey.



THE RAVEN



The Monthly Bulletin of the Virginia Society of Ornithology

Published at Lynchburg, Virginia

Editor: Dr. J. J. Murray, Lexington, Va.

Vol. 1.

April, 1930.

No. 4.

Important Notice

This is the last issue of The Raven that will be sent to anyone whose dues are not paid up. The dues are \$1.50 a year and are to be paid to Miss Lena Henderson, Biology Dept., Randolph-Macon Women's College, Lynchburg, Virginia.

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Editorial Notes.

There are only three essentials in the equipment of the student of birds--a good pair of field glasses, a pencil and notebook, and an illustrated book on birds as a help in identification. The editor is so often asked about good books for beginners that it may be worth while to mention some of them. There are guides to fit the range of every need and every pocket book. The simplest guide of all, and a very good one, is a little government bulletin--Farmers' Bulletin 513 of the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, entitled "Fifty Common Birds of Farm and Orchard". This may be procured from The Supt. of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., for 25¢ (only money orders accepted in payment). This bulletin has fifty good colored pictures and splendid text matter. The best guides for the beginner are Reed's pocket guides. There are two of these on eastern birds, one on land birds and one on water birds, with many colored illustrations. They may be procured through any store at about \$1.25 each. They are published by Doubleday, Doran Co. For students who have progressed somewhat farther in their knowledge of birds there are two of Dr. Frank Chapman's books that are indispensable. His "Handbook of Birds of Eastern North America" is the basic book for an ornithologist's library. It is published by Appleton and Co., New York, at \$4.00, and can be secured through any book store. This book has full descriptions of every bird in the eastern U. S. and a great mass of interesting and helpful general matter on birds. It has, however, very few colored plates. If you will put another of his books, the "Color Key to North American Birds", with the Handbook you will have an almost complete library on our birds. The student who has these two books can get along in fine shape. The Color Key gives a small colored picture of every bird in North America. The drawings are wash drawings and the colors are not always perfect, but the book is invaluable. It is published by Appleton at \$3.50. If you wish to add to these something still finer, the greatest bird work published in this generation is "The Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States", by Dr. E. H. Forbush, in

three volumes. It is a work of art as well as a magnificent series of life histories of all the New England birds, which means practically all birds that come to Virginia. It is published by the State of Massachusetts at \$5.00 a volume. The original editions were used up at once but other editions were published, and it is either possible now or will be possible a little later to secure these from The Secretary of the Commonwealth, Room 118, State House, Boston, Mass. In addition to the books that have been named are, of course, any number of other helpful books on birds, but these are probably the most useful within their price ranges.

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The members of the V. S. C. will receive with the keenest interest and delight the news that the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries has employed Herbert K. Job as director of educational work concerning wild life. Mr. Job has been for several years in charge of a program of nature education in South Carolina, working there under the State Board of Education. He has been eminently successful in his work in that state and is one of the most thoroughly equipped men in the country for such work. He is an ornithologist of the highest standing, and is one of the Members of the American Ornithologists' Union. He was one of the pioneer bird photographers in this country, being the author of a half-dozen books on birds, illustrated by his own pictures. He is also one of the pioneers in the work of propagating game birds in captivity. His book on that subject is the standard work. He is expected to put on a program of nature education in Virginia, chiefly in the schools, through co-operation between the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries and the State Board of Education. While he will deal with nature study in general, his special field is ornithology and we are told that it is in this that he will do the major part of his work. He will probably be known as the State Ornithologist. We are fortunate in securing such a man for the state. He will undoubtedly render great aid to our infant society. Mr. Job will begin his work on May 1st.

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Another good piece of news to bird lovers that came out last month was the decision of the general assembly, at the time when it codified the fish and game laws of the state, to abolish the payments by the state of bounties on hawks and owls. The bounty law has been a disastrous thing to our great birds of prey. If it had long continued, some of our finest and most beneficial birds would have been driven to the verge of extinction. And it was a great waste of money to the state. There is no way to prevent fraud when bounties are paid on the scalps of hawks and owls. The county clerks cannot possibly distinguish the harmful species, on which the bounty can legally be paid, from the harmless or beneficial species, and the result is that they pay the bounty on any hawk or owl scalp that is brought in. The editor had occasion last month to see five scalps on which the bounty had just been paid. One of the five seemed to be the scalp of a Cooper's Hawk, on which a bounty was legal. Another seemed to be the scalp of a Red-shouldered Hawk, which is beneficial and on which bounty is not legal. The other three were scalps of the beautiful and beneficial little Sparrow Hawk, which because of the senseless prejudice against hawks is becoming scarce where it was once abundant. It is still possible for the counties to continue this bounty, but where they do the county will now bear the whole cost and it is not likely that many of them will do it. Already Rockbridge and Nelson Counties have abolished it.

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The editor would repeat his request for notes for The Raven. We would like for every member of the Society to send in notes monthly. The editor must reserve the right to delete and condense, so as to fit the material to the size of the paper, but he wants contributions. And

rate, 3/30; . . . Cowbirds, Vesper Sparrows and Savannah Sparrows have been seen on one farm, but there only. Pileated Woodpecker seen twice at Timberlake. Winter Wren singing 3/29. . . . March waterfowl census: 1 Hottel's Grebe, 8 Black Ducks, 2 Lesser Scaups, 1 Buffle-head. . . . The manager of Timberlake reports a total of 41 Ospreys killed at the lake in three years; he has seen about 100 white herons (probably the Little Blue) (1926 and '27), and 26 Loons ('28) at one time. The season has been remarkable for absence, so far, of the following: Red-headed Woodpecker, Cedar Waxwings, Horned Grebe, Ruddy Duck, Woodcock, Wilson's Snipe, Coot, Water Thrush, Pine Siskin. The Brown Thrasher, Black and White Warbler and Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher were from one to two weeks late, not arriving until in April. Miss Florence Hague of Sweet Briar College sent in the following, which was too late for the March number of "The Haven": Feb. 21. One Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. It had the white band on the wing, tho' less clear-cut than usual; no markings on head except a dark (not red) crown. The middle of the back was very light; the wings, black and finely speckled with light; the neck light and finely speckled with dark. No markings of the underparts were visible, but the lack of the throat patch was noted. The statement by Forbush that the birds are found moulting the juvenal all through the winter led to the conclusion that the bird seen was a young Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. It frequently flew out, perhaps ten feet, and back to the same tree, sometimes the same branch.---Ruskin S. Freer.

Lynchburg: Mrs. C. L. Burgess reports having seen between 280 and 300 Ducks on James River above the new power dam near Snowden. She was unable, however, to distinguish the species. She also sends in a day by day list of the birds commonly seen in her yard.

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Marum: Chipping Sparrow, March 8th; common by 17th. Pine Warbler, common, 15th. Flock of 25 Wild Geese, 14th. Brown Creeper, 16th and 17th. Phoebe, common, 19th. Fox Sparrow, 14th. Hermit Thrush, 19th. Vesper Sparrow, 20th; common, 22d. Towhee, 20th and 24th. Bewick's Wren, 23d. Winter Wren, singing, 24th and 25th. Bertha Daniel.

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Blacksburg: March 10th--Hermit Thrush, 3 pairs; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, (also seen on 21st); Chipping Sparrow; Phoebe; Brown Creeper (also seen on 20th and 24th). 3/20--Purple Finch, male singing (also seen 21st, 22d, 25th, 28th); Golden-crowned Kinglet (also seen 24th to 29th); Purple Grackle (also seen 25d and 30th); Tree Sparrow. 3/22--Red-winged Blackbird, male; Rusty Blackbird; Spotted Sandpiper; Marsh Hawk (also seen near day). 3/23 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (also seen on 30th); Blue Jay (also on 30th); Hairy Woodpecker; Mockingbird, singing; Field Sparrow, many. 3/30--Louisiana Water-Thrush, male singing, a first record for Montgomery County; Savannah Sparrow. Ralph M. Brown.

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Saxington: Pied-billed Grebe, March 29 to 31; Mallard, 22d and 28th; Black Duck, 8th; Baldpate, flock of 14, 6 of them males, seen by M. G. Lewis and J. J. Murray at Cameron's Pond (we felt sure that several of them were European Mergansers); Pintail, pair on 11th; Wood Duck, female on 5th; Lesser Scaup, male on 28th; Great Blue Heron, seen 3 times; Wilson's Snipe, 3d, 24th, 28th, 29th; Red-tailed Hawk, 5 times; Sparrow Hawk, 6 times; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, present through the month; Phoebes became abundant after the 5th; Prairie Horned Lark, a pair on 8th; which were singing and chasing each other so excitedly that I judged that they had begun courtship activities; Blue Jay, 19th and 30th; Cowbird, 30th; Rusty Blackbird, 31st; White-throated Sparrow, only seen on 1st and 31st; Savannah Sparrow, abundant thru the month; Fox Sparrow, 31st; Cedar Waxwing, flock on 31st; Myrtle Warbler, 15 and 31st; Mr. M. G. Lewis reports Cowbirds on 20th, Vesper Sparrow on 20th, Chipping Sparrow on 21st, Pipit on 20th, and Brown Creeper on 29th. J. J. Murray.

THE BACK BAY TRIP

The following account is taken from three consecutive issues of the Lynchburg Sunday "News", and comprises excerpts from "The Rambler", a weekly column contributed by Prof. Freer.

Some of the members of the V.S.O. set out on Thursday (Apr. 17) for a four-day trip to Back Bay in Princess Anne County, to make a study of water birds as they pass that region on migration. Back Bay adjoins Currituck Sound in North Carolina, and is in the southeasternmost corner of this state. The Biological Survey is making a study of this region at present, and other agencies are much interested in the bird life of this region. Recent changes in canal locks have resulted in salt water entering what was formerly fresh water, with disastrous effects on water animals and plants that furnished food for fish and water birds. Mr. Chas. O. Handley of Richmond, Mr. M.G. Lewis of Lexington, Mr. John B. Lewis of Amelia and the writer are the members making the trip.

This trip....will always stand out in the writer's mind as one of the great events in his life. It is impossible to convey in cold prose the thrill of new discoveries in strange places. To say that I added thirteen species of new birds to my personal list will partially convey to some readers the concrete results of the trip. Seven species of birds were found which had not yet reached Lynchburg on their northward migration. Some of these birds were here on our return, and some have not yet come. About twenty-two species of birds with which I was previously familiar, but which rarely if ever are found around Lynchburg, were found around Back Bay and Norfolk. But these figures do not measure the thrills of adventure that the "landlubber" experiences in exploring miles of beach, racing to get back before being caught by the incoming tide, wading through unknown swamps, and motor-boating across broad expanses of water.

We left Lynchburg last Thursday afternoon (Apr. 17), spending the night in Norfolk. Early the next morning we set out with Mr. Wallace Carmean, state game warden for the Back Bay region, arriving at his camp at noon. After unpacking and having dinner, we drove to Virginia Beach and on down the narrow strip of barrier beach for a distance of about twenty-five miles into North Carolina. Mr. Carmean took the wheel on this trip, as beach driving is rather risky for one unaccustomed to it. First of all, it is necessary to make such a trip at low tide, and when sufficient time is available to get back before the tide turns. The beach is the only place there is to drive. Sand that is too wet must be avoided, and also sand that is dry. Fast driving on beach sand has caused many fatal accidents, as striking a soft, wet spot at high speed means a disastrous spill. A car quickly settles if it stands in wet sand, and the wheels sink into dry sand, affording little traction. At a point between the wettest and the driest sand, however, the driving is safe.

