



The Raven

BULLETIN OF THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY
PUBLISHED AT LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA

DR. J. J. MURRAY, EDITOR
LEXINGTON, VA.

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No. 1

THE HISTORY OF A BLUE JAY'S NEST

By J. J. Murray

Several years ago, in 1932, I had an exceptionally good opportunity to study the nesting of a pair of Blue Jays at Lexington, Virginia. The nest was located just outside my study window. By placing a table on the ground below the nest and standing on it I could look directly into the nest without unduly disturbing the birds; and, although it was a busy season when I had not much time to give to observation, I could keep fairly close check on the development of the nest and its contents. Possibly it will be best to give the notes in diary form as I kept them.

March 27, 1932: Saw a pair of Jays gathering nest material but could not locate the nest. April 5: Although the nest was being built just outside my study window, it was only discovered today. It is located about twelve feet high, in a spruce, near the end of a long branch. The nest is almost finished, being made of small sticks, grass, and paper, the latter material not being so commonly used by this species. April 7: So secretive are the Jays that this is the first time that I have seen them go to the nest. Both birds are at work on it, as I saw one bird relieve the other. As the second bird approached the nest it uttered a low note, between a squeak and a whine. The other bird came away silently. The nest is not quite finished.

April 8: A Jay on the nest at 6:00 P.M. in a light rain. April 9: Two eggs at 9:00 A.M., the second evidently laid today. In this case at least the Blue Jay lays its eggs early in the morning. The bird was not on the nest when I examined it, but while I was looking in the nest it lit in a nearby tree, and came to the nest as soon as I had left it. The bird remained on the nest all morning. There was a light drizzle during the morning, and part of the time a pouring rain. So far as I knew the bird did not leave the nest in the morning. In the afternoon it was not on the nest even though the rain continued. One bird came to the nest at 5:30, but soon left. April 10: One bird on the nest all the early part of the morning. The third egg laid today, I did not learn just when. At 9:50 A.M. the second bird of the pair came to the nest and fed the incubating bird. The approaching bird uttered a low 'whinny' note. This feeding was repeated at 10:10. The

incubating bird does not sit quietly on the nest, as most birds do. It turned its head about a great deal. This bird, at least during this stage of incubation, stays much more closely on the nest in the morning than in the afternoon. This was the case on April 9, even though it was raining in the afternoon, and is true today. At 2:15, when the incubating bird was frightened away, it took it only 30 seconds to return. It lit on the rim of the nest, peered carefully into the nest, and settled on the eggs, moving its body from side to side until settled to suit its taste. The Jay seems to turn the eggs with its feet when it comes to the nest. At 6:00 P.M. one of the birds returned to the nest, probably to remain. There is an occupied nest of a pair of Purple Grackles on the other side of the tree, about twenty-five feet away. Neither pair disturbs the other.

April 11: Fourth egg laid. Bird on the nest all morning, and fairly steadily now in the afternoon. The Blue Jay seems to begin incubation with the laying of the first egg. This bird certainly did by the time the second egg was laid. I was away from home all of the day of April 12. April 13: Fifth egg in the nest, probably laid on the previous day. One of the pair bringing food to the other (incubating) bird. Another pair of Grackles have been building in the same tree. The Jays drove them out of the tree today. April 15: One of the Jays incubating steadily. When at one time the nest was left uncovered for a short period and I approached it, both birds appeared and one soon went on the nest. April 27: None of the eggs were hatched at 6:00 P.M. April 28: At 10:00 A.M. two of the eggs were hatched and the shells had been taken away. The bird seems to remove the shells as the eggs are hatched. Another egg has broken all around, and a fourth is pipped but not broken. The bird brooded most of the day. April 29: Bird brooding at 10:00 A.M. April 30: One of the pair (male ?) feeding the brooding (female ?) bird.

I was not able to give the nest much attention during the time the young were small. May 11: Young still in the nest, well feathered, and the brooding bird is covering all five of them, with an occasional small head peeping out from the shelter. The brooding bird is spread out so that it looks like a flat bird skin. Still brooding late in the afternoon. May 12: Brooding in late afternoon. May 13: Brooding at 9:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. May 15: Young still in nest. May 16: Young left nest at 6:00 P.M. The young on the ground screamed loudly when approached, and the old birds were very demonstrative.

---Lexington, Virginia.

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AMERICAN ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK AT BLACKSBURG

By Charles O. Handley, Jr.

While passing through the lower Heth pasture along Strouble's Creek at Blacksburg, Virginia, in the afternoon of January 3, 1938,

a large hawk which later observations proved to be an American Rough-legged Hawk in the dark phase was seen perched in the top of a white-thorn bush. The bird took flight as I approached and sailed off low over the ground in much the manner of the Marsh Hawk. A white patch on the upper part of the tail also reminded me of the Marsh Hawk but the bird differed from the Marsh Hawk in being slightly larger, by having white patches in its wings, by the general whitish appearance of its head and neck and by its habit of alighting in the tops of the thorn bushes and among the lower branches of the larger trees. I followed the hawk about for nearly an hour, and, although it was quite wary, I had some good views of it, using a pair of 7 x 35 Bausch and Lomb binoculars. ---Blacksburg, Virginia.

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WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW IN ROANOKE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

White-crowned sparrows have been very much in evidence in this vicinity this fall. The writer is of the impression that they have been much more common than in previous years. They are reported each fall from various localities, in Roanoke County by members of the Roanoke Bird Club. Each fall and winter they are local in occurrence. A. O. English found them quite common in vacant lots and along Roanoke River in the southwest part of the city last fall and winter. He reports banding twelve birds and banded birds frequently returned to the traps. He reports that they are not so common in the same vicinity this fall.

I have been particularly interested in the regularity and frequency of their singing during the fall months. They were first heard on October 16. Even up to the present date (Dec. 30) they sing regularly each morning and evening in the vicinity of my home near the Baptist Orphanage in Salem. Lately the song is not heard from quite such a large number of birds, nor is the singing period quite so long as was the case earlier in the fall.

The song is one of the most musical of bird songs. It starts with a high-pitched clear whistle resembling the first notes of the White-throated sparrow which is followed by a greater variety of musical notes than the song of the latter. My father, John B. Lewis, remarked that it has a certain resemblance to the song of Bachman's Sparrow.

They were not seen by any of these observers until within the past five or six years, and are undoubtedly becoming more common winter residents in this locality.

Dr. Murray's notes on the Extension of Range of the Black Vulture in the RAVEN, Vol. VIII, page 72, are of interest in this connection. He refers also to extension of the range of a number of other species.

---M. G. Lewis.

THE 1938 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE V. S. O.

At the annual meeting of the V. S. O. in Richmond last April the invitation to hold the 1938 meeting at Lexington was accepted, but the time for the meeting was left to be fixed by the Executive Committee. After some correspondence a date has been selected and the meeting has been set for Friday and Saturday, April 29 and 30. Fuller announcement as to the details of the meeting will be made later. It is not too early now for members to make plans for the presentation of papers. It is hoped that more of our members will take part in the program. Titles may be sent to Dr. J. J. Murray, who will again be chairman of the Program Committee. Mrs. F. W. Shaw, 2417 Rosewood Avenue, Virginia, has kindly agreed to take over the work of the Secretary of the V. S. O. during the absence of Dr. Florence S. Hague.

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BOUNTY BILLS

It seems hardly possible to get by a meeting of the Virginia Assembly without one or more bounty bills. One such bill has already been introduced. It will probably not be difficult to kill this particular bill, since it calls for the payment of bounties by county boards of supervisors out of the dog tax fund, such payments to have priority over payments for damages to sheep and cattle by dogs. The Supervisors of Rockbridge County have already passed a resolution opposing the bill. It will help if V. S. O. members will urge the boards of their counties to pass similar resolutions. But other bills may be introduced requiring the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries to pay the bounty; and such bills may have a better chance of passing because of the feeling on the part of many sportsmen against the Commission. It will help if all V. S. O. members will write their Senators and Delegates opposing all bounty bills. It is well known that such laws will cause great waste of money for the State or counties and will bring reckless destruction of harmless and useful hawks and owls.

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RING-BILLED GULL AT AMELIA

On December 4, 1937, a sportsman friend told me that he had seen a strange white bird lying dead in an old field the day before. I got him to go with me to the place and found what I at once decided was a Ring-billed Gull in immature plumage. I made up the skin. The next day a young man from that section called on me and told me that he had shot the gull a few nights previously while coon hunting, and that it had a band on its leg, which he had removed. I showed him the

skin and told him what it was, explaining to him the importance of the band and telling him that I could learn from it just where and when the bird was banded. He promised to bring the band to me but did not do so. The friend who first told me of the gull informed me that the young man had not returned for fear that he might get into trouble for having killed the gull.