The beach trip was undertaken for the purpose of finding shore birds. These included the plovers and sandpipers, just now beginning their northward migration. We realized that we were too early in the season to see the greatest number of shore birds, but did see between one and two hundred. The piping plover was the most abundant species. With them were red-backed sandpipers and a sanderling. A pair of willets were feeding on the beach as we went down, and again when we returned. They are large sandpipers.

Several large blackbirds were seen at times as we drove down the beach. They were between the common crow and common grackle in size,

And were identified as boat-tailed grackles. Herring gulls were numerous, at one place feeding on the carcass of a porpoise that had been cast ashore. Ducks were seen frequently out on the ocean, and several flocks of cormorants or "nigger-geese" flew by. The osprey or fish hawk was seen everywhere.

On Saturday forenoon, we went across the Bay in a motor-boat. We were rained on both Friday and Saturday, but we cared little for that. According to the common saying, it was "good weather for ducks", and ducks were our chief objectives. On the trip on the bay we saw about one hundred and fifty coots or mud-hens, locally called "blue peters". We saw a few ruddy ducks or "boobies", about forty lesser scaups or "black heads", fifty-five cormorants or "nigger-geese", a few black ducks, one greater yellow-legs, a bald eagle, two American egrets, six great blue herons, four loons and six Wilson's snipes.

Our camp was located at the edge of an extensive marsh. This marsh was teeming with water birds, particularly rails, marsh wrens and bitterns. We identified four rails, the king, clapper, Virginia, and sora. The large bittern was fairly common and we saw one least bittern. As dusk came on the marsh birds became more active. Several night herons flew across the sky, the bitterns or "stake drivers" began their peculiar booming, and the harsh notes of the rails were heard everywhere. Water birds all seem to have harsh voices, even the long-billed marsh wren sharing the tone quality of other marsh birds.

A number of strange plants were found also. The long-leaved loblolly pine replaces our scrub pine. Yellow jessamine vines cover much of the undergrowth. Wax myrtle bushes are abundant, as are holly, sweet gum and the willow oak. On Sunday morning, after two days' rain, the sun came out, drying the male cones of the pines sufficiently so that great clouds of yellow pollen came rolling from the pine woods like smoke.

As we came back through Norfolk late Sunday afternoon, various species of gulls were abundant in the inlets of the Bay. We identified the laughing gull and Bonaparte's gull, and also saw two male and ten female red-breasted mergansers.

The most striking feature of the trip was the abundance of life around the beach and marshes. One is also impressed with the keen struggle and competition that is continually going on. Birds of prey are abundant, and fish, ducks and rails must continually be on guard to escape them.

Back Bay is the winter home of countless thousands of ducks. Mr. Carmean told us that there are from ten to twenty thousand of certain single species to be found during December and January. Swans occur in the Bay in some numbers during the winter, particularly further south in Currituck Sound.....

Lists do not furnish exciting reading to most of the individuals who read this column, I am sure, but we will ask their indulgence in this case, as there are a number who would like to know of the birds seen at Back Bay. It is not necessary to list all species observed, but two or three groups are of particular interest. The first group includes those birds which are peculiar to the shore and adjacent marshes, and are never or are only rarely found this far inland: long-billed marsh wren, Virginia rail, sora rail, king rail, clapper rail, Florida gallinule, sanderling, piping plover, red-backed sandpiper, willet, red-throated loon, boat-tailed grackle, American merganser, gannet, night heron(sp?), bald eagle, American egret, loon, American bittern, least bittern, laughing gull, and Bonaparte's gull.



THE RAVEN



BULLETIN OF THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY
PUBLISHED AT LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA
DR. J. J. MURRAY, EDITOR

VOL. I

JUNE 1930

NO. 6.

FIELD NOTES

Again it is necessary, because of the volume of field notes that have come in during the interesting month of May, to omit the editorial notes and give all the space to the field observations. It is for the collating of these field notes that our bulletin was begun, and nothing else is so important. The editor hopes that more of the members of the V.S.O. will send in their field notes. So far all the work has been done by a dozen members. He is especially anxious to have some notes from Tidewater Virginia. And in order to have space for these new contributors, he wishes to ask all contributors to boil down their notes to the smallest possible space.

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Naruna. Horned Lark seen at close range on May 29. White-throated Sparrows last seen May 13. Early dates: 2d, Wood Pewee, Indigo Bunting; 3d, Yellow-breasted Chat, Blackpoll Warbler; 7th, Magnolia Warbler, Redstart; 11th, Baltimore Oriole; 13th, Scarlet Tanager, Parula Warbler; 15th, Barn Swallow; 17th, Wilson Thrush, Canada Warbler; 20th, Nighthawk. Black Vultures seen, 15th and 26th. Nesting notes: Catbird building, 6th, Mourning Dove, 16th; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher building, 22d; Wood Pewee, 24th; Mockingbird, second nest 24th.
Bertha Daniel.

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Blacksburg. Early dates of summer residents, in addition to those noted in April are: 1st, Crested Flycatcher, Pewee; 2d, Hooded Warbler; 4th, Red-headed Woodpecker, Rough-winged Swallow, Wood Thrush, Vesper Sparrow; 5th, Orchard Oriole; 7th, Indigo Bunting; 11th, Yellow-breasted Chat; 18th, Purple Martin, Louisiana Water-Thrush. Migrants: Black-throated Green Warbler, 1 to 18; Cape May Warbler, 1-10; Blue-headed Vireo, 1-18; Veery, 1-20; Chestnut-sided Warbler, 2-15; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 2-7; Olive-backed Thrush, 2-19; Magnolia Warbler, 3-21; Myrtle Warbler, 3-12; Tennessee Warbler 3-16; Dowitcher, 4th; Purple Finch, 5th; Blackburnian Warbler, 6-17; Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, 6th; Bay-breasted Warbler, 8-22; Blackpoll Warbler, 8-22;

Least Flycatcher, 8th; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, female, 10th; Canada Warbler, 12, 13; Nashville Warbler, 12th; Gray-cheeked Thrush, 17th; Black-throated Blue Warbler, 18th; Pine Warbler, 18th; American Coot, 30th. White-throated Sparrows seen, 4th to 17th. Blue Grosbeaks, 8th and 16th.

I saw eighteen different warblers. The Blackburnians were the most numerous since I began my observations in 1926. I probably saw fifteen of them all told. Bay-breasted warblers were also much in evidence for them, eighteen, possibly. There were plenty of Black-polls, as usual, and a number of Magnolias and Black-throated Greens. The Magnolias came the earliest of the last three and stayed later than any except the Black-polls. Cape May appeared for the first time since 1927. Hooded warblers, not seen in 1926, 1927, and 1928, were found on the campus (1) and in ravines on the side of Brush Mountain, four miles to the northeast. I picked up a splendid Pine warbler on Brush Mountain also, and Tennessee warblers came into my view on three occasions, I having not seen them since 1926. No Black-throated blues were seen on the campus, though I picked them up there in 1927 and 1928. On May 12, on the campus, I saw Blackburnians, Bay-breasteds, Chestnut-sideds and Black-polls all in the same little spruce tree. Two glorious Blackburnian males were only three feet apart in the tree.

The White-crowned Sparrows were not seen anywhere although I found them in 1926, 1927, and 1928 on the campus and in the surrounding country. The Scarlet tanager is apparently breeding on Brush Mountain although I did not find a nest. I saw a male in the same locality there on May 18 and 25. Dr. Smythe's latest observation of the bird is for May 16. I believe that the Hooded warblers breed on Brush Mountain for I saw them, in pairs, and making the usual nesting time noise on Brush Mountain on May 18 and 25. Immature Robins, some with all their feathers, around the campus, on the ground, May 17. Immature Purple Grackle, fully-feathered, was taking short flights on the campus on May 22. A half a dozen immature Purple Grackles in sight on May 28. About five young Robins to one young Grackle. Immature Chipping Sparrows, on the ground, hopping around and flying on May 28. -----Ralph M. Brown.

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LYNCHBURG--Migrants: 5/1, Wood Pewee; 5/2, Yellow-breasted Chat, Acadian Flycatcher, Magnolia Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Grass-hopper Sparrow, Blue Grosbeak; 5/3, Summer Tanager, Cape May Warbler, Indigo Bunting, Blackburnian Warbler, Orchard Oriole; 5/6, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Nighthawk, Black-poll Warbler; 5/16, Lesser Yellow-legs....Cedar Waxwings, which frequently winter here, or at least return early, were not seen till the middle of May. Mrs. Mary Dise, who is visiting in Lynchburg just now (June 15) and who spent the winter in Charleston, S.C., says that Cedar Waxwings were very abundant in migration there during January. She reports two Waxwings nests on her premises at Glen Rock, Pa.---Miss Chloe Tilden of Lynchburg tells of observing robins in various stages of inebriation from eating china berries, some years ago in Texas. The berries become fermented in the warm spring sunshine. The mother of Miss Lena

Henderson, our Secretary, reports observing the same phenomenon in her girlhood days....Scarlet and Summer Tanagers are abundant here in migration, but most of the Scarlet Tanagers appear to migrate further north for nesting. I heard a Scarlet singing on June 15.... On May 17 I saw an unusually large snapping turtle making toward the shore at Timberlake with the carcass of a male Lesser Scaup Duck. We had seen a male in the same location the previous evening. It looked like a clear case of the killing of Scaup by the turtle....On the early morning of May 18 we watched one of the female Canada Geese at Timberlake bring off five young, and take them for their first swim. After one or two short trips, she took them across the lake. They are now almost full grown....I have seen many more Blue Grosbeaks this season than usual. I have not been able to get out much during May or June either, so I am sure that they are more numerous than in former years....Miss Ida Sitler, Professor of biology at Hollins College, sent in a large record sheet kept by three students in ornithology, taught by Miss Beatrice G. Hand. 65 species are listed. Of particular interest are records on the Sanderling and the White-crowned Sparrow....Miss Florence Hague of Sweet Briar College, sends in the following: The last Juncos and White-throated Sparrows seen May 1; 5/7, two crested Flycatchers with a snake skin. First records: 5/1, Whip-poor-will; 5/4, Wood Pewee; 5/6, Nighthawk; 5/7, Yellow-breasted Chat....Mrs. C. W. Harris of Amherst County writes: Have had an interesting month with the birds, seeing more than eighty species, and finding one or more nests of seventeen species. Fledglings are beginning to be in evidence (5/29) flying uncertainly about. Young Black and White Warblers were noticed on the 23rd. A pair of Redstarts may be seen in almost every ravine..Have located the nest of one on an easily accessible limb of a hickory at the corner of the barn-lot. The Yellow-throated Warbler is still here....Ruskin S. Freer.

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Charlottesville. During the month of May eighty-nine species have been noted, sixty-nine of which were seen on the 18th. The Black Vulture 4th, 11th, and June 1st. The Green Heron is the only representative of its family noted. Yellow-billed Cuckoo 4th. Pileated Woodpecker 4th and 11th. The Red-headed Woodpecker, thus far this year not reported became well distributed by the 4th. Nighthawk, Wood Pewee and Baltimore Oriole 4th. Purple Finch still here on 4th. White-throated Sparrow last seen on 18th. Grasshopper Sparrow common on 18. Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Indigo Bunting on 4th. The Cedar Waxwing, ~~and that~~ bird not seen thus far this year became common by the 15th. Warbling Vireo, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Northern Water-thrush and Chat on 4th. Ruby-crowned Kinglet still remaining on 4th. Olive-backed Thrush 4th. Parula, Magnolia and Black-poll Warblers and Grey-cheeked Thrush on 11th. On the 18th, amid the throngs of Black-polls, seconded by the Magnolias in numbers, a few Bay-breasts, two Blackburnian and two Canadian Warblers were seen. To climax the report a Cerulean Warbler was found singing on June 1st by Mr. Curtler and myself, which agrees with dates during 1925 when we found it feeding a brood near here.....N. R. Barger.

Charlotte County. While going about over the state recently I have had an opportunity to make some interesting notes on bird life. On April 30th I went to Drakes Branch, Charlotte County, Virginia, and planted a quantity of wild duck feed along Roanoke Creek. I found that a mill dam had been thrown across the creek a few miles to the south of Charlotte C.H. which had flooded the low ground along the creek for a distance of several miles. This area was grown to water lilies, sedges and other water loving plants, making it an excellent feeding place for river ducks. I am told that it affords fair shooting. Black ducks and mallards are the principal ducks shot. Teal are said to be fairly common in the area in the fall before the hunting season opens. A great many trees were flooded and killed by the rising water; some of these make good nesting places for wood ducks. Wood ducks are apparently common in the area. A few were seen at each of the four points that we stopped along the creek. At the Watkin's pond, twenty-seven were seen in the air at one time. A few black ducks were seen at the same pond. I am told that they nest in the area. Hon D.Q. Eggleston of Drakes Branch, Virginia, reports the finding of a wood duck nest on his farm this spring. It was located about one mile from the nearest point on the creek. One of Mr. Eggleston's tenants found a newly hatched wood duck dead on a sand bar along the creek on April 20th.

Another interesting note made on this trip was hearing the clatter of rails at a point the county road crosses the large swampy area. Undoubtedly this was the call of the king rail.

I have had several parties in the ruffed grouse country on the lookout for nests this spring. I had hoped to get a few eggs for use in the experimental rearing of grouse in captivity. As you probably know grouse are very difficult to raise, even more so than quail. The game warden of Rockingham county succeeded in finding a nest and reported it. I went up and got the eggs on May 10th.. I had never seen a grouse nest before so was especially interested in this one. The nest was located along the western foothills of the Blue Ridge in dead leaves lodged under a fallen tree top. All of the area except under this tree top had been burned over about six weeks before. The nest was located about ten feet from a little used log road and was found by a couple of boys who flushed the old bird from the nest while hauling a load of wood. I drove my car to within fifty feet of the nest and saw the old grouse fly off. She was rather wild. There were thirteen eggs in the nest. The gloss to the eggs and a few feathers in the nest indicated that incubation had started. I brought all of the eggs back with me under my hat and delivered them the same evening to Mr. W. B. Coleman, who put them into his incubator with a lot of quail eggs. The transfer was successful. All thirteen eggs hatched, however, the unlucky thirteenth was unbalanced and died a few days later. The twelve are now a week old and are getting along fine.....Charles O. Handley.

Lexington. As I had to be away from home for two weeks in the middle of May these records, especially as regards the warblers, are very incomplete. Late dates: Savannah Sparrow, 5th; White-throated Sparrow, 7th. Early dates for summer residents not arriving until May; 1st, Kingbird, Yellow-billed Cuckoo; 2d, Whip-poor-will; 3d, Red-headed Woodpecker (winters some years); Indigo Bunting, Baltimore Oriole; 5th, Summer Tanager, Wood Pewee, Grasshopper Sparrow; 7th, Yellow-throated Vireo; 24th, Spotted Sandpiper, Louisiana Water-Thrush. Veery; 3d, White-crowned Sparrow; 5th, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Parula Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Lesser Yellowlegs, six seen on 5th; Black-poll Warbler, 8-30; Sora, three on 27th Swamp Sparrow, the status of which in this region I am not sure about, seen on 1st. Two young Screech Owls with the parent birds on 26th. Three Pileated Woodpeckers on 5th, and another on 7th. A crippled Black Duck at Big Spring Pond on 27th and 31st. Nesting notes: 24th, Phoebe nest with 5 eggs, which had hatched on 28th; 26th, Phoebe nest under roots on a bank with only one young bird in it; 26th, Catbird, sitting on 4 eggs. 26th, Downy Woodpecker, with young in nest; 28th, Catbird nest with one egg; 27th, Bob-white nest with one egg, by 31st and 4 eggs, and then deserted the nest during heavy rains; 27th, Flicker, nest unfinished; 27th, Red-winged Blackbird nest, just finished; June 2d, House Wren, eggs just hatched. Mr. M. G. Lewis reports having seen a Prairie Horned Lark at Fairfield on May 21st and another on Moore's Creek on June 5. This indicates breeding. I know of no breeding record for Virginia south of Fairfax County...J.J. Murray.



THE RAVEN

BULLETIN OF THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY
PUBLISHED AT LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA
DR. J. J. MURRAY, EDITOR

VOL. I

JULY 1930

NO. 7.

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Editorial Notes

June is the month of nesting, when all birds are to be found at home. There is less movement from one locality to another than at any other season of the year. In January and February the bird population is fairly stable, but even in midwinter there is a good bit of erratic wandering on the part of Horned Larks and other northern birds. But in June there is no migration and practically no wandering. Most normal adult birds have young families at this time and are tied to a limited area. The size of this area depends on the bird's ability of flight. With the House Wren it is probably not more than an acre, while with the Red-tailed Hawk it may be fifty square miles. But it is always a circle of which the nest with its brooding female or its hungry young is the center. On the other hand there is no period of the year when there is so much activity. At no time is there such a volume of song as in June. And while the area may be limited the movement within that area is incessant, measured only by the minutes of daylight. I recently timed a pair of Downy Woodpeckers that were feeding a hungry brood. They alternated in their visits to the nest, one of the pair coming each minute. As they had to travel a distance of about a hundred yards

to secure the food they were bringing, it is evident that, if this rate were kept up all day, a day's work would mean many weary miles. June, because it is the month of nesting, is the most interesting month of the year for the bird student. This is his best time to learn something of the life history of his feathered friends.

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The editor was fortunate enough in June to see one of the rarest as well as one of the most interesting nests to be found now in Virginia. It was the nest of the Upland Plover, seen just as the young had left the empty eggshells in the nesting depression on the 3rd of June. A farmer friend had uncovered them with his hay rake in an alfalfa field. Knowing my interest and my fruitless search for a nest last summer, he called me at once. One of the young had been mashed flat under the wheel of the rake and its skin I kept. The other three were able to toddle after the mother on long, tiny legs as she sought first to entice us away with wings stretched high and with sharp cries of alarm. We left them soon, and they have not been seen since.

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BEDFORD - BIRD BANDING NOTES - The following birds were banded in May and June: Brown Thrashers, 6; Robin, 8; Catbird, 4; House Wren, 4; Dove, 2; Chewink, 4; Field Sparrow, 1; Chipping Sparrow, 2; Mockingbird, 3; Carolina Wren, 1; Maryland Yellow-throat, 1; Flicker, 1; Baltimore Oriole, 1. Total 38, number species 13. Report recently made to Biological Survey covering period of Jan. 1 to July 1 showed 140 birds banded, representing 23 species. Thirty Song Sparrows represent the largest number of one species banded; first one trapped January 18th, last one April 25th. I have had a large number of nests under close observation, from some of which the fledglings were banded. UNUSUAL NESTS - Two Robins nests of first brood in which only two eggs each were laid; Dove's nest approximately fifty feet from ground; Orchard Oriole's Nest in lilac bush eleven feet from ground. There is a Baltimore Oriole's nest at the usual height hanging directly above the Orchard Oriole's nest. Katharine P. Claytor.

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AMELIA, VIRGINIA - At 1 P.M. June 13, while in the Appomattox river low grounds, on the boundary line between Amelia and Powhatan counties, I heard, three times repeated, the clear, loud "pee-pee-peebody-peebody-peebody" of the White-throated Sparrow, and a few minutes' search gave me a good, clear look at a beautiful, full plumaged male of the species, at a distance of about 35 feet. A half hour's search in the under growth did not reveal any more individuals. This is 25 days later than my latest previous record, which was May 19, 1926, in Brunswick county, Virginia. The last flock of White-throats was recorded May 6. The average date of "lasts" in Brunswick county is about May 11. Night Hawks are evidently nesting in Amelia County, as I have seen them usually in pairs and "singing", every few days up to date (July 3). Have had no time to look for nests. The pair of Shrikes of which I

wrote in the May issue of the Raven have been watched as often as possible, up to date. On May 18, I saw them feeding the nestlings from the carcass of a young chicken that was just beginning to feather, that lay in the garden about 60 feet from the nest. The chicken was dead, but perfectly fresh when I first saw them at work on it, so I am not sure whether the Shrikes killed it or found it dead. On June 11 the whole family, now full grown and out of the nest some time, were feeding on and squabbling over the body of a Carolina Wren that was hung in a fork of a locust tree, about 15 feet up. If the place belonged to me I should reduce the numbers of this Shrike family from 7 to 4 or less. John B. Lewis.

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AMHERST COUNTY - Old Huckstep-Dameron plantation, extending from Amherst to Sweet Briar farms on June 25th, Catbirds, 2 nests, with young. Bluebirds, nest and eggs in apple trunk. Flickers with young feeding. House Wrens nesting in numbers in locust and other trees. Blue Grosbeak feeding one fledgling out of nest. Baltimore Orioles, nest hanging very low in black walnut, young easily seen from ground. Field Sparrow feeding fledgling. Acadian Flycatcher. Louisiana Water Thrush. Kentucky Warbler, heard number of times. Maryland Yellowthroat, Summer Tanager. Sparrow Hawk. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, secured beautiful nest 2 3-4 inches high covered with lichens. Tenant reported bird had successfully raised young in apple tree 75 yards from house. Phoebe, with second nest above window. Mockingbird singing at 12:30 A.M. morning 26th. Least Flycatcher 27th, at Amherst, also Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and Yellow Warbler. Heard Whippoorwill, 28th. Saw Tree Swallows, Barn Swallows, and Kingbird chasing Hawk, on my way to Lynchburg, 29th. Saw numerous Blue Martins and Nighthawks 30th on my way home up Valley highway. Parent Whitebreasted Nuthatches with 6 young on trunk of locust tree. Kingfisher. Redshouldered Hawk in flight. Mrs. Mary D. Dise, Glen Rock, Pa.

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Note: Mrs. Dise also raises the question as to the absence of records of the Cedar waxwing in the May issue of THE RAVEN. She found them in Charleston, S.C., in March in countless numbers, and says, "These myriad migrants must have passed into Virginia. Do they hug the coast in migration?" Can any of our correspondents throw any light on this matter? J.J.M.

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CHARLOTTESVILLE - Five Black Vultures on the 22nd. Single individuals throughout the month. The Pileated Woodpecker and Spotted Sandpiper were seen during the month very close to dwellings in town, indicating their becoming less shy. Fully fledged young Flickers were about on the 22nd, young Catbirds on the 2nd and young House Wrens on the 10th. I wish to make mention here of the White-throated Sparrow, which we found June 25th in 1925. It was found within the city limits around thickets, which indicates breeding. This the only instance we have on it during the Summer. Also the Lark Sparrow, which we found breeding in 1925. We have positive evidence of a pair nesting here during June of that

year. The brood was also later seen in July learning to fly. These two records I consider worth mentioning as unusual. I have not found the Lark Sparrow here since, though I have frequently searched the same field. A Horned Owl was captured in a hollow tree in the city on the 3rd. Also a Barn Owl was brought to town which had been captured a few miles out. I was surprised to see a Barn Owl around here as they are uncommon. N.R. Barger.