---John B. Lewis,
Amelia, Virginia.

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Lexington Notes

I have an extremely late record for the Magnolia Warbler which should have been published before. On November 10, 1936, a Magnolia Warbler was picked up alive but exhausted in a yard at Lexington, Virginia. The bird died on November 12. This is a very late date for this species in the United States. Mr. Alexander Sprunt, Jr. saw one near Charleston, S. C., on November 12, 1932 (The Auk, Jan., 1933, p. 115). I do not know of any other date anywhere near so late in the United States.

As indicated in the Lexington Christmas census several Red-legged Black Ducks have been identified here this winter. In a mixed flock of ducks that have been present at Big Spring Pond throughout November, December and January there have been eight or ten Black Ducks. They are fairly tame and have allowed close approach. Among them are three individuals that show clearly all the markings of the sub-species known as Anas r. rubripes. One of these ducks has been associating with the domestic ducks for about three years, staying here all through the year and becoming so tame that it feeds with the domestic ducks in the barnyard. There is good reason to think that it has mated with one of the domestic flock at least one summer.

In the same mixed flock of ducks at Big Spring but staying generally to themselves there have been eight or ten Green-winged Teals. There have always been four males. When I first studied them on November 22nd two were bright adult males, while two were dull males, probably young birds, without any sign of the white bar before the wing. There has been evident a very interesting development of plumage in the latter two birds, the adult markings gradually becoming more distinct, until on January 4, 1938, one of them was showing the white bar although it was still not so distinct as on the two bright birds. On the fourth bird the bar did not yet show at that time. At another pond on December 6 I saw three male Green-winged Teals, one bright, the other two without the white bar. No bird at either place showed the white scapular stripe that is distinctive of the European Teal.

Other Notes: Oct. 21, Pectoral Sandpiper (4). Nov. 4, Bittern. Nov. 19, Gadwall. Dec. 7, Ring-billed Gull which had been killed near Timber Ridge, brought to me. Dec. 15, the head of a female or immature Red-breasted Merganser, which had been killed on or about this date, was shown to me.

---J. J. Murray.

In the issue of 'Science' for Friday, November 5, 1937, Dr. I. D. Wilson of V. P. I. has a note relating some of the early work (1913-1917) of Mr. Harold H. Bailey on lead poisoning of waterfowl. This work was done along the Virginia and North Carolina coasts.

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CORRECTIONS OF ERRORS

It has been called to the attention of the Editor that in the article on 'Birds of Chatham, Virginia,' in THE RAVEN for September-October, 1937, the heading of next to the last paragraph on page 62 should read Slate-colored Junco instead of Carolina Junco. Similarly the reference in 'Nesting Notes at Salem, Va.,' on page 68 to a nest of the Rusty Blackbird should be corrected. Red-winged Blackbird is probably what was meant.

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THE 1937 CHRISTMAS CENSUS

Petersburg, Virginia. (Camp Lee State Game Refuge and vicinity, Prince George County). Dec. 21; 8:10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; clear; ground bare; wind east; temp. 34° at start, 38° at return. Thirteen miles on foot; 3 miles by automobile. Turkey Vulture, 7; Black Vulture, 3; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Bob-white, 38 (3 coveys); Mourning Dove, 17; Flicker, 1; Pileated Woodpecker, 2; Hairy Woodpecker, 5; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Blue Jay, 3; Crow, 22; Chickadee, 78; Brown Creeper, 7; Mockingbird, 5; Hermit Thrush, 4; Bluebird, 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 62; Migrant Shrike, 1; Starling, 234; English Sparrow, 24; Meadowlark, 13; Cardinal, 2; Junco, 117; Tree Sparrow, 3; Field Sparrow, 11; White-crowned Sparrow, 10; White-throated Sparrow, 31; Fox Sparrow, 4. Total, 28 species, about 708 individuals. W. W. Bailey, Assistant Sup't. Game Prop., Com. of Game and Inland Fisheries.

Amelia, Virginia. Dec. 21; 7:30 a.m. to 12:40 p.m. Amelia to and along Nibb's Creek, and return by a different route, along Amelia branch and through "Owl Woods". Clear, no snow, little wind; temp. at start 29°, at return 38°. Becoming cloudy in afternoon and wind rising. By auto to Winterham. Through pastures, meadows and woods, down Bark House Branch. Eight miles by auto, about 7 miles on foot; observer alone. Turkey Vulture, 12; Bob-white, 5; Killdeer, 1; Mourning Dove, 10; Flicker, 4; Pileated Woodpecker, 3; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 6; Blue Jay, 5; Crow, 27; Chickadee, 9; Tufted Titmouse, 11; White-breasted Nuthatch, 5; Carolina Wren, 3; Mockingbird, 2; Robin, 1; Hermit Thrush, 2; Bluebird, 11; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 9; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1; Loggerhead Shrike, 1; Starling, 2; House Sparrow, 28; Meadowlark, 8; Cardinal, 13; Purple Finch, 2; Goldfinch, 3; Junco, 130 (Partly est.); Field Sparrow, 19; White-throated Sparrow, 60; Song Sparrow, 18. Total, 33 species, 415 individuals. As usual, a number of species known to be present were not seen, notably the Black Vulture, Woodcock, Winter Wren, Brown Creeper, Fox Sparrow and Towhee. Myrtle Warblers were present until mid-November but have not been seen since.

---John B. Lewis.

Sweet Briar, Virginia. Dec. 22, 7:30 to 11:30 a.m.; 12:30 to 3:00 p.m.; partly cloudy in the morning, clear in the afternoon; temp. at noon 50°; somewhat windy all day. Sweet Briar College campus - the area surrounding the college buildings and having a radius of about one mile. Turkey Vulture, 8; Black Vulture, 4; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Flicker, 9; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 7; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 2; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 8; Blue Jay, 2; Crow, 41; Carolina Chickadee, 12; Tufted Titmouse, 13; White-breasted Nuthatch, 14; Brown Creeper, 1; Carolina Wren, 1; Mockingbird, 6; Bluebird, 20; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 2; Starling, 18; Myrtle Warbler, 2; Cardinal, 7; Junco, 20; Field Sparrow, 13; Song Sparrow, 5. Total, 25 species, 218 individuals. Martha Clark.

Lynchburg, Virginia. (Timber Lake, Tomahawk Swamp, Edgewood Farm, College Lake.) Dec. 26; 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Partly cloudy; ground bare; west wind. light; temp. 33° at start, 55° at noon. Six and one-half miles on foot, 30 by car. Observers together 10:30 to 2:00, RSF alone rest of time. Turkey Vulture, 13; Black Vulture, 14; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Quail, 1; Mourning Dove, 19; Kingfisher, 1; Flicker, 4; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 3; Prairie Horned Lark, 12; Blue Jay, 6; Crow, 336 (one flock 300 est.); Chickadee, 11; Tufted Titmouse, 4; White-breasted Nuthatch, 7; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 9; Brown Creeper, 4; Winter Wren, 4; Carolina Wren, 9; Mockingbird, 5; Robin 12; Hermit Thrush, 2; Bluebird, 11; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 7; Starling, 135; English Sparrow, 14; Meadowlark, 31; Cardinal, 5; Purple Finch, 12; Goldfinch, 13; Junco, 111; Tree Sparrow, 6; Field Sparrow, 10; White-throated Sparrow, 8; Song Sparrow, 12. Total, 37 Species, 856 individuals. Brown Thrasher seen Dec. 10. -- Dorothy L. and Ruskin S. Freer.

Naruna, Virginia. Dec. 20. Turkey Vulture, 13; Black Vulture, 2; Marsh (?) Hawk, 1; Mourning Dove, 24; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Prairie Horned Lark, 30; Crow, 12; Chickadee, 2; Titmouse, 2; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Carolina Wren, 5; Mockingbird, 3; Hermit Thrush, 1; Bluebird, 17; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 6; Cedar Waxwing, 10; Starling, 12; English Sparrow, 2; Meadowlark, 12; Cardinal, 7; Goldfinch, 11; Towhee, 1; Junco, 200; Field Sparrow, 50; White-throated Sparrow, 2; Song Sparrow, 6. Total, 26 species, 436 individuals.

Dec. 5, Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Dec. 25 and 28, Pine Warbler; Dec. 27, Flicker, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren; Jan. 1, Pine Siskin, first record for winter; Jan. 2, five Blue Jays; Jan. 1, Junco, Field Sparrow, Carolina Wren, Bluebird Titmouse and Chickadee singing.