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May

NARUNA - It is necessary to correct one of the records. The Horned Lark record for May 29th was an error. The bird is still here and is probably a Dickcissel, of which there is one former record for the Lynchburg region. Grasshopper Sparrow, June 2, 12, and common 28th. Orchard Oriole, second year male, 11th and 14th. Green Heron, 14th. Nesting notes: 12th, Bob-white, bird sitting; 13th, Field Sparrow, 2 eggs; 21st, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, second nesting pair this season; 23, young Prairie Warbler; 24, young Chimney Swifts, and young Killdeer; 26th, Goldfinches gathering thistle down. Number of species recorded as nesting here 62. Bertha Daniel.

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LYNCHBURG - The Scarlet Tanager was heard singing at Timberlake on 6/15 and 6/26 and on the College campus on 6/28. This undoubtedly establishes it as a summer resident here. I had considered it only a transient for Lynchburg and immediate environs; It nests in the Blue Ridge at elevations of 1200 feet and over. We also listed the Warbling Vireo on an island of the James River within city limits on 6/29. I have listed this species only three times before, May 7, 1926, August 12, 1927, and on one other occasion for which I have no record....21 Black Vultures were seen a few miles west of Big Island in Bedford County on 6/23, and six more were seen the next day a few miles northwest of Bedford City... On June 23 and 24 a hike covering about 19 miles, over Thunder Hill and Apple Orchard Mts. down to the Peaks of Otter, was taken with members of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club of Washington. A return trip to Apple Orchard was taken on June 29, when notes were taken on altitudes at which various species of the Alleghonian and Canadian life zones were found. Studies on the effects of altitude on bird nesting will be continued through the summer during the course of botanical field trips through the Blue Ridge. Results of this work will be described at a later date. During the June trips, the following species were listed as breeding: Black and White Warbler, Louisiana Water Thrush, Scarlet Tanager, Cairn's Warbler, Veery, Mountain Vireo, Carolina Junco, Hooded, Cerulean and Canadian Warblers, Ruffed Grouse and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. The Grouse was a young one, about a third grown. Carolina Juncos and Veeries are abundant on Apple Orchard Mountain. We found a Junco's nest on June 29, containing two or three young only a day or two old...Mrs. Joseph Dice of Glen Rock, Pa., who was instrumental in getting the organization of V.S.O. in motion, visited Lynchburg for a few days in June. Amherst County, Va., was her childhood home. She plans to attend the annual meeting of the V.S.O. in December....

Ruskin S. Freer.

LEXINGTON - The most noteworthy experience of the month was the trip with Mr. M.G. Lewis and Prof. Freer to the top of Thunder Hill, Rockbridge Co., at an elevation of 4000 ft. This trip was described and the birds covered in Prof. Freer's sheet that was mailed with the June issue of THE RAVEN. Some of the more uncommon birds seen here during June were: 2d, Woodcock, Orchard Oriole; 3d, Upland Plover; 7th, Red-tailed Hawk, also two adults and two immature birds on 30th; 9th, Yellow-throated Vireo; 12th, Warbling Vireo; 16th, Cooper's Hawk; 25th, Prairie Warbler; 25th, Duck Hawk, that flew out from a cliff at the top of Jump Mountain and sailed away screaming, and another over Dale mountain on 30th; 27th, Barn Owl, which was presented to me alive and which I liberated; 30th, Bewick's Wren, common at altitude of 2500 feet, near White Rock Mtn. A friend, living near White Rock Mtn, who knows Ravens when he sees them, reports a family of two adults and six young Ravens much in evidence during latter part of June. On the 20th, I noted a Blackburnian Warbler on Brushy Hills, near Lexington, at an altitude of 1200 ft, which is remarkably low during the breeding season for this bird of the upper Alleghanian and Canadian zones. On the 6th, I observed something, for which I had seen reported but which was new to me. A Chimney Swift was breaking twigs for nesting material from a locust tree while in full flight. Nesting notes: 2d, Pewee nest, 3 eggs. 3d, Yellow Warbler nest, with young, in small elm bush. 3d, Upland Plover, brood of 4 young just hatched and leaving nest. 9th, fifteen nests of Red-winged Blackbirds at Big Spring Pond. These nests showed an interesting variety of locations, five being in the usual place among rushes, two in small bushes, 3 at the swinging ends of long branches just above the water, and five being well up in trees. One of the latter, with well-grown young, was at least 35 feet up. 10th, Flicker, with large young. 13th, Red-headed Woodpecker nest, occupied but inaccessible. 20th, Black and White Warblers, Hooded Warblers, and Ovenbirds feeding young out of the nests. 30th, Phoebe nest with well-fledged young; Redstart nest, with 3 young; Scarlet Tanager nest, with one egg and one young. Purple Martins are nesting in the center of Lexington in the boxing of store buildings. I have another June record of the nesting of the Carolina Junco, at 2300 feet in the gap between Dale and White Rock Mts. J.J. Murray.

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LEXINGTON - While in camp near Rockbridge Baths at the foot of Jump Mountain, elevation 1400 feet, from June 21 to July 5th, I made notes several mornings to determine the relative numbers of breeding pairs of birds in the locality. A territory of about one mile in radius was covered, including wooded streams reaching to Maury River which flows through Goshen Pass, pasture lands and cultivated land. Nesting pairs in this territory were approximately as follows: Quail, 1 pair, Screech Owl, 1; Yellow-billed cuckoo, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Flicker 2; Whip-Poor-Will, 7; Chimney Swift, 3; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 1; Phoebe, 3; Wood Pewee, 2; Acadian Flycatcher, 2; Crow, 2; Grasshopper sparrow, 1; Chipping Sparrow, 3; Field Sparrow 6; Towhee, 4; Cardinal 4; Indigo Bunting, 7; Summer Tanager, 2; Red-eyed Vireo, 4; Black and White Warbler 2; Prairie Warbler, 3; Oven-bird, 5; Louisiana Water-Thrush, 2; Maryland Yellow-throat, 2; Hooded Warbler, 4; Brown Thrasher, 2; Carolina Wren, 3; Tufted Titmouse, 5; Carolina Chickadee, 4; Wood Thrush, 5; Robin, 4; Bluebird 1. Merrian G. Lewis.

(Note: Mr. W. M. Davidson, of Silver Springs, Md., who is a regular reader of THE RAVEN, sends in a note, which is worth printing even though it occurs outside our proper territory. "A Rough-Winged Swallow's nest, in which four young were banded June 17, was heavily infested with mites. This nest was at the end of a horizontal bore in the concrete foundation of a bridge. Last year I found a similar infestation occurring in a Brown Thrasher's nest and the young were in a weakened condition. A liberal application of pyrethrum powder apparently gave relief to the birds.)



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VOL. I

AUGUST 1930

NO. 8

EDITORIAL NOTES

During June bird life was at high tide. Most birds were busy with family cares and there was little rest or quiet for them. This parental activity gave the bird student his great opportunity to become acquainted with the life histories of his feathered friends. During July that strong tide is rapidly ebbing. Some birds are occupied with second broods, or with belated broods when first attempts have been unsuccessful, but most birds have already finished their great annual effort toward the perpetuation of the species. Every field observer notices the difference in the number of birds to be seen given before June ends. The birds are less active. You must go to the fields and the woods earlier in the morning if you are to find them. Most noticeable of all is the great decrease in the volume of song. Many birds have ceased altogether their singing; others, sing but occasionally; and the woods are dead and still as compared with May or early June. Soon the post-nuptial moult will begin and the dull days of August will come, the least interesting time of all the year to the bird lover. But even in the dullest days of August there is enough to be seen to keep the enthusiastic bird student occupied to good profit. If he lives on the coast, there is the early migration of the shore birds. If he is fortunate enough to live in the mountains, the warblers will begin moving in the last third of the month. And wherever he lives, if he goes to the woods and keeps his eyes open, he will find his reward.

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The September issue will not be omitted, as was stated in a former issue. A brief number of THE RAVEN will be issued. So members are requested to send in any items of interest to the editor (at Lexington) by Sept. 5th.

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Miss Bertha Daniel of Naruna has spent the editor some copies of a nature column, entitled "In the Wildwood", which she contributes to the Brookneal Union Star. This is a very fine way to advance an interest in birds and in other forms of nature, and the editor would like to see such a column conducted in every paper in the State. There are other members of our Society who should share their knowledge and their interests

with the public in this way. Many of us know of "The Rambler" column that is contributed weekly to the Lynchburg News by Prof. Freer, and the editor has such a column, "Nature's Diary", in the Rockbridge County News. The editor would like to know about any other similar columns in any of the papers of Virginia and to have some clippings of them.

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In regard to the Upland Plover nest found at Lexington in June, Dr. H. C. Oberholser of the U. S. Biological Survey writes to the editor: "This record is most interesting because it seems to be the record nearest to Washington that we have seen for a number of years. I am glad to know that you have sent a report of this nest to the Auk, for it should be on permanent record."

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Destroying Shore Birds in Virginia.

State game officials are taking cognizance of complaints that slaughter of shore birds and gathering of the eggs of terns, gulls and rails, for food, continues on the Eastern Shore of Virginia and the islands adjacent thereto. The complaints, coming mainly from the National Association of Audubon societies, were given publicity by the American Game Protective association.

M. D. Hart, executive secretary of the Virginia commission of game and inland fisheries, by letter called the attention of A. Willis Robertson, chairman of the commission, to the complaints. Since the death, a year ago, of T.T. Bloxom there has been no permanent federal game warden stationed on the Eastern Shore, says Mr. Hart, and the executive secretary believes that this is the main cause of the lax observance of the law indicated in that section. He suggests that Major Robertson bring the matter to the attention of the United States biological survey.

Following is a part of the report of the Audubon society's representatives who recently visited the Virginia coast:

"Daily during our stay the marshes were visited by parties who sought to gather the eggs of the nesting birds and carry them off by bucketfuls. Accordingly our work of studying and photographing the birds, many times, was interrupted as we attempted to drive away these marauding parties. Ignorance of the law could not be offered as an excuse for these depredations for usually, the black registration numbers on the motorboats were purposefully covered up in order to prevent them being read by the use of field glasses.

"In addition to the illegal gathering of eggs, the frequent shooting of shore birds, for which there is a permanent closed season, was also noted."

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CHARLOTTEVILLE. Nothing unusual has appeared during July though a number of interesting events have been noted. The Worm-eating Warbler, Warbling Vireo, Woodcock, Pied-billed Grebe and Blue Grosbeak were seen through the month. I believe they are only locally abundant as I always found them in the same places. One Blue Heron was seen on the

10th, in the white immature plumage. Young Robins, Catbirds, Cardinals, Wood Pewees and one young Red-bellied Woodpecker was observed during the last week. Throughout the city as usual, flocks of Starlings have begun to congregate. I have found such huge flocks that the chattering could be heard long before the birds were within seeing distance.

N. R. Barger.

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NARUNA. The fields and woodlands about Naruna have been open pages of nature's great book of life. Birds are to be seen everywhere. Indigo Buntings, Yellow-throated Vireos, and Black and White Warblers have been common all summer. A pair of Blue Grosbeaks seen and heard often. July 2d, four young Pine Warblers. 2d, two broods of Bob-Whites, 15th, Black Vultures, also on 24th. 18th, Vesper Sparrow nest with three eggs. 20th, Kingbird feeding young in nest. 26th, Mockingbird's nest with one egg. This is the fourth nest on one rose trellis. 100 to 500 Starlings have roosted in a thicket during July. Bertah Daniel.

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McKINNEY, Dinwiddie County. From July 1 to 15, 52 species were observed, of which the more uncommon were:- Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Black-billed Cuckoo, Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Orchard Oriole, Blue Grosbeak, Prairie Warbler. Chipping Sparrow, Mockingbird, and Robin still nesting. Bank Swallows were seen all along the R.F.&P. track from Quantico to Fredericksburg. On July 5th on a nearby pond I observed six Snowy Egrets, two Great Blue Herons, one Green Heron, and what I feel sure was a Bald Eagle flying over the pond. This is the earliest date for the Snowy Egrets; usually it is the latter part of August before they are paying us their annual visit. Bernice Rives.

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LYNCHBURG. Nesting notes:- May 11, Mockingbird, nest with eggs. June 15, Wood Thrush, nest in a small tree, five feet from ground, near a stream. July 12, House Wren nest with second brood leaving nest on this date. The nest was in a pigeon box in same place as first brood. July 15, Chimney Swift nest with three very small young fell down chimney. At Rocky Row Run, near Snowden, I saw three Whip-poor-wills on May 4, and a Little Green Heron on June 29.

Mrs. C. L. Burgess.

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LYNCHBURG. My notes for the month are few as the first two weeks were spent in Ohio. On the 17th, in the dusk at evening, I saw a Duck fly onto Timberlake. Toward the last of the month I saw a single Black Duck flying over the lake in the late afternoon. There are no records of Ducks breeding at the lake, as these seem to be chance visitors. On the 18th I saw my first Little Blue Heron, in the pure white plumage of immature birds, at Timberlake. The following day I had a close view through the glasses for a considerable time. Attendants at the lake said the birds had been at the lake since about July 1st. On the 22nd and 23rd a Black and White Warbler was singing on the campus at the College. A Serulean Warbler, singing, was a visitor on the 27th and 28th. On the 26th, we saw seven Little Blue Herons along the James River near Snowden, in Bedford County: found the Redstart at altitude of 1050 feet and Hooded Warbler at altitude of 1250 feet, near Cave Mountain Mission School in Natural Bridge National Forest, Rockbridge

County. Mrs. C. W. Harris of Amherst County reports Black and White, Yellow-throated and Hooded Warblers, La. Water Thrush and Redstart, nesting along James River.-----Ruskin S. Freer

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LEXINGTON. July does not usually bring much that is unusual in the avian realm. The most unusual Lexington record is that of two Black Ducks seen in Buffalo Creek on the 2d. Possibly their lingering this far south was due to their having been crippled; but if so, they had entirely recovered, for they showed normal powers of flight, taking off at high speed when I came in sight. The Little Blue Herons, in the immature white phase, came as usual at the beginning of July, but in larger numbers than usual. I saw three on the 5th and had reports of groups of as many as a dozen at various times during the first half of July, at Big Spring Pond and on Keer's Creek. I have heard at certain times in June and again on July 7 the notes of the Sora Rail at Big Spring Pond. This is probably a crippled bird as this is south of their normal breeding range. Summer and Scarlet Tanagers and Acadian Flycatchers were seen during the month, and, among the warblers, the Black & White, Parula, Hooded, Yellow, Ovenbird, Louisiana Water-thrush, and Yellow-breasted Chat. These were all down in the valley. No mountain trips were taken.

Nesting notes: On the 1st, a pair of Yellow Warblers were feeding young in my yard. Mr. Herbert K. Job and I had unsuccessfully sought the nest, which I had felt sure was in the yard. 2d, I saw young Chipping Sparrows in the act of leaving the nest. 4th, young Red-headed Woodpeckers being fed by both parents in a nest in a telephone post. 22d, another set of young Red-headed Woodpeckers out of the nest. 5th, Cardinal nest, with 3 eggs, on low branch of a willow overhanging a stream. 7th, Catbird nest with 3 eggs. This was the bird's third attempt to raise a brood. She had 4 eggs on May 26 in a nest in a japonica bush. When this nest was torn out by a boy, she built again in a honeysuckle vine on June 15th. This, too, was destroyed, and she then, after an interval of waiting, returned to the japonica bush for the third and successful effort. 9th, Yellow-breasted Chat feeding young. 13th, House Wrens with one young bird and two eggs in a second nest. They did not build this second nest in the same box as the first, but moved to a clean box at the other end of the same porch. 22d, young Robins just out of the nest. J.J. Murray.

VERONA, Augusta Co. On July 15, as I was driving on the Lee Highway near Verona, an Upland Plover lit on a fence post at the side of the highway. It stayed there for some time after I had stopped the car and watched it.

MASSANETTA SPRINGS, Rockingham Co. On July 15th, I definitely identified a Bank Swallow. While the Rough-winged Swallow is a common breeder about Lexington, I have never been sure of the Bank Swallow there. Also Nighthawks were very common on this date at Massanetta. It is a rather mysterious fact to me that, while I have never seen a Nighthawk at Lexington during the breeding season, I always find them common in the middle of July at Massanetta, which is only 65 miles north of Lexington.

J.J. Murray.



THE RAVEN



BULLETIN OF THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY
PUBLISHED AT LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA
DR. J. J. MURRAY, EDITOR

VOL. I

SEPTEMBER 1930

NO. 9,

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Annual Meeting

The Virginia Society of Ornithology is approaching the end of its first year. During the ten months of its existence, some of our objectives, as stated at the organization meeting, have been realized. An encouraging growth has taken place in the membership, and the bulletin, THE RAVEN, under Dr. Murray's editorship, has grown in interest and usefulness. In other directions we have perhaps not made the progress we had hoped for.

The membership is now urged to look forward to and plan for our annual meeting, which the Executive Committee feels should be held in Richmond early in December, as nearly as possible on the anniversary of the founding. Final arrangements for the meeting will be announced later. Reports of the past year will be presented by the Secretary-Treasurer, Miss Lena B. Henderson, the Editor of THE RAVEN, and the President. We shall try to catch a bird's-eye view (no pun intended) of our year's achievements, and in the light of these recapitulations and the original plans for the organization, set the goals for another year.

There will be many things to talk about beside business. Half of the fun of bird study consists in exchanging experiences with others having the same hobby. There will be a field trip, of course, perhaps to Curle's Neck, to see the thousands of Canada Geese reported to winter there.

The Executive Committee will meet soon to perfect plans for the annual meeting. In the meantime, bear the tentative plans in mind, and let's set our faces toward Richmond. ---- R. S. F.

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It will be of the greatest interest to bird students in Virginia to know that our State now possesses two sets of THE AUK, one set complete, and the other almost complete. A year ago there was no set of THE AUK in the State which was anywhere near complete. Recently Mr. J. H. Riley, of the National Museum, has presented his

set to the University of Virginia Library. This set is complete, with all volumes bound, and with all the volumes of the ten year Indexes. The presence of this set of THE AUK and of the Palmer collection of Virginia birds at The University of Virginia makes a visit to the University worth-while for all bird students. The other set of THE AUK is that owned by Mr. Herbert K. Job. This set has all the volumes of the Nuttall Bulletin and all volumes of THE AUK, with the exception of the first four.

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It will be of great help to the Editor, especially in the fall months when the list of migrants is so long, if certain rules are observed in making reports to THE RAVEN. Typewrite, wherever possible, and double space your material; otherwise the Editor has to copy it. In making your list, put the date first, and then the list of birds observed on that date which are important enough to report. In the case of migrants, unless they are very rare, give only the first and last dates of the season. General observations should be added at the end of the dated list. An remember that your list may necessarily be cut because of space restrictions.

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FIELD NOTES

Bedford. Bird banding notes for July and August: Birds have been noticeably shy during these dull days of the moulting season. Not until the third week in August was there much activity about the traps. Most birds taken at that time showed new feathers predominating, but some very ragged looking individuals with tail feathers entirely gone were handled. Birds banded -- House Wren, 7; Catbird, 3; Chewink, 4; Brown Thrasher, 6; Chipping Sparrow, 1; Robin, 1; Mockingbird, 1; Bob-White, 1; Orchard Oriole, 2; Baltimore Oriole, 1; Maryland Yellow-throat, 1; Song Sparrow, 2. Total, 30; species, 12. The Song Sparrows were banded August 23, the first of the species since April 25. Nesting notes -- First week in August closed the nesting season here, the last nest vacated being that of house wrens. On April 17 this pair started the first nest of the season, and on June 1, while first brood was still in nest, the second nest was started in a nearby box with hinged top which allowed a view of interior. One bird carried on the building while the other looked after the young. On June 5 young left nest; June 10, both birds working on second nest; June 19, first egg laid; June 23, fifth egg laid. The five fledglings in this nest were banded July 27. They left the nest August 6. Miscellaneous Notes -- Robins gathering in flocks August 25. No record of Summer Tanagers in this immediate vicinity in the past four years. Week of August 2 to 9 spent on Rocky Row Run near Snowden. Crows frequently flushed from beside small stream as car passed were apparently "fishing" in the unusually shallow water. Other birds seen by members of the party in this vicinity and while

driving to other parts of the Forest Reserve were - 1 Ruffed Grouse, 6 Kingfishers, 2 Little Blue Herons, 1 Red Shouldered Hawk, and a large flock of Blackburnian and Chestnut Sided Warblers, the last two named being seen near Arcadia on August 8. Two Bald Eagles were seen from the road above Snowden as they flew from the mountains on the Bedford County side of the river across to the Amherst County side. They flew directly over the observers' car, affording a good view. The characteristic white head and tail were plainly visible as the lower one passed over. . . . On August 25 I saw two Ruffed Grouse, 1 Black-throated Blue Warbler, and 6 Juncos (presumably Carolina), on the Peaks of Otter. --- Katherine P. Claytor.

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Charlottesville. The usual number of Nighthawks, Sandpipers, both Solitary and Spotted, and Little Blue Herons have put in their appearance. The Little Green Heron is very well distributed. Masses of Starlings still fill the city trees. The Osprey, a bird seldom seen near here, was seen at the city reservoir on August 31st. I am also glad to report quite a colony of Pileated Woodpeckers along the banks of the reservoir. On the 31st no less than six were seen at the same time, while drumming, tapping and calling could be heard at other points. A female Blue Grosbeak was found on the 31st; we found it breeding here in 1924.

Mr. W. H. Smith of this city, who is a bird-companion of mine, saw a Bald Eagle in Craig County on the 19th. He also reports numbers of Little Blue Herons, Long-billed Marsh Wrens and Ospreys, near Richmond, while on a fishing trip, August 23rd. On August 30th he saw a Marsh Hawk about sixteen miles east of Charlottesville.

N. R. Barger

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Naruna. Green Heron on August 1st and 21st. Black Vulture seen frequently. Nighthawks, which had been absent since May, appeared on the 8th, and large numbers are seen in late afternoon. Pair of Blue Grosbeaks seen on the 9th, with two fledglings. They have been more common this summer than usual. Barn Swallows, 17th and 23rd. At Hobson's Mill Pond, Falling River, August 19th - 1 Great Blue Heron, 1 immature Little Blue Heron, 2 Louisiana Water-thrushes, 1 Kingfisher, 1 Acadian Flycatcher. I also saw in a sand bank the tunnel to a Kingfisher's nest which measured six feet. Cooper's Hawks have been seen often. I have heard only one song from the Brown Thrasher and Robin and several from the Cardinal and Blue-gray Gnat-catcher during August.