---Bertha Daniel

Dexington, Virginia. (Circle of 8 miles diameter; territory usually covered; Big Spring and other ponds, open fields, oak woods and cedar thickets). Dec. 20; 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Clear in morning, dark and cloudy in afternoon; ground bare, frozen at start; light east wind. Temp. 24° to 42°. 25 miles by auto, 8 on foot. Observers together, third present only in morning, fourth only in afternoon. Mallard, 1; Red-legged Black Duck, 1; Common Black Duck, 8; Baldpate, 1; Green-winged Teal, 8; Scaup, 1; Hooded Merganser, 1; Turkey Vulture, 51; Red-tailed Hawk, 3; Sparrow Hawk, 2; Killdeer, 2; Mourning Dove, 3; Screech Owl, 1 (heard before dawn); Flicker, 1; Pileated Woodpecker, 3; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 14; Horned Lark, 2 (flying over); Blue Jay, 5; Crow, 71; Carolina Chickadee, 29; Tufted Titmouse, 18; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Brown Creeper, 3; Winter Wren, 1; Carolina Wren, 17; Mockingbird, 5; Hermit Thrush, 1; Bluebird, 16; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 17; Starling, 163; Myrtle Warbler, 2; English Sparrow, 205; Cardinal, 36; Goldfinch, 32; Junco, 237; Tree Sparrow, 45; Field Sparrow, 5; White-throated Sparrow, 23; Song Sparrow, 14. Total, 40 species; 1051 individuals. Red-legged Black Duck studied at close range in good light with 8x glasses. Points noted were distinctively yellow bill, bright red legs, light area at end of folded wings. These marks have been repeatedly checked on three birds out of a small flock present at Big Spring for several weeks. Only one of these could be closely observed on the census day. J. J. Murray, Southgate Hoyt, Carlisle Fix, James Murray, Jr.

Roanoke, Virginia. (including vicinities of Hollins, Bennet Springs, and West of Salem). Dec. 26; 8 A.M. to 4 P.M.; fair, ground bare; no wind; temp. 38° to start, 42° at return. Observers separate. Turkey Vulture, 12; Black Vulture, 10; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Marsh Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 2; Ruffed Grouse, 1; Bob-White, 21 (2 coveys); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 5; Blue Jay, 5; Northern Raven, 2; Crow, 26; Chickadee, 11; Tufted Titmouse, 10; White-breasted Nuthatch, 5; Brown Creeper, 2; Winter Wren, 2; Carolina Wren, 3; Mockingbird, 3; Hermit Thrush, 3; Bluebird, 4; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 13; Migrant Shrike, 2; Starling, 110; Myrtle Warbler, 1; English Sparrow, 50; Cardinal, 8; Goldfinch, 5; Junco, 80; (both Slate-colored and Carolina); Field Sparrow, 6; Total, 34 species, 417 individuals. 12 Tree Sparrows and 20 Horned Larks seen in same locality December 25. -- T. L. Engleby, A. O. English, and M. G. Lewis.

Blacksburg, Virginia (down both sides Strouble's Creek about five miles). Dec. 20; 6:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; 1:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.; clear forenoon, increasing cloudiness afternoon (poor visibility and slight flurries sleet after 4 p.m.); ground bare, wind none forenoon to wind west, strong, afternoon; temp. 25° at start, 40° at return. Twenty-

one miles on foot; thirty miles by automobile. Observers together about half time. Great Blue Heron, 1; Black Duck, 2; Gadwall, 1; Baldpate, 1; Pintail, 7; Lesser Scaup, 4; Turkey Vulture, 32; Black Vulture, 4; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1 (adult); Marsh Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 4; Ruffed Grouse, 1; Bob-white, 21 (2 coveys), another covey heard whistling from roost at daybreak; Wilson's Snipe, 5; Mourning Dove, 26; Screech Owl, 1 (heard before day); Great Horned Owl, 2 (heard before day); Barred Owl, 1; Belted Kingfisher, 2; Flicker, 6; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 2; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 16 (12 groups); Prairie-horned Lark, 64; Blue Jay, 30; Crow, 800; Fish Crow, 1; Chickadee, 14 (7 groups); Tufted Titmouse, 24 (10 groups); White-breasted Nuthatch, 19 (13 groups); Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Brown Creeper, 3; Mockingbird, 9; Hermit Thrush, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 10; Migrant Shrike, 1; Starling, 2500; English Sparrow, 46; Meadowlark, 48; Cardinal, 20 (11 groups); Purple Finch, 3; Goldfinch, 35; Junco, 184 (11 groups); Tree Sparrow, 172 (7 groups); Field Sparrow, 6; White-crowned Sparrow, 8; Song Sparrow, 25. Total, 50 species, about 4171 individuals. C. F. DeLaBarre, C. F. Phelps, L. S. Givens, C. O. Handley, Sr. and C. O. Handley, Jr.

Other recent observations on birds of the Blacksburg region are as follows: December 23 and 30: Red-winged Blackbird, 1 (female); December 23: Marsh Hawk, 2 seen at same time; December 27: Killdeer, 1; January 2: Bufflehead Duck, 1; January 3: Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Bluebird, 14; and American Rough-legged Hawk, 1 in black phase. --C. O. Handley, Jr. Jan. 4 (lower Heth pasture along Stroubles Creek), Winter Wren, 1. -- L. S. Givens and C. O. Handley.



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Nos. 2 & 3

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE V. S. O.

In a short time the Annual Meeting and field trip of the Virginia Society of Ornithology will take place in the fine old town of Lexington. Our Editor and the other members in Lexington are doing all that can be done to make the meeting a success, by arranging for a good program and preparing to entertain the visiting members with true Lexington hospitality. Our knowledge of Dr. Murray and his assistants sets our minds at rest as to that part of the meeting, but the final outcome is in the hands of the membership outside of Lexington. If they attend and come prepared to take part in the program success is assured.

A majority of our members, like the writer, are in the amateur class as bird students, but probably every one has, during the year, made some observation that would be of interest and value to all who attend the meeting. We need both scientific papers by highly trained ornithologists and papers or short talks on the observations of the amateur.

We hope that each member of the V.S.O. will plan to be in Lexington April 29 and 30, and will bring with him one or more non-members who are interested in birds and who should be members. Come prepared to tell the others of your most interesting observations, and by all means stay for the field trip on April 30. It is always a most enjoyable event, both scientifically and socially.

John B. Lewis,
President, V.S.O.

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ARDEN

by Ruskin S. Freer

"And this our life, exempt from public haunt,
Finds tongues in trees, books in the running brooks,
Sermons in stones, and good in everything."

--Act II, Scene I, "As You Like It".

The most delightful summer of my younger days was spent in build-

ing a cabin in the woods, in a beautiful little glen in central-western Ohio. It was crudely built, and a sudden turn of events prevented using it more than two or three times, but I have never counted my time and financial outlay as lost. In spite of disuse and final decay through the years, that cabin has subjective reality. For me it was another "Walden" or "Slabsides". The memory of many perfect summer days spent in its construction, of the constant presence of birds all around, and of the sharply whistled remonstrance of the woodchuck a few feet up the hill, on whose domain I was trespassing, and above all, the realization of an ideal of long standing, entirely outweigh the fact that I was not able to make use of the cabin. On a brief visit in later years I found that the woodchuck had taken possession of the cabin by burrowing under its wall. I called it "Arden" after the forest which became the home of the banished duke in "As You Like It".

Last November our new home at Timber Lake, near Lynchburg, was completed, and we moved into a new mode of life. Rather naturally we selected the name Arden for it. Through the winter we have been experiencing the adjustments of people who, city born and bred, are becoming acclimated to a new environment. Of course it is hardly entirely new. One who has spent thirty years at bird study cannot be wholly unfamiliar with the country. Yet maintaining a household several miles out in the country is a truly novel experience, for those whose home has always been but a block or two from stores and transportation facilities.

Members of the Virginia Society of Ornithology who took the field trip to Timber Lake at the time of the annual meeting in 1936 will recall something of the environs of the Lake. Our home is in a dense thicket of oak, pine, dogwood and tulip trees, mostly small. The Lake lies only a hundred feet away. A few yards to the north and east are pastures and fields. Also nearby at the head of one arm of the Lake is a swampy place where red maple, alder, winterberry and skunk cabbage are at home. Directly across the Lake from us there is a grove of fine tulip trees and beyond this an extensive oak-hickory woods. Thickets, fields, marsh, big woods and the Lake--each including its own peculiar birds.

We have not yet begun compiling a list of our birds here, but from the first have eagerly noted the bird neighbors which are the peculiar compensations of this new life. Every few days we hear the loud "wick-wick-wick-wick" of the Pileated Woodpecker in the big woods across the Lake. His call is similar to that of the Flicker, but louder, heavier and more deliberately phrased. From the same direction also frequently comes the shrill cry of a Red-shouldered Hawk. Both of these birds have been here for years. The grove of tulip trees is a favorite feeding place for roving Purple Finches. They were abundant in the fall, but scarce in January. Now (late February) they are becoming abundant again and are in full song. And what a chorus they can provide when a flock of twenty or thirty all sing at once, as they often do.