Bertha Daniel

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Amelia. A pair of Nighthawks were seen at frequent intervals about a mile west of the village of Amelia from the time of their first arrival, May 6, until July 1. Then no more were seen until August 9, when 6 were seen, feeding over a corn field near the village at sunset. They were noted at frequent intervals from that time to August 20, since which none have been seen until the evening of September 3, while a thunder cloud was forming in the northwest, when more than 20 nighthawks passed over the Sheppard farm four miles east of Amelia in about 10 minutes. Several times in past years I have seen these birds apparently flying ahead of a storm in this way.

Several evenings during the very hot weather I watched Swifts feeding over the small pond that is one of my favorite "birding" places. They do not seem to frequent it to any extent except late in the afternoon, when they are there in numbers. Most of the time they circle the air at heights of from 10 feet above the water to that of the tree tops, but at frequent intervals one or two at a time descend almost to the surface, and without slacking speed, touch the water for a distance of a foot or two, making the spray fly and producing a swishing sound that may be distinctly heard at a distance of 30 or 40 feet. Twice I saw one make several "stoops" before actually touching the water, as if he feared to strike it too hard. Possibly these were young and inexperienced birds. One evening when I stayed until dark, two big red bats came, and went through much the same performance. I assume that both swifts and bats were getting a drink.

----- John B. Lewis

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Lexington. Being out of the state during all of August, except for the last four days, I have few reports to make. Nighthawks, which had not been seen during the spring or summer, were abundant when I returned to Lexington on the 28th. I have no summer record for Lexington, and only one spring record, although they are common about Harrisonburg early in July. Prof. Freer tells me that his brother, Mr. Phillips Freer, saw a dozen Nighthawks between Beuna Vista and Glasgow in this county on July 29th. These were probably very early migrants. On and after August 29th Sora have been abundant at the Big Spring Pond. A Great Blue Heron at the same place on August 29th. On August 28th I saw a small flock of Black Vultures near Glade Spring in Southwest Virginia. This was near the point from which I recorded them last September for the January 1930 issue of THE AUK.

J. J. Murray



THE RAVEN



BULLETIN OF THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY
PUBLISHED AT LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA
DR. J. J. MURRAY, EDITOR

VOL. I

OCTOBER 1930

NO. 10.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The last few issues of THE RAVEN have been very late in appearing. That is mainly the fault of the Editor. But it is due in part to the fact that some of the contributions have been late in coming into his hands. In fact, he has waited for some which did not come at all. All notes should be sent in as soon as possible after the close of the month. And we are anxious to have contributions from more people and from a greater variety of sections in the State. Particularly do we want some material from Tidewater and the Coast.

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The members of the V. S. O. will be sorry to know that Mr. Herbert K. Job has been in a hospital in New Haven, Conn. for several months. He is much improved now, but has not yet been able to get back to his home and his work at Richmond. Up to the time of his illness Mr. Job had been giving special attention to THE GAME AND FISH CONSERVATIONIST, the bi-monthly publication of the State Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries. The last two issues have been full of magnificent illustrations of birds made from Mr. Job's large collection of bird photographs. This magazine is worth many times the price, which is fifty cents per year. It can be secured from the Commission's office, State Library Building, Richmond, Va.

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Mrs. Mary D. Dise, who gave the initial push toward the starting of the V. S. O. has been spending some time in the State this fall at the Craig Healing Springs, as will be seen from her notes in this issue. We hope that she will be able to attend the December meeting in Richmond.

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Mr. N. R. Barger, who has been for some years an enthusiastic student of the birds of the Charlottesville region and an interested contributor to THE RAVEN, writes that he is spending the winter at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis but that he will still keep in touch with the V. S. O. through the bulletin.

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Any members who have suggestions to make in regard to the program or any other feature of the annual meeting which is tentatively set for December in Richmond should communicate their ideas to Prof. R. S. Freer, Lynchburg College, Lynchburg, Va.

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Another piece of nature education being done by a member of our group is the monthly column conducted by Mr. John B. Lewis in SOUTHSIDE VIRGINIA NEWS, of Petersburg.

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FIELD NOTES

Craig and Giles Counties. Sept. 28 to Oct. 1st, at Craig Healing Springs, Black-throated Green Warblers and Magnolia Warblers abundant; and Black and White Warblers common. Oct. 3rd, at Mountain Lake, Carolina Juncos and Black-throated Blue Warblers abundant; 1 Yellow-throated Vireo, 1 Pine Warbler. Oct. 4th, at Newcastle, 1 Chipping Sparrow, 1 White-crowned Sparrow, 1 Myrtle Warbler, and Black-throated Green Warblers. -----Mrs. Mary D. Dise.

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Lexington. One of the peculiarities of the bird life of the month of September at Lexington was the absence during the latter part of the month of birds which usually are present well on into October. I have seen no Red-winged Blackbirds since Sept. 1st, and Nighthawks, which are usually migrating until the middle of October, have been missing since Sept. 22, and that date was the only date on which they were recorded after the first week in Sept. Some last dates were: Rough-winged Swallow, 1st; Tree Swallow, 5th; Barn Swallow, 12th; Green Heron, 12th; Brown Thrasher, 15th; Red-eyed Vireo, 19th; Yellow-breasted Chat and Pewee, 22nd; Wood Thrush, 25th; Catbird, Scarlet Tanager, Ovenbird, House Wren, Vesper Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, 29th. Arrivals: Swamp Sparrow, 30th; Savannah Sparrow, 29th. Migrating warblers: Black-throated Blue, 13th to 30th; Black-throated Green, 15 - 30; Cape May, 19 - 30, common; Tennessee, 19 - 30, abundant and, with the Cape Mays, doing some damage to the grapes; Magnolia, 20 - 30; Parula, 20 - 27; Redstart, 20 - 27; Worm-eating, 22, the only specimen I have ever seen here though I am sure I have heard them singing in the mountains in the summer; Pine, 22, always rare; Chestnut-sided, 27; Black-poll, 22 and 29; Bay-breasted, 29, a specimen each of the Black-poll and Bay-breasted being taken; Yellow Palm, abundant 29 and 30; Nashville, 29, an immature specimen being taken, the first noted in the Valley of Virginia, so far as I am aware, Dr. Smyth not having recorded it in Montgomery Co. Sora were common at Big Spring Pond through the month, and Pied-billed Grebes were noted there four times. A Bobolink, my first fall record, was seen on the 19th. Of the hawks five species were noted - Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, Red-tailed, Red-shouldered, and Sparrow Hawks. ----- J. J. Murray.

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Waynesboro. On Sept. 11th, while crossing the bridge over the river at Waynesboro, I noted a male Bronzed Grackle. ----- J. J. Murray.

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Naruna. The last dates on which the following species were seen were: Kingbird, Aug. 10th; Humming-bird, Aug. 29; White-eyed Vireo, Sept. 9th; Prairie Warbler, 10th; Nighthawk, 12th; Whip-poor-will, 14th; Summer Tanager, 15th; Yellow-throated Vireo, 17th; Blue-gray Gnat-catcher, 18th; Blue Grosbeak, 22nd; Red-eyed Vireo, 22nd; Crested Flycatcher, 23rd; Yellow-breasted Chat, 26th; Wood Pewee, 29th; House Wren, 30th. Brown Thrashers, Catbirds, and Maryland Yellow-throats still present at end of Sept., and Pine Warblers very common. Myrtle Warblers have been common since Sept. 22nd. Barn Swallows seen, 5th, 6th, 10th; Redstarts, 9th; Great Blue Heron, 9th; Magnolia Warbler, 27th and 30th. ----- Bertha Daniel.

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Lynchburg. Aug. 30, Screech Owl, near Snowden. Sept. 18, Yellow Warbler. Sept. 27, observed Mockingbirds and Robins feeding on Virginia creeper berries. ----- Mrs. C. L. Burgess.

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Mountain Lake, Giles Co., June 23 - July 26, 1930. Mountain Lake is a beautiful lake about a mile long, 4000 feet above sea-level, and surrounded by growths of Rhododendron maximum and hardwood forests. It is in the Canadian Zone and has corresponding fauna and flora. During the six weeks no blackbirds, starlings, grackles, black buzzards, nor cardinals were seen. Crows were relatively scarce. The commonest birds seen were the Carolina juncos, robins, chipping sparrows, gold-finches and black-and-white warblers. Ravens were seen and heard regularly. Waxwings, breeding, were common. Among the list of rarer Virginian birds were the Cairns, the canadian, chestnut-sided, and the veeries. The Mt. Solitary Vireo was seen. All of these were observed feeding their young. Some peculiar junco habits should be noted. One nest was on a very flat and compact hemlock limb ten feet above the ground. Most nests were found in banks or under edges of rocks alongside paths and roads and had three or four brown speckled eggs. One nest had two fledglings about to fly, which were banded, and two fresh eggs at the same time. Scarlet tanagers, chimney swifts, grouse (young and old), towhees, vultures, catbirds, chats, woodcocks, oven birds, phoebes and pewees, and other common birds were present. Pileated woodpeckers were on the mountain sides. A pair of red-shouldered were the only hawks seen. These were heard or seen every day. ----- Robert B. Carroll.

(Note: These Mountain Lake observations were made by Prof. Carroll of the Virginia Military Institute during the session of the Mountain Lake Biological Station. Editor.)

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Blacksburg (Virginia Polytechnic Institute). June 28-30, male Lesser Scaup duck seen on the ice pond on the campus. This is the only June record for Blacksburg. July 5, Raven seen at Mountain Lake by Dr. Ivey Lewis of the University of Virginia. July 24, at Mountain Lake, Cedar Waxwing fledglings, and two nests of Carolina Junco, with three eggs in each. September dates: Redstart, 19th to 30th; Magnolia Warbler, 23 - 30; Black-throated Blue, 27 - 30; Cape May Warbler, 27 - 28; Bay-breasted Warbler, 28, 29 (6); Black-throated Green Warbler, 28 - 30; Blackburnian Warbler, 30 (pair); Black-poll Warbler, 29; Myrtle Warbler, 29 (6); Chestnut-sided Warbler, 28 (2); Parula Warbler, 28 (4), 30; Tennessee Warbler, 29 (2), 30 (2); Blue-headed Vireo, 28 (3); Savannah Sparrow, 28 (15); Vesper Sparrow, 28; Olive-backed Thrush, 28 - 30; Yellow-throated Vireo, 28; Bewick's Wren, 28 (2); White-throated Sparrow, 30. ----- Ralph M. Brown.

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Amelia. First arrivals: Bobolink Aug. 19. (Last Sept. 11.); Black-throated Blue Warbler, Sept. 9; Vesper Sparrow, Sept. 17; Solitary Sandpiper, Sept. 19; Savannah Sparrow, 21. No White-throated or Song Sparrows seen in September. The following are dates when certain species were last heard singing: Hooded Warbler, June 22; Black-and-white Warbler, July 3; Prairie Warbler, July 13; Pine Warbler, July 15 (Beginning to sing occasionally again now.); Chat, July 16; Wood Thrush, July 22; Indigo Bunting, Sept. 22; Wood Pewee, Sept. 22; Crested Flycatcher, Sept. 24. The old wood-encircled ice pond that is one of my favorite hunting grounds has now shrunk to about half its usual area on account of the drought, exposing a considerable area of mud flats. Here Solitary Sandpipers have been seen at every visit since Sept. 19. The largest number seen at one time was 4, on Sept. 27. Usually two have been present, and usually feeding at some distance from each other. At sunset on Oct. 3, a female Wood Duck arose from the pond as I approached, flying down the stream.