Over in the skunk cabbage marsh the Rusty Blackbirds love to linger,

resting and feeding on their northward trip. We found three there on February 19. On any day now the Redwings will be back, and the males will be calling out their "oke-er-leee-er" from the tops of the red maples, and we will realize another important mile-post in the season's advance has been passed. We have been especially anticipating their return.

Up and down the Lake all through the winter the noisy Kingfisher has plied his trade. There are those who would trade the city's accessibility to the movie theaters for the privilege of frequently seeing this dashing feathered fisherman go rattling by. There are also those who would trade a place at the luncheon table of the city's most tycoonish civic club for a sandwich and a chance to get out and watch the strong, wild wing-sweep of a Kingfisher as he goes charging down the Lake. What powerful inner feelings are developed through long years of sympathetic contact with Nature!

The proximity of the Lake is of course the natural habitat of the Cardinal and Carolina Wren, which have been singing every month through the winter. A Winter Wren was a regular resident around a few piles of brush just across the Lake through January, but I have not seen him lately.

In the fields and pastures to one side and back of the house, Killdeer were abundant through the autumn and up to the first snow. They were few in numbers until the first of February, but since then we often hear them, and on moonlight nights they are very active. In the thickets all about us Hermit Thrushes were plentiful up to January. During the latter month there were almost none, but now they are back, and a few days ago I heard one singing a low subdued song. I have never heard the wonderful evening hymn of their northern nesting grounds here in Virginia, and only rarely hear this low song. It is not comparable exactly to the so-called "whisper songs" of several other species.

In a thicket beside the house Fox Sparrows stopped during the fall migration. The usual troupes of winter birds go gaily swarming through the pines on all sides--Kinglets, Titmice, Chickadees, Nuthatches, both Red- and White-breasted, Brown Creepers and Downy Woodpeckers. Big flocks of Juncos have feasted all winter on the front lawn, where grass was sown in the fall.

Our prize bird guest, however, has been a Screech Owl. Through the winter he roosted rather regularly in a pine tree on our lot. The trip to see whether he returned to our pine tree came to be a part of the morning routine. He probably spent half his days on our premises. One morning as I left for the College I looked up as usual to see if he had returned to our tree for his day's slumber, and found him. That night when I returned home Mrs. Freer had a big story for me. Soon after I left in the morning the owl had for some reason descended our chimney and entered the living room through the fireplace, where there

was no fire that day. He had spent the day perching on curtain rods or the piano, and took his leave through a door left open for that purpose, just as I was driving up at dusk. He had peered in alarm out of his great, wide-open eyes every time anyone had passed through the room. Since this incident occurred he has not returned to his pine tree.

Bluebirds have been very abundant here all through the winter, but particularly earlier when there was still an abundance of dogwood berries. On one morning a dozen of them were perched about the yard, feeding on the berries. Mourning doves too have been abundant, roosting in pines nearby. A few days ago much rarer visitors, a small flock of Pine Siskins, stopped for a few minutes in a tulip tree.

The Lake was entirely frozen over twice this winter. Ten years or more ago, before ducks became scarce, Mallards or Black Ducks frequently spent the winter here, but I have not seen any ducks through the winter since then. We do have a tame domestic duck, called Donald, belonging to summer residents at the Lake, who has spent the winter. Almost every morning he comes to be fed, and about the middle of February a male Ring-necked Duck followed him but at a safe distance. On Valentine's Day, the Ring-neck brought two females with him. Since then another male Ring-neck, a female Hooded Merganser and a female Golden-eye have been on the Lake.

Living right out among the birds has revealed two facts, it appears to me. First, there is much more bird song right through the winter than I had realized, particularly by Carolina Wrens, Titmice and Chickadees. In the second place there has been a marked diminution in numbers of the winter residents since Christmas, more than I had noticed on the comparatively casual trips into the country before moving into it. Hermit Thrushes, Purple Finches, Winter Wrens and Red-breasted Nuthatches particularly, seem to move on farther south during January.

We still have the most of the spring before us, then the summer. Every moment will be full of expectancy. We can hardly wait to see what each new day will bring. It is a life of many and deep satisfactions.

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LARK SPARROW NESTING NEAR HARRISONBURG

On May 17, 1937, Mr. Homer Mumaw and his Science class flushed a bird from her nest in a pasture field near Singer's Glen, about eight miles northwest of Harrisonburg, Virginia. The bird had all the earmarks of a Lark Sparrow, and was finally identified by the group to be one. One egg was removed from the nest, which was built on the ground against and partly upon an exposed rock. Recently the egg was taken

to the National Museum, and the above identification was confirmed. Several years ago one individual was seen in the same region, but this is the first nest of which I have record.

---D. Ralph Hostetter.

(This brief note contains a record of great interest and importance for Virginia ornithology. So far as I know, this is the first definite breeding record of the Lark Sparrow for Virginia. The 1931 A. C. U. 'Check-List' does not even include Virginia in the list of states in which this bird is of casual occurrence, although North Carolina is included. We do, however, have a few records of its occurrence within the State. The 'Check-List' gives as its eastern breeding limit "western Pennsylvania, Maryland, and northwestern West Virginia." The record above thus not only gives a new breeding bird for Virginia but considerably extends the breeding range of the Lark Sparrow.

---J. J. M.)

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DR. JOHN BACHMAN ON ACCURACY IN SCIENTIFIC WORK

One of the most interesting figures in American ornithological history is the Rev. Dr. John Bachman, pastor for nearly sixty years of old St. John's Lutheran Church in Charleston, South Carolina. Best known as the friend and collaborator of Audubon, he was a first rate scientist in his own right. Bachman was of great help to Audubon, welcoming him frequently to the gracious hospitality of his home, supplying him with specimens, furnishing valuable suggestions about his books, finding purchasers for his work, writing the text for the great work on "The Viviparous Quadrupeds of North America," and giving two of his daughters as wives for two of Audubon's sons. The Bachman's Warbler and the Bachman's Sparrow were named for this clergyman-ornithologist.

Not the smallest of the services rendered by Bachman to his friend Audubon was the constant helpful criticism by which Audubon's work was improved and by which he was stirred to greater accuracy in his statements. This quality of accuracy is the first requisite in the work of both of the professional and of the amateur ornithologist. Bachman's letters to Audubon and his sons, as quoted in the life written by his daughter, C. L. Bachman, show his constant zeal for scientific accuracy.

Some quotations from these letters may be of interest to all who are concerned to do their work with thoroughness. In a letter to Audubon, dated December 23, 1831, pages 100, 101 of 'John Bachman,' he writes:

"I read what was said in your favor with regard to the 'Rattlesnake Story,' and thus far, they have not found a wrong twist in your yarn; but be careful in describing the wonders of the South and West."

In a letter to Audubon, January 20, 1833, page 126, he says:

"I should not like you to publish a single error, if you can avoid it, and therefore express my fears that the 'Blue-headed Pigeon,' may not frequent any of the Florida Keys. I have, as yet, found no one who ever saw them there; and, as you did not kill any of the birds, you might possibly have been mistaken - your reputation is worth more than a dozen new species of birds."

Letter to Edward Harris, December 12, 1837, page 158:

"When another edition of the Letter-press is published, I wish that we could persuade Audubon to correct the mistakes that were unavoidable in his previous volumes, and the book will for ages remain a monument to his industry and establish his fame."

Audubon did correct some of these errors, and in the notes gave credit to Bachman for his help in making them.

Letter to Audubon about the book on the quadrupeds, January 13, 1840, page 182:

"Our work must be thorough. I would as soon stick my name to a forged Bank Note as to a mess of Soupmaigre."

Letter to Victor Audubon, who has been urging him to haste, 1844, page 204:

"My credit, as well as your father's, is so deeply concerned, that I will not publish a day before I am ready."

Letter to Audubon, January 1, 1846, page 200:

"For the last four nights, I have been reading your journal.. ...The narratives are particularly spirited, and often instructive, as well as amusing. All that you write on the spot, I can depend on, but I never trust to the memory of others, any more than to my own."

---J. J. Murray.

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JUNIOR AUDUBON CLUBS

Do you know that the National Association of Audubon Societies, 1775 Broadway, New York City, is able, because of its endowment, to supply certain educational materials to teachers and children at approximately half actual cost?

Do you know about the Junior Audubon Clubs? During the school

year 1936-7, 6,201 such Clubs were formed and 170,210 children enrolled as members. Since the inception of this Club plan, over 5,500,000 children have enrolled.

The object of the Audubon Association in stimulating the formation of such Clubs is to further appreciation and protection of birds. The future of American wild life lies in the hands of our children.

Ten or more children may form a Junior Audubon Club, each bringing to the teacher or leader a fee of 10¢. Each child will receive six beautiful bird pictures, with six outline drawings which may be colored; with these, six four-page leaflets written by well-known authorities on bird life. Each Club member also receives an attractive Audubon button, which serves as a badge of membership in the Club; this year's button displays the Yellow-throat.

If twenty-five or more children form a Club, the teacher, leader, or Club itself receives free a year's subscription to Bird-Lore, which is the illustrated magazine of the Audubon Association. This contains much material helpful to the teacher and interesting to both child and teacher.

Forming a Junior Audubon Club is a splendid way to vitalize natural science work, as well as awaken in the boys and girls appreciation of the beauty and economic value of our native birds.

On February 1, 1938, there were only 13 Junior Audubon Clubs in Virginia, with 313 members. Only .046 % of the children from six to seventeen years of age in the State were enrolled. There are only eight states, six of them in the South, with a poorer record. One southern state, Florida, has 39 clubs, with 1137 members, including .326% of the children of that state. Kentucky has twice as many children in clubs as Virginia has; Tennessee has the same percentage as Virginia; and Alabama and Maryland have somewhat better enrollments. Here is probably our greatest and easiest opportunity to advance interest in birds in our State. If each V. S. O. member would undertake the formation of one new Junior Audubon Club in Virginia this year we could increase the enrollment to five times its present total.

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THE BALDPATE AT AMELIA, VIRGINIA

On March 17th, following twenty-four hours of rain and fog, I went to Rowlett's Pond to look for ducks. A pair of Wood Ducks in the sluggish creek above the pond gave me a fine chance to watch them at about 40 yards, before they rose with shrill squeals. They are doubtless nesting or preparing to nest.

Four Black Ducks were flushed from the upper end of the pond. Most interesting of all was a flock of about twenty Baldpates, Mareca americana. They rose from the water while bushes screened them from view, but flew over me and circled to about twice treetop height. I expected them to leave, but they continued to circle over the pond. I concealed myself in the bushes and in about 10 minutes they settled on the water about 100 yards from me. At once the front and top of the heads of about one third of their number were seen to be pure white, giving them a bald-headed appearance. Seen on the water their sides were ruddy brown and the rear end black. At that distance, with 6 X glasses, the other members of the flock, except two or three greater scaups, were ruddy brown with gray heads. In flight the white patches on the front edge of the wings were clearly seen.

Almost as soon as the flock settled on the water I could see that some of them sensed my presence. Soon they took wing, circling above and near the pond for about 15 minutes before again settling at the most distant point. They seemed loath to leave the pond. They are new to my Amelia list.

---John B. Lewis.

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NOTES FROM NARUNA

Jan. 23, three handsome Red-tailed Hawks were seen here. Jan. 11, one Marsh Hawk. Feb. 8, a Bewick's Wren was singing in Naruna. Feb. 10, a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, with a flock of Golden-crowned Kinglets and other winter birds. Jan. 23, one Myrtle Warbler; by Feb. 4 they were common everywhere. Feb. 3, Pine Warblers were becoming common and singing. Feb. 14, Rusty Blackbird in tree in yard. Feb. 9, Towhees becoming common and singing on the 17th.

---Bertha Daniel.

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MOUNTAIN LAKE WINTER NOTES

The following birds were observed during my short stay at the Biological Station between Dec. 30, 1937, and Jan. 4, 1938. This is not a one-day list, as a Christmas census, but the record for the five days. The species are arranged in the order of their abundance. Carolina Junco, Eastern Goldfinch, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Robin, Carolina Chickadee, Downy Woodpecker, White-throated Sparrow, Blue Jay, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Crow, Pileated Woodpecker, Ruffed Grouse, Northern Raven. The Red-breasted Nuthatches and Ruffed Grouse were seen along the roadside to White Pine Lodge. At no time during my stay there was the temperature below 15°F. There was no snow on the ground, but a thin coat of ice covered the upper fourth of the lake.

---D. Ralph Hostetter.

Lynchburg, Va. Living right at Timber Lake has resulted in a larger number of "earliest dates" than usual: Canvasback, 3/4; Black Duck, 2/3; Pied-billed Grebe, 3/5; Hooded Merganser, 2/21; Blue-winged Teal, 3/18; Great Blue Heron, 3/17; Wood Duck, 3/6; Spotted Sandpiper, 4/3; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 3/27.

I have seen the Wood Duck, a male, also on Mar. 18, 24, 25 and 26.

---Ruskin S. Freer.

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VIRGINIA NOTES IN RECENT LITERATURE

'The Auk' for January, 1938, page 125, contains a note on "The Yellow Rail at Lexington, Virginia." Two Virginia records are given, one of a bird killed by an automobile near Harrisonburg, about October 15, 1936; and the other of a bird captured alive by a farmer near Lexington, September 29, 1937. This bird was brought to the writer for identification, and released the next day. The man who caught it saw several others at the same time.

The January-February issue of 'Bird-Lore' published five Christmas censuses from Virginia. Three of these - Blacksburg, Lexington and Lynchburg - were also published in the January issue of THE RAVEN. The others were from Washington, D. C. (in part in Virginia territory), by George A. Petrides, R. S. Bray, and Irving Fox, with 39 species and 304 individuals; and from Washington's Birthplace, Virginia, by Charles P. Preston, with 60 species and 2839 individuals.

---J. J. M.



The Raven

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SOME OBSERVATIONS OF SUMMER AND FALL BIRDS OF CHESTERFIELD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

By W. R. DeGarmo*

This study was made between June 3 and September 14, 1937, except for a brief visit on November 5, 1937. The area under observation was the Swift Creek Recreational Demonstration Area, a 7534 acre State Park in Chesterfield County, Virginia, under the supervision of the National Park Service.

Of the three streams draining the Area, two were important in this study: Swift Creek, and its tributary, Third Branch. The former divides two widely varying types of territory. The rather level section north of Swift Creek is largely filled with second-growth bushes and thickets, interspersed with occasional small tracts of loblolly pine, - typical of frequently burned cut-over woodland. The territory along the south side of the Creek is thickly wooded, most of the forest being 20 to 30 year growth, often solid stands of loblolly pine. The woodland on top of the hill south of the creek is bordered by abandoned farm land, mostly open and semi-open fields, many of which are rapidly filling with trees. Subsequent to the establishment of the Area a few years ago most of the farm houses have been removed.

Among the projects developed by the National Park Service was the impounding of the previously mentioned streams to form two artificial lakes. At the beginning of the study the smaller 30-acre lake on Third Branch was only a year old. The other, a long narrow lake of 159 acres was not yet flooded. Flooding this area began on July 15, and water began to flow over the dam six days later.

*This study was made while the author was employed as a Student Wildlife Technician of the National Park Service.

In studying the birds of the Area emphasis was placed on those using the lakes and on obtaining a list of the species occurring in and near the Park. When possible, nesting records for the various species were obtained, but once a species was found breeding, no intensive search was made for additional nests. The list as presented is, of course, incomplete as far as the birds found in the spring and fall are concerned, but may be of interest in that it covers the summer residents of the Area.

1. Pied-billed Grebe, Podilymbus p. podiceps. Found only as a migrant. On Third Branch Lake: A pair on Aug. 2; 3 on Aug. 5; and a group of 11 or 12 on Nov. 5.
2. Great Blue Heron, Ardea h. herodias. At no time was more than one seen on the small lake. Recorded on my first visit on June 4. Found rather regularly thereafter. More common on Swift Creek Lake. One flew against the windshield of the truck on the night of July 30, but escaped injury.
3. American Egret, Casmerodius albus egretta. Found first as post-season wanderer on June 29, when 11 were seen on Third Branch Lake. On July 3, a fine flock of 21. Most of the flock moved to the larger lake when the area was flooded.
4. Little Blue Heron, Florida c. caerulea. An adult was found along Swift Creek on June 21; first immatures on June 28, when four were seen. Until July 21 most of those found were on Third Branch Lake. There they increased in number until there were approximately seventy-five. At one time there were three adults and two in blue and white plumage. The abundance of frogs furnished ideal feeding grounds.
5. Eastern Green Heron, Butorides v. virescens. Common throughout summer; at first on Third Branch Lake, later on Swift Creek Lake. A young bird just out of nearby nest, June 4.
6. Night Heron, (probably Nycticorax). The only night herons seen were immature birds. The species was not determined. First seen July 3; found several times thereafter. Though flushed from the grass a few times, the bird was never observed when feeding.
7. American Bittern, Botaurus lentiginosus. What was thought to be a bird of this species was first seen on June 4, but no definite record until July 22 when one was found on Third Branch Lake. Seen only a few times.
8. Blue-winged Teal, Querquedula discors. Found only as a migrant, first on Aug. 24. Uncommon.
9. Wood Duck, Aix sponsa. Three pairs apparently nested near Third Branch Lake. On June 13, 2 families of young of 6 each -- one of them of downy young, the other almost able to fly. The third brood a family of 5 young about 3 weeks old on Aug. 11, a rather late

date. Wood ducks increased in numbers on Swift Creek Lake after July 21. Three flocks totalling 40 birds were flushed from a small spot near the center of the lake on Aug. 5.