----- John B. Lewis.

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Lynchburg. Last dates for summer residents: Baltimore Oriole, 9/13; Maryland Yellowthroat, 9/21; Woodthrush, 9/13; Catbird, 9/28; Wood Pewee, 9/14; Brown Thrasher, 9/28; Green Heron, 9/21; Crested Flycatcher, 9/21; Summer Tanager, 9/9; Hummingbird, 9/21; Pine Warbler, 9/21; Indigo Bunting, 9/21; Yellow-throated Warbler, 9/20; Black-throated Green Warbler, Redstart, Solitary Sandpiper, Magnolia Warbler, 9/21; Ovenbird, 9/29. Ospreys began to appear at Timberlake about Aug. 16, one Pied-billed Grebe came on Sept. 25, and there were two flocks of 7 and 8 respectively on Sept. 28. I had never seen flocks this large at Timberlake before. I have seen them flying over the water several times this fall also, which is unusual. Last dates for August: Yellow-breasted Chat, 8/17; Red-eyed Vireo, 8/20; Nighthawk, 8/24; Yellow-throated Vireo, 8/26; Barn Swallow, 8/24; Kingbird, 8/20; Prairie Warbler, 8/24; Cedar Waxwing, 8/24; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 8/24. Many of these dates are of little value as I was unable to get out frequently enough to get the actual last dates. I failed to get the last dates for the Chimney Swift. ----- Ruskin S. Freer.



THE RAVEN



BULLETIN OF THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY
PUBLISHED AT LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA
DR. J. J. MURRAY, EDITOR

VOL. I

NOVEMBER 1930

NO. 11

OFFICERS OF THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY

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Chairman, Publication Committee:	Dr. J. I. Hamaker, Randolph-Macon Woman's College, Lynchburg, Va.
Member Executive Committee:	Mr. M. G. Lewis, Lexington, Va.

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EDITORIAL NOTES

The Annual Meeting of the V. S. O. will not be held in December. At the suggestion of a number of interested members, the Executive Committee has decided to postpone the meeting until after Christmas, and it will be held some time in January or February. Members will send any requests or suggestions as to the time of meeting to Prof. Ruskin S. Freer. The Executive Committee will meet in the near future to decide on the exact time for the meeting, and it will be announced in the next issue of THE RAVEN. The meeting will be held in Richmond. An attractive program is promised, including some talks on the ornithology of the State, an illustrated lecture, and a field trip, either to the White Oak Quail Farm or to see the wild fowl at Curle's Neck.

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At the annual meeting we hope to take up the matter of the possibility of issuing THE RAVEN in printed form instead of in the loose mimeographed sheets. That can only be done by a substantial increase in the membership of the Society or by the willingness of the members to pay a larger amount in dues. But if it can be done, it

would add to the attractiveness and to the standing of the publication. At the same time, the Editor and the Executive Committee would be glad to have suggestions as to any changes in the character of THE RAVEN desired by the membership. The chief aim of the bulletin has been the accumulation from various parts of the State of sufficient data on distribution and migration and breeding to make possible the publication of an accurate catalogue of Virginia birds. If the bulletin could be enlarged it would make it possible not only to do this but to provide space for more popular articles.

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Members of the V. S. O. will be interested in knowing that of the large number of observers who are reporting regularly on bird migrations for the U. S. Biological Survey one of the oldest in point of service is a Virginian and a member of our organization. This is Mr. H. E. Micklen, of Shipman, Nelson County, Virginia, who has been reporting on his observations since 1878. We hope that he may be able to attend the Richmond meeting.

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In the September issue of THE RAVEN there was a note about two sets of THE AUK in Virginia. The Editor now learns that Dr. Ellison A. Smyth, Jr., has at his home near Salem a file that is almost complete. His set lacks only vols. 1, 2, 3, and 6. About half of his volumes are bound. Dr. Smyth has given a cordial invitation to any of the members to come to his home, "Little Orchard", near Salem, and consult his files of THE AUK.

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Possibly there are other members whose sets of THE AUK are of some extent. If so, the Editor would be glad to know. His own set only covers the last ten years. Also, if there are any sets of Bird-Lore or other ornithological magazines in Virginia, we would be glad to have the information. The University of Virginia Library has a set of THE CONDOR that is complete, or nearly so.

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FIELD NOTES

Lexington. Some last dates are: Oct. 1st, Swift (generally two to three weeks later) and Tennessee Warbler; 2nd, Ovenbird; 4th, Cape May and Magnolia warblers; 6th, Sora; 10th, Olive-backed Thrush, Black-throated Blue Warbler; 13th, Maryland Yellow-throat; 20th, Robin (a few always winter), Red-headed Woodpecker (occasionally winters); Towhee; 21st, Black & White Warbler; 22nd, Black-poll Warbler, Purple Grackle (usually present a week later); 27th, Yellow Palm Warbler; 30th, Myrtle Warbler. Arrivals: 2nd, White-throated Sparrow and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker; 4th, Golden-crowned Kinglet; 6th, Myrtle Warbler; 10th, Brown Creeper; 20th, Winter Wren and Slate-colored Junco. Two unusually late dates are for a Solitary Sandpiper at Big Spring Pond on Oct. 20th, and a Northern Water-thrush at the same place on the 27th. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak, which though a summer resident on the higher mountains is only a migrant in the valleys,

was noted on Oct. 2nd. A White-crowned Sparrow, which is rare here in fall, was seen on the 13th. Great Blue Heron, 13th and 20th. Pileated Woodpecker, 20th. On the 22nd, a Barred Owl, which is decidedly uncommon here, was brought to me. A large flock of Pipits on the 27th. A Coot, a female Mallard and a female Gadwall present at Big Spring Pond on the 27th. Hawks seen in October included the Red-tailed (twice), Red-shouldered, Cooper's, and Sparrow Hawk. -----J. J. Murray.

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Sweet Briar. 9/7, 1 Little Blue Heron in white plumage, 2 Kingfishers, 20 Cedar Waxwings, some immature; 9/12, 1 Green Heron, 1 Scarlet Tanager, 1 Black and White Warbler, 1 Chestnut-sided Warbler; 9/14, 1 Green Heron, 4 Spotted Sandpipers, 2 Kingfishers, 1 Towhee, 25 Cedar Waxwings; 9/21, 1 Green Heron, 4 Solitary Sandpipers, 1 Night-hawk, 20 Cedar Waxwings, no immature ones noted, 8 Yellow Warblers. 10/3, 1 Sparrow Hawk; 10/5, 1 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1 Chimney Swift, the last seen, 50 White-throated Sparrows, 5 Song Sparrows, 1 Lincoln Sparrow, 2 Hermit (?) Thrushes; 10/12, 4 Towhees; 10/20, 1 Coot, 1 Red-bellied Woodpecker, 2 Juncos, 1 Red-breasted Nuthatch; 10/26, flock of 10-15 Meadowlarks; have seen more Meadowlarks since this date than previous to it; 10/30, 1 Chipping Sparrow, 1 White-crowned Sparrow, 15-20 Myrtle Warblers. -----Florence Hague.

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Lynchburg. Last dates: Maryland Yellowthroat, 10/4; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 10/5; Crested Flycatcher, Wood Thrush and Summer Tanager, 10/9; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 10/10; Pine Warbler and Chipping Sparrow, 10/11; Myrtle Warbler, 10/29. First dates for new fall arrivals: 10/10, Hermit Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Horned Lark, Purple Finch, Winter Wren, Yellow-billed Sapsucker; 10/20, 13 Lesser Scaup Ducks and 7 Mallards; 10/22, 2 Ring-necked Ducks, 2 Ruddy Ducks; 10/24, 1 Black Duck; 10/25, 14 Green-winged Teal; 10/29, 1 Greater Yellow-legs, 1 immature Cormorant, 20 Cedar Waxwings. The following dates are for species which migrate partially and sometimes entirely: Phoebe, 10/31; Killdeer, 10/10; 7 Meadowlarks, 10/31; also, 1 Pileated Woodpecker, 10/31. Ducks seem to be more plentiful at Timberlake this fall than in the past three years. -----Ruskin S. Freer.

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Blacksburg. Some last dates: Oct. 5th, Wood Thrush, Catbird; 6th, Ovenbird; 7th, Chipping Sparrow; 12th, Blue Jay, Towhee (10); 25th, Robin. Arrivals: 4th, Brown Creeper; 5th, White-throated Sparrow; 6th, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker; 12th, Junco; 20th, Golden-crowned Kinglet; 26th, Savannah Sparrow, Winter Wren. A Pileated Woodpecker on the 5th; flock of Cedar Waxwings, 12th; Mockingbird singing 12th; Bewick's Wren (2), 19th. Migrants: Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1st - 20th; Fox Sparrow, 5th; Olive-backed Thrust, 2 - 15; Blue-headed Vireo, 5 - 20; Hermit Thrush, 16th; Acadian (?) Flycatcher, 19th. Migrating warblers: Magnolia, Oct. 1 - 14; Black-throated blue, Oct. 1 - 21; Black-throated green, Oct. 1 - 25; Blackburnian, Oct. 1 - 9; Black and white, Oct. 2 - 3; Tennessee, Oct. 2 - 16; Parula, Oct. 2 - 14; Bay-breasted, Oct. 2 - 6; Myrtle, Oct. 2 - 29; Cape May, Oct. 3 - 27; Chestnut-sided, Oct. 3 - ; Hooded, Oct. 8 - ; Black-poll, Oct. 9 - 20;

Yellow-throated, October 11 - 13; Yellow-palm, Oct. 16 - 21. I have noticed that the warblers prefer silver maples and black willows to other trees on the campus. I asked our professor of entomology about this preference and he told me that aphids were more numerous on those varieties of trees than others. ----- Ralph M. Brown.

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Amelia. A few last dates are as follows: Nighthawk, Sept. 17; Maryland Yellow-throat, Oct. 8; Catbird, Oct. 11. No solitary sand-pipers have been seen at the old ice pond or elsewhere since Oct. 17. Firsts recorded since reporting for the October number are: White-throated Sparrow, Oct. 5; Swamp Sparrow, Oct. 5; Pipit, a large flock, Oct. 6; Migratory Cowbirds, a large flock of both sexes, Oct. 16; Winter Wren, Oct. 21; Junco and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Oct. 25. A flock of 12 Black Vultures were seen Oct. 10. At present, Nov. 5; White-throats, Juncos and Golden-crowned Kinglets are very abundant, while Song Sparrows are little in evidence. Only a few migratory hawks have been seen. These were Coopers and what I took to be Sharp-shinned. From my observations while botanizing during the summer and fall I believe that many species of herbaceous plants produced very little seed on account of the drought, and I know that many berry bearing shrubs have dropped their fruit prematurely from the same cause. This would seem to indicate a lack of bird food for the winter. ----- John B. Lewis.

(Editor's Note: Mr. Lewis describes, in a letter to his son, M. G. Lewis, an interesting incident that took place near Amelia. He says: "I was out with my landscape artist friend, Mr. Duncan. We were going through a tract of open, partly cut woods that he uses for a pasture. We were approaching a flock of Rusty Blackbirds that were feeding on the ground farther up the hill. Suddenly there was a great commotion among them and two birds darted straight toward us, one of them screaming at the top of his voice. Before we had time to think, a blackbird darted between us, and a Sharp-shinned Hawk that was within a foot of the blackbird, with both feet outstretched and ready to grasp it, caught himself up almost in our faces, swerved to one side and hurried away into the woods. The hawk in his frantic effort to check himself came within two feet of us, fanning us with his wings before he made his swerve to get away. If we had not been so startled, either of us could have caught him in our hands.")