10. Ring-necked Duck, Nyroca collaris. Eight were found when Third Branch Lake was visited on Nov. 5.
11. Turkey Vulture, Cathartes aura septentrionalis. Common, but no nesting record was obtained.
12. Black Vulture, Coragyps a. atratus. Uncommon. Seen only a few times, first on June 9, when one flew over the Swift Creek Lake basin.
13. Sharp-shinned Hawk, Accipiter v. velox. More common than Cooper's Hawk. Seen rather commonly in woods. No nesting data.
14. Cooper's Hawk, Accipiter cooperi. Rather uncommon until latter part of Aug. when more common, indicating appearance of migrants.
15. Eastern Red-tailed Hawk, Buteo b. borealis. Fairly common, especially near upper end of Swift Creek Lake and occasionally over Third Branch Lake. Also along West Branch.
16. Northern Red-shouldered Hawk, Buteo l. lineatus. A pair often heard around Third Branch Lake and upper end of Swift Creek Lake. Otherwise uncommon until latter part of August when individual migrants were occasionally seen.
17. Broad-winged Hawk, Buteo p. platypterus. Rare. One in woods at head of West Branch on July 9.
18. Southern Bald Eagle, Haliaeetus l. leucocephalus. No definite record until Aug. 3, when a beautiful mature bird was seen near the middle of Swift Creek Lake. An immature was seen on the same day. Other records: Aug. 16; Sept. 9; and Sept. 11.
19. Marsh Hawk, Circus hudsonius. Only one record, Aug. 19, when one was seen north of the dam on Swift Creek.
20. Osprey, Pandion haliaetus carolinensis. One seen circling over Third Branch Lake on June 13. A pair along Swift Creek Lake on July 26.
21. Eastern Sparrow Hawk, Falco s. sparverius. Quite rare. Few nesting places are available for this species. Only record that of June 9, when one was seen flying over the cleared Swift Creek Lake basin.
22. Bob-white, Colinus v. virginianus. Fairly well distributed over the Area. Several coveys of young and one nest were found. The nest and 8 eggs were found in the Swift Creek Lake bottom on July 15. On July 21, I found the nest completely submerged. Several newly hatched young were found nearby at the edge of the rising water, and two others were helped ashore.

23. Eastern Wild Turkey, Meleagris gallopavo silvestris. Found rather commonly along West Branch, head of Swift Creek, and below Swift Creek Lake dam, where a flock of 12 half-grown young was seen on June 27.
24. Virginia Rail, Rallus l. limicola. Several spots seemed suitable for rails but none was found on the Area. The only record, that of Aug. 11, when one was flushed from a swampy spot along Hundred Road, just off the edge of the Area.
25. Killdeer, Oxyechus v. vociferus. Rare. The only record for the Park, July 1, when one was found along Swift Creek. Another was often heard in a nearby field but off of the Area.
26. Woodcock, Philohela minor. Rather uncommon. A pair was flushed in the swampy woods north of the Swift Creek dam on June 17. One was apparently carrying a young bird between its thighs, an interesting habit of the species. Two were flushed along West Branch on July 28, and one near the head of Swift Creek Lake on Aug. 3.
27. Spotted Sandpiper, Actitis macularia. Not listed as a summer resident on the Park. First found July 12; common thereafter.
28. Eastern Solitary Sandpiper, Tringa s. solitaria. Rather common migrant after July 22 along Swift Creek Lake and occasionally on Third Branch Lake.
29. Tern (var?). An immature on Third Branch Lake on Aug. 19; another on Swift Creek Lake Aug. 20.
30. Eastern Mourning Dove, Zenaidura macroura carolinensis. Common over much of the Park. Pair carrying nesting material, June 9.
31. Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Coccyzus a. americanus. Rather common but heard much more often than seen. No nesting records obtained. All cuckoos examined were of the Yellow-billed variety.
32. Screech Owl, Otus asio. Common. On the night of July 30 four were heard over an area of approximately 1000 acres.
33. Great Horned Owl, Bubo v. virginianus. Listed, without confirmation, upon reports.
34. Northern Barred Owl, Strix v. varia. On the night of July 30 one was found near the mouth of Third Branch Lake.
35. Eastern Whip-poor-will, Antrostomus v. vociferus. Calls quite common after dusk. Often seen flying out of the woods and over the more open fields. No nest found.
36. Eastern Nighthawk, Chordeiles m. minor. First on Aug. 27, in migration; common thereafter.

37. Chimney Swift, Chaetura pelagica. Though there are very few old chimneys remaining, seen rather commonly over most of the Area, including both lakes. Young heard in a chimney of one of the few remaining houses on June 30.
38. Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Archilochus colubris. Fairly common. Young birds just leaving nest on Aug. 20.
39. Eastern Belted Kingfisher, Megaceryle a. alcyon. Its well-known rattle common on both lakes. Nesting hole found along Third Branch on June 26. Young had recently left.
40. Northern Flicker, Colaptes auratus luteus. Rather common but not abundant. Quite a few below Swift Creek dam and around head of Third Branch Lake, where a nest was found on June 4. Another nest was found along Hundred Road, along the northern edge of the Area on the same date.
41. Pileated Woodpecker, Ceophloeus p. pileatus. Rather rare, due probably to the fact that there is little mature timber on the Area. First seen July 4 along Swift Creek; after Sept. 1, heard or seen more commonly around the heads of both lakes.
42. Red-bellied Woodpecker, Centurus carolinus. Uncommon. A family of young still being fed by parents on June 21; and a nest along Swift Creek, eggs being incubated, on July 6. The male was seen relieving the female on the nest.
43. Red-headed Woodpecker, Melanerpes erythrocephalus. Uncommon over most of Area. Most of those found were on the north side where one was found nesting on June 4. An immature was seen on a telephone pole near the C.C.C. camp on Sept. 6.
44. Hairy Woodpecker, Dryobates villosus (var?) Uncommon. Most of those seen were on the lower part of the Area. No nests were located.
45. Downy Woodpecker, Dryobates pubescens (var?) A common bird on the Park as the large amount of young woodland favors its occurrence. Nest with young, June 7.
46. Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Dryobates borealis. Though there are some fairly large stands of pine south of Swift Creek Lake, this bird was never found there. A pair was found along a road leading north from the dam on June 17, and four, part of them young birds, were found near the same spot on June 18. They were seen nearby several times later.
47. Kingbird, Tyrannus tyrannus. Quite common. A nest with young on June 26; another nest with three eggs on June 30.
48. Northern Crested Flycatcher, Myiarchus crinitus boreus. Common.

Found more often in woodlands than Kingbird. A nest with young, June 16. Fed commonly out over the partly submerged vegetation of the Swift Creek Lake.

49. Eastern Phoebe, Sayornis phoebe. The removal of all old houses from the area is forcing many Phoebes to leave and as a result the species as a nesting bird is rather uncommon. Nests were found on June 3, 11 and 13. Other unoccupied nests were seen in and near the Area.
50. Acadian Flycatcher, Empidonax virescens. The familiar "chee-e-eeep" is a common call note in the woods over most of the Park. Three nests were found, but only one was occupied. This nest when found on June 11 contained three fresh eggs; hatching on June 23.
51. Least Flycatcher, Empidonax minimus. One in migration, Sept. 10.
52. Eastern Wood Pewee, Myiodytes virens. A common bird over most of the area. Young birds were seen on several occasions, but no nests were found.
53. Tree Swallow, Iridoprocne bicolor. On July 21, two or three were seen in a large flock of migrating swallows over Swift Creek Lake. Again on Aug. 24, a number were seen over the same lake.
54. Bank Swallow, Riparia r. riparia. Common migrant beginning July 21 when a large flock was seen over the new lake.
55. Rough-winged Swallow, Stelgidopteryx ruficollis serripennis. One pair was found nesting along Swift Creek on June 5; a common migrant after July 21.
56. Barn Swallow, Hirundo erythrogaster. First seen July 21, apparently in migration; seen a number of times later over the lakes and near the CCC camp.
57. Northern Cliff Swallow, Petrochelidon a. albifrons. A few migrants on July 21.
58. Purple Martin, Progne s. subis. Seen regularly but in small numbers after July 15. The one remaining martin house on the Area was apparently not used during the summer.
59. Blue Jay, Cyanocitta c. cristata. A fairly common but by no means an abundant breeding bird. Four young just out of nest on June 14.
60. Crow, Corvus brachyrhynchos (Var.?) Common and well-known.
61. Carolina Chickadee, Penthestes c. carolinensis. Common, but no nests were located.
62. Tufted Titmouse, Baelophus bicolor. Likewise common; nest with young, June 30.

63. Northern White-breasted Nuthatch, Sitta c. carolinensis. Fairly common. Nest, June 4.
64. Brown-headed Nuthatch, Sitta p. pusilla. On June 16 three were found busily engaged in examining tops of pine trees north of the Swift Creek dam. Seen at the same place twice afterwards.
65. House Wren, Troglodytes aedon (var.?) Only two House Wrens were found on the entire Area; one north of Swift Creek dam far from any house on June 16, and the other near the CCC camp on June 30.
66. Carolina Wren, Thyrothorus l. ludovicianus. Locally common along most of the streams in the deeper woods. Young birds, June 12, when a group of seven or eight were found along Swift Creek below the dam.
67. Long-billed Marsh Wren, Telmatodytes p. palustris. Apparently not yet established. Quite rare. One seen along Swift Creek Lake bottom, June 4.
68. Mockingbird, Mimus p. polyglottos. Rather uncommon. The type of vegetation over much of the Park is apparently not well suited for this bird. Most of those seen were on top of the hill south of Swift Creek. No nests were found.
69. Catbird, Dumetolla carolinensis. Rather common nesting bird. Nest with young, June 12; another with three eggs, June 25.
70. Brown Thrasher, Toxostoma rufum. More common than the Mockingbird. Two nests, both with eggs; one June 4, other June 23. The latter about five feet from the ground, rather high for the species.
71. Robin, Turdus migratorius (var.?) A few nesting around the remaining buildings; otherwise scarce. Nests on June 4, 11, 26 and Aug. 18.
72. Wood Thrush, Hylocichla mustelina. Common inhabitant of the woodlands. Especially common along the head of Third Branch. Found feeding young, June 18. An empty nest, occupied by an incubating bird was found on July 5; still sitting on the empty nest on July 13. The nest had been vacated before my next visit on July 16.
73. Eastern Hermit Thrush, Hylocichla guttata faxoni. One seen on Nov. 5.
74. Eastern Bluebird, Sialia s. sialis. Common in certain places, such as in the vicinity of the CCC camp. Young birds just out of nest on June 4.
75. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Polioptila c. caerulea. Common. The only breeding records are those of young birds out of the nest, but still

- being fed by the parents. Separate broods on June 4, 9, 11, and 12.
76. Golden-crowned Kinglet, Regulus s. satrapa. Several seen on Nov. 5.
77. Eastern Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Corthylio c. calendula. Migrants found on Nov. 5.
78. Cedar Waxwing, Bombycilla cedrorum. Quite rare. Three found along Swift Creek on July 5. Heard again two days later.
79. Shrike, Lanius ludovicianus (var.?). Scarce on the Area. Only two records: July 21 and Sept. 3.
80. Starling, Sturnus v. vulgaris. Common. Several recently vacated nests were found in two old houses and in one group of barns left standing on the Area.
81. White-eyed Vireo, Vireo g. griseus. Fairly common in bushy thickets. One vacated nest thought to be of this species was found. An adult bird was seen carrying food on June 4, but I was unable to find the nest.
82. Yellow-throated Vireo, Vireo flavifrons. Fairly common. More common in migration after Sept. 5. No nesting data.
83. Red-eyed Vireo, Vireo olivaceus. Abundant nesting bird. Nests: one just vacated June 18; another with young July 25. Young just out of nest though too small to have left nest naturally, but still being cared for by a parent on July 20.
84. Eastern Warbling Vireo, Vireo g. gilvus. Quite rare. One heard singing on the morning of June 4. The bird was seen and identified.
85. Black and White Warbler, Mniotilta varia. An uncommon summer resident but a common migrant after Sept. 8. No nests; young bird still in juvenile plumage, June 9; and bird carrying food, June 11.
86. Worm-eating Warbler, Helmitheros vermivorus. Found rather commonly along creek bottoms and in more heavily wooded areas; sometimes 5 or 6 in half day's journey. No nests found.
87. Blue-winged Warbler, Vermivora pinus. One record, Sept. 9, when one was found in a flock of migrating warblers.
88. Parula Warbler, Compsothlypis a. americana. Scarce over most of Park, but fairly common in a few spots along Swift Creek.
89. Magnolia Warbler, Dendroica magnolia. One in migration, Sept. 9.
90. Black-throated Blue Warbler, Dendroica c. caerulescens. One or two in migration, Sept. 9.

91. Black-throated Green Warbler, Dendroica v. virens. Two or three in migration, Sept. 9.
92. Blackburnian Warbler, Dendroica fusca. One in migration, Sept. 14.
93. Yellow-throated Warbler, Dendroica d. dominica. Rare; only 4 seen: one, June 16; another, July 23; and a pair on July 25.
94. Chestnut-sided Warbler, Dendroica pennsylvanica. One in migration, Sept. 9.
95. Northern Pine Warbler, Dendroica p. pinus. Its song is characteristic of sections of open loblolly pine. Quite common. No nests, but young birds on June 8, 9 and 16.
96. Prairie Warbler, Dendroica d. discolor. Common. Often found with the Pine Warbler. Nests containing young on June 11 and 26.
97. Ovenbird, ⁴Seiurus aurocapillus. Rather scarce as a breeding species. Nest with eggs on June 12.
98. Louisiana Water-thrush, Seiurus motacilla. A few found along the small streams, but not common. One was often seen feeding on the spillway of the rock dam at the mouth of Third Branch Lake. Apparently fed on larvae of the Black fly (Simuliidae) that were abundant on the rocks.
99. Kentucky Warbler, Oporornis formosus. Quite scarce. Seen more often along Swift Creek below the dam. A poorly concealed nest with 3 eggs June 22.
100. Maryland Yellowthroat, Geothlypis t. trichas. Quite common over most of Park, especially along the Swift Creek Lake bed before it was flooded. A male observed during flight song on June 9. Nests on July 3 and 15; young birds on several occasions.
101. Yellow-breasted Chat, Icteria v. virens. Fairly common in suitable localities such as the area north of Swift Creek Lake covered with a short dense growth of young trees.
102. Hooded Warbler, Wilsonia citrina. One of the most common woodland birds. Two nests: one with young, June 3; other being built, June 11.
103. American Redstart, Setophaga ruticilla. Only fairly common as a summer resident. A male was seen carrying nesting material, June 3. Several young birds were seen being fed by their parents, June 12.
104. House or English Sparrow, Passer d. domesticus. Distribution limited mostly to those seen around an old building being used as an office, where they nested.

105. Eastern Meadowlark, Sturnella m. magna. A few apparently nested in the more open fields but no nests were located.
106. Eastern Red-winged Blackbird, Agelaius p. phoeniceus. Common on Third Branch Lake where it nested. Nests on June 4 and 21.
107. Scarlet Tanager, Piranga erythromelas. Contrary to expectations, this beautiful bird was found commonly in certain parts. This was particularly true of the vicinity of Third Branch Lake where it was not uncommon to hear 3 or 4 singing at the same time. No nests were found.
108. Summer Tanager, Piranga r. rubra. Found more regularly than the former species over the entire Park, but scarcely as common. Unable to find any nests.
109. Eastern Cardinal, Richmondia c. cardinalis. Common. Young birds just out of nest, June 18.
110. Eastern Blue Grosbeak, Guiraca c. caerulea. Apparently rare. First recorded June 30; another male singing near CCC camp July 8; two immatures on Aug. 7.
111. Indigo Bunting, Passerina cyanea. Many of the semi-open areas furnish ideal cover for this fine songster. Quite common over the lake bottom before it was flooded. A nest with young, June 4.
112. Eastern Goldfinch, Spinus t. tristis. Not as common as one might expect. Small flocks were seen irregularly throughout the summer. No definite nesting record.
113. Red-eyed Towhee, Pipilio e. erythrophthalmus. Common in suitable localities such as north of Swift Creek Lake. No nesting data.
114. Eastern Grasshopper Sparrow, Ammodramus savannarum australis. A few in more open grassy fields, but not common. No nests.
115. Eastern Henslow's Sparrow, Passerherbulus henslowi susurrans. Fairly common in certain grassy or weedy fields. No nests.
116. Eastern Vesper Sparrow, Pooecetes g. gramineus. Rare. The only record that of July 21, when one was seen in a flock of Field Sparrows. One heard singing in a barren field on June 5.
117. Bachman's Sparrow, Aimophila aestivalis bachmani. Bailey describes this bird as inhabiting more open pine woods of Central Virginia, but I found it rather common in the old fields and bushy sections of the Park. The bird was common north of Swift Creek Lake, where its simple but quite attractive song was often heard. One bird was seen on June 21 carrying food but the nest was not found. The bird undoubtedly breeds.
118. Eastern Chipping Sparrow, Spizella p. passerina. Limited in distri-

but common locally. Nests on June 4, 11, 16 and 30.