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Naruna. Oct. 4th, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Song Sparrow, and Ruby-crowned Kinglet; 5th, White-throated Sparrow, Junco, and Winter Wren; 8th, 6 Horned Larks, and many warblers, Pine, Myrtle, Magnolia, Canada, and Yellow Palm being most numerous; 13th, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Brown Creeper, and Red-breasted Nuthatch; 28th, 10 Black Vultures; 30th; large flocks of Bluebirds, Robins, and Purple Finches going south. ----- Bertha Daniel.



THE RAVEN

BULLETIN OF THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY
PUBLISHED AT LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA
DR. J. J. MURRAY, EDITOR

VOL. I

DECEMBER 1930

NO. 12

EDITORIAL NOTES

With this number THE RAVEN completes its first year. We hope that it has done something to arouse interest in the study of the birds of Virginia, and we feel sure that it has helped to bring together the people of the State who are already interested in bird study. It has been a very modest effort during this first year. The primary aim during so far has been to begin the accumulation of data on the distribution of Virginia birds which may later make possible the publication of an accurate catalogue of the birds of Virginia or even, it may be, a thorough and comprehensive State book on birds. We hope that during the coming year the way may open for enlarging the bulletin and giving space both for scientific and popular articles on ornithology. At least, the Editor hopes that the way may be found to secure reports from a more varied territory.

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It is not possible at this time to announce the date of the Annual Meeting which is to be held in Richmond early in 1931. Either special announcements will be sent out or the January issue of THE RAVEN will be mailed out early with the notice. To speed up the January number, all observers are asked to send in their next reports as early as possible after December 31st.

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In the Valley the drought has caused a definite scarcity of birds during the fall months. Few berries and small fruits have matured, the crop of weed seeds seems to be very short, and there is less cover than usual. The effect on game birds has been so decided that the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries has cut the hunting season short, closing it in a great many Valley counties on December 8th. The effect on the sparrows and smaller seed-eating birds seems much more evident even than on game birds. The migrating sparrows stopped in smaller numbers and for shorter periods. Tree sparrows and Juncos, usually very abundant, are almost to be rated as scarce. It is possible about Lexington to take a considerable walk through the fields without seeing a Junco. This means that in the sections of the State affected by the drought it is even more important than usual for bird lovers to maintain winter feeding stations. Feeding trays, set on poles out of the reach of cats and kept supplied with

rain cracked small, will keep alive many of the smaller birds during the severe periods of the winter and will attract to our yards a goodly share of the depleted flocks.

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Mr. Ralph E. Brown's report of a Virginia Rail on November 16th at Blacksburg is of special interest as it is the first time that bird has been reported since THE RAVEN began. The Virginia Rail should not be so scarce in western Virginia, but we have looked for it as Lexington without success. Miss Cooke reports that about Washington it is "fairly common in migration and breeds locally in small numbers." Rives counted it a "not uncommon migrant in eastern Virginia" and reported it from West Virginia, but gave no western Virginia records. In Dr. Smythe's first article in THE AUK of October 1912, he gave only two records for Montgomery County, one in May and one in October, but in his Addenda in THE AUK of January 1927, he listed it as occurring regularly then, especially in fall. In Lexington the Carolina Rail, or Sora, is common during migrations, but there do not seem to be any Virginia Rails with them. Prof. Freer has not found it at Lynchburg, nor Mr. Barger at Charlottesville, nor Mr. J. B. Lewis in Brunswick County. It is to be hoped that all observers will watch for it more closely in suitable marshy places during October - November and April - May.

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Some time ago Mrs. Mary D. Dise sent to the Editor a warbler's wing which she picked up out of a pile of feathers at Craig Healing Springs on her visit there on October 6th. It was sent to Dr. H. C. Oberholser for identification and turned out to be the wing of a Wilson Warbler (*Wilsonia p. pusilla*). This is another interesting report, as records of this warbler in western Virginia are rare. Dr. Smythe had two spring and three fall records in some twenty years at Blacksburg. Rives gave it as "rare in the migrations", noting it from Washington and from West Virginia. Its present status in the Washington region is "uncommon in migration".

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Mrs. C. W. Harris, who lives eight miles down the James River below Lynchburg, writes that on Nov. 23 she saw a Snow Goose on the river near her home. She observed the bird from a distance of seventy-five to a hundred feet, and states that its pure white plumage, except for black primaries, pinkish bill, dark eyes, comparatively long neck, short tail feathers and size indicate that it must be one of the Snow Geese. On hearing from her I immediately wrote to Dr. H. C. Oberholser of the Biological Survey, and to Dr. Murray. Dr. Oberholser writes: "The appearance of the Snow Goose in any interior locality on the Atlantic seaboard is of interest, since the bird is almost entirely coastal in this region. Apparently, Mrs. Harris has had the good fortune to see a Snow Goose, but it would be impossible to determine from sight observation whether the

species was the greater or lesser form, since both occur in this general region." Mrs. Harris also reports the finding of a Swan of undetermined species near the same place, and the observing of what appears to be an albino Marsh Hawk. ----- R. S. F.

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We hope that many Virginia readers of BIRD-LORE will take a Christmas census this year and report it to that magazine. Last year there were only three of these reports from Virginia. Before taking the census, study carefully the directions published in the November - December copy of BIRD-LORE. If those directions are not followed your report will not be published.

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We should like to publish as many Christmas census reports as possible in the January issue of THE RAVEN. All our regular reporters are asked to send in a census in addition to the usual monthly summary. And members who have not been sending reports are asked to begin with a Christmas census. Our rules will be very simple. The census may be taken on any day between December 15 and 31, but only one day's records are to be included. The time spent in the field must be not less than two hours, and more is preferable. State the date, the time of day, the length of the trip, the character of country covered, the condition of the weather, and the temperature. List the birds according to the A. O. U. check list order (the order followed in most bird guides). Give the number of birds of each species seen.

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FIELD NOTES

Naruna. Last dates: Sept. 8, Blue Grosbeak; Oct. 6, Chimney Swift; 8, Indigo Bunting, Brown Thrasher, Catbird; 9, Maryland Yellow-throat, Grasshopper Sparrow; 18, Pine Warbler; 30, Chipping Sparrow; Nov. 1, Ruby-crowned Kinglet; 3, Vesper Sparrow; 21, Towhee; 22, Purple Finch. Robins and Field Sparrows still here in small numbers. Fox Sparrows seen, Nov. 14, 15, 16, 27. ----- Bertha Daniel.

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Amelia. Press of work has given me very little time a-field in the past months, and I have few incidents of interest to report. The first Ruby-crowned Kinglet was seen Nov. 5, after I had mailed my report of that date. First Rusty Blackbirds, a large flock, Nov. 6. First Purple Finch, Nov. 12. Miss Sheppard reports a flock of 19 Canada Geese flying low over her home, four miles east of Amelia, after sunset, Nov. 13. A Purple Grackle was seen Nov. 16, the first since Sept. 24. A Red-tailed Hawk was seen Nov. 30. ----- John B. Lewis.

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Blacksburg. Nov. 2, Hermit Thrush, Winter Wren, Flicker. Nov. 2d and 9th, White-throated and Savannah Sparrow; 5th and 7th, Ruby-crowned Kinglet; 9th, Mockingbird, Rusty Blackbird (20), Fox Sparrow, Cedar Waxwing (10). Nov. 11 to 19, Purple Finch. Nov. 2 to 16, Myrtle Warbler. Dr. Smythe had never observed it later than Oct. 31. Nov. 13, Barn Owl, killed in town. This is my first record. Dr. Smythe only noted it seven times in thirty years. Nov. 16, Virginia Rail, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Mourning Dove, Mockingbird, Red-winged Blackbird (flock of 50). Dr. Smythe had no records of Red-winged Blackbirds between Sept. 1st and February. Nov. 20, Woodcock, killed on New River. Nov. 30, Ruffed Grouse (2). Robins, Blue Jays, Killdeer and Meadowlarks present throughout the month of November.

----- Ralph M. Brown.

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Lexington. The following water birds were noted during November: a female Mallard on 3rd and 5th; a female Baldpate on same dates; Black Ducks on 17th and 27th; an immature Ruddy Duck on 17th, which is the first time recorded for the Lexington region; a Great Blue Heron seen on the 5th and 14th at Big Spring Pond, where one wintered last season; Coot, noted four times, from 3rd to 14th; Pied-billed Grebe, 5th, 6th and 17th. Of the hawks, the Cooper's was noted four times, one specimen being brought to me; Red-tailed five times, a pair being seen on two of these occasions, two specimens being brought to me; Red-shouldered once; and Sparrow Hawk twice. Mr. M. G. Lewis heard three Great Horned Owls hooting near House Mountain on the night of the 8th. Three Wild Turkeys were reported to me on the 17th, and five Ruffed Grouse on the 29th. Phoebe occurred throughout the month. They winter here in small numbers. Blue Jays, which in some winters are absent and which never winter more than sparingly, have been present through November. Red-winged Blackbirds had been absent since Sept. 1st, but two females were seen on the 10th and 29th. The Tree Sparrow was not seen until Nov. 10, an unusually late date for its appearance. There have been very few this fall. Nov. 13th was the last date for the White-throated Sparrow. Like all the sparrows, they have been scarce this fall, the drought having left few weeds to mature. ----- J. J. Murray.

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Lynchburg. The event of principal interest here during the month was a day (11/21) spent in the field with Dr. J. J. Murray. Forty-one species were listed. "Big shots": Phoebe, Robin, Killdeer, Hermit Thrush, 3 Pileated Woodpeckers, (a pair on the College campus), 2 Red-tailed, 1 Red-shouldered and 1 Sharp-shinned Hawks, Red-winged Blackbird, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Fox Sparrow, woodcock.....First dates: Red-breasted Nuthatch, 11/27; Tree Sparrow, 11/21; Brown Creeper, 11/14.....Late dates: Red-headed Woodpecker still here Dec. 13; Phoebe, 11/21; Robin 11/21; Towhee, 11/7; Killdeer, 11/30; Hermit Thrush, 11/21; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 11/11, 15, 28, and 30; Black Vulture, 11/23; Red-winged Blackbird, 11/21; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 11/21; Fox Sparrow, 11/21; Hermit Thrush, 11/21; Woodcock, 11/21..... Ruffed Grouse listed in Blue Ridge on 11/22 and 23. Ducks at Timber-

lake; Mallard and Black Duck at lake all through the month; Ring-necked Duck, 11/4, 29 and 30; Hooded Merganser, 10 on 11/27; Pintail, 11/27 and for two weeks thereafter; Lesser Scaup, 11/4, 29 individuals on 11/7, 3 on 11/27.....Miss Florence Hague sends in the following from SWEET BRIAR: 11/2, Chipping Sparrow (last seen), Grackle, Pileated Woodpecker; 11/9, 4 Golden-crowned Kinglets, first seen; 11/10, 15 Grackles, last seen.....Mrs. C. W. Harris sends in the following from a point on the James River, 8 miles below the city: 50 species listed for the month; Fox Sparrow since 11/2; Swamp Sparrow, 11/11, 12 and 13; Cedar Waxwings, 50 on 11/4; Red-winged Blackbirds, 11/23. ~~xxxx~~ Ruskin S. Freer.