119. Field Sparrow, Spizella p. pusilla. The most common sparrow on the Area. In addition to being found in the fields, they were common in the lake bed before it was flooded.
120. Eastern Song Sparrow, Melospiza m. melodia. Rare. Only two records: June 5 and July 7. Both birds were along Swift Creek.

Virginia Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit,
Virginia Polytechnic Institute,
Blacksburg, Va.

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NOTES ON VIRGINIA BIRDS

By Austin H. Clark

While Mrs. Clark and I were eating lunch on July 5, 1937, near Cole's Run Hollow in southeastern Augusta County, Virginia, a male Bachman's Warbler spent some time searching about in a bush six or eight feet distant. We had an excellent opportunity for observing it for fifteen minutes or more. Mr. Lloyd G. Carr had previously told me that Bachman's Warbler occurs in this region.

Mr. Carr also told me of a nest of the Black and White Warbler with three young that he had found in the Dismal Swamp. I have seen the bird there, but assumed it to be a migrant.

July 18, 1937, I spent at Aylett, King William County, where a young male Bachman's Warbler (now in the collection of the U. S. National Museum) was taken by Patrick Henry Aylett in August, 1892. Mr. Aylett now lives at Roanoke. The "Big Swamp" at Aylett, adjoining the Aylett estate, appears to be a suitable place for this bird, and possibly also for the southern black-throated green warbler. It has been more or less drained and is badly infested with Japanese honeysuckle, but in earlier years it must have been an impressive place. There are other swamps at Duane on the road to Beulahville from Aylett that look as if this bird might occur in them.

Some characteristic southern coastal plain butterflies are found in these swamps. Near Duane I found Papilio palamedes, heretofore not known from north or west of Norfolk except as a stray.

So far as I know this region, along the Mattaponi river, has never been thoroughly investigated.

Raven: One seen near Crabtree Falls on August 12, 1937. Mr. Schofield, the engineer in charge of the construction of the section of the Skyline Drive just north of Afton, told me that ravens are frequently seen in that region.

Egret: Mr. Schofield reported an egret at Crozet, Albemarle County, on August 11, 1937.

Blue Grosbeak: Seen at Crozet, Albemarle County; Lovington, Nelson County; and Midvale, Rockbridge County. It was especially numerous at Midvale where about half a dozen males were seen in the low-lands near the river along the Vesuvius-Buena Vista road. At Crozet a pair were observed in some willows along a stream that evidently had a nest in the vicinity. The female had her beak full of small green caterpillars. This is the first time I have ever seen this bird in any numbers.

The eastern side of the Blue Ridge in this region is notable for the occurrence of various southern butterflies. It appears to be the chief inland migration route of the "traveling butterfly" (Phoebis eubule) which is common here in old fields, and in the open country is often seen flying at great speed toward the northeast.

Albino Robin: At Augusta Springs on August 10, 1937, a partial albino robin was observed -- primaries white, a few tail feathers white, body checkered white and normal color in about equal proportions.

Baltimore Oriole: Every day during our stay at Waynesboro (August 7-16, 1937) a Baltimore Oriole was observed in the grounds of the Brunswick Inn. Immature male, Sweet Briar, Virginia, June 2, 1935.

Field Sparrow: Nest with four eggs, Peaks of Otter, about 3,500 feet, June 1, 1935.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Rocky Run, Fairfax County; male singing up to and including May 25, 1935.

Shrike: Homeville, September 23, 1937.

Suffolk, September 27, 1937. At 4 p.m. in a light rain several thousand chimney swifts were noticed flying about the center of the city, 100 to 200 feet up. At about 4:15 some of them began to descend into a nearby chimney. Apparently several dozen entered this chimney. By 4:30 the majority had disappeared, though many were still flying about. The weather was cool, and the boilers in the hotel (Elliott; my room was on the seventh floor) had been fired up. Possibly the starting of fires generally had driven the swifts from their accustomed chimneys. Many of them were still flying about when it was almost dark.

Suffolk, September 28, 1937. The swifts were noticed on the wing shortly after 6 a.m. and increased in numbers to about 9 a.m., when they were as numerous as ever. The great loose swarm was roughly circular with an indefinite outer edge, and maintained a more or less definite rotary motion, now clockwise, now anti-clockwise. All during the morning the swifts intermittently descended into the chimney in groups of a dozen to a score or more, until it seemed as if the chimney must be filled solidly with them. It was, however, now possible to see whether any came out. After 11:00 the numbers began to diminish rapidly, and by 11:30 they had disappeared. A drizzling rain had stopped in the middle

of the morning, and the sky had brightened. At 5 p.m. it was noticed that the swifts had reassembled, and several thousand were wheeling about in a slight drizzle. The numbers gradually decreased, and by 6:00 nearly all had disappeared.

Courtland, September 25, 1937. Cowbird chased by two English sparrows.

Suffolk, September 29, 1937. Swifts noticed swarming at 6 p.m. and disappearing into the chimney. All had disappeared by 6:10.

Kempsville, September 29, 1937. Three egrets.

Reids Ferry, October 1, 1937. One egret.

Suffolk, March 31, 1938. Barn Swallow.

Lee Hall, April 2, 1938. Barn Swallow; brown thrasher.

Williamsburg, April 2, 1938. Chipping sparrow.

Gainesboro, Frederick County, April 24, 1938, Vesper Sparrow.
Albino Crow, grayish, most of the flight feathers white.

Smithsonian Institution,
Washington, D. C.

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APRIL DAYS WITH VIRGINIA BIRDS

By Bertha Daniel

On the morning of April 18 I set out on a hike with a party of friends to and along Falling River. We started about 8 o'clock and returned at noon. The day was cool and cloudy. Our path lay through fields, along beautiful strips of woodlands gay with dogwood and pink azalea, musical with the song of woodthrush and notes of vireos and warblers.

In a field beside the road was a pair of Prairie Horned larks, evidently nesting. This extends the nesting range of this species ~~four~~ miles farther southeast than the former notes from Naruna which I have sent in. In another field of clover were the flock of Bobolinks.

Our trip covered about six miles going and coming, and about a mile of it was along Wickliff mill pond near Brookneal. There I found the male Golden-eye Duck, Kingfisher, Osprey and Water Thrush. On the rocky bluffs were glowing red and yellow columbine, and on the sandy bank near the river was the beautiful mertensia. Somewhere along the river the Louisiana Water Thrush was singing its wild sweet song. There were several common birds seen almost daily, which I failed to note on the trip.

Fifty-two species were seen during the trip, of which the following are some of the more uncommon: Golden-eye, 1; Osprey, 1; Kingfisher, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Prairie Horned Lark, 2; Bewick's Wren, 1; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 3; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 2; Yellow-throated Vireo, 3; Bobolink, 25; Grasshopper Sparrow, 1; Vesper Sparrow, 6.

First Dates: March 10, Savannah Sparrow, 25 in a young orchard; March 9, Green Heron; March 18, Wilson's Snipe; April 1, White-eyed Vireo; April 6, Great Blue Heron, 6 on April 17.

Naruna, Va.

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NESTING OF THE WOODCOCK IN WESTERN VIRGINIA

Mr. J. Lawrence Jochenning of Lexington reports the discovery of a Woodcock with four young about a week old in Bath County, Virginia, in late April. The location was on Jackson River, about ten miles north of Warm Springs and near the Highland County line. The adult Woodcock tried to lead him away from the young by the broken wing ruse.

Prof. Robert P. Carroll of V.M.I. reports finding a Woodcock with three young birds on May 1st at Longdale in the eastern part of Alleghany County.

J. J. Murray.

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Two very useful bird books may now be obtained at greatly reduced prices. "Florida Bird Life," by Arthur H. Howell, originally sold at \$6.00, may now be secured from the National Association of Audubon Societies, 1775 Broadway, New York, at \$3.00 as long as the limited supply lasts. This book of 577 pages, with 37 color plates by F. L. Jacques, is the authoritative book on Florida birds. "A Guide to the Winter Birds of the North Carolina Sandhills," by Milton P. Skinner, published at \$4.00, may now be secured from Alfred Williams and Company, Raleigh, N. C., at \$1.00. This book of 301 pages, with 13 color plates, is an interesting study of winter bird life of eastern North Carolina, useful to any bird student but particularly to those living in eastern Virginia.

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V. S. O. Dues

Our Treasurer and all who are interested in the work of the V.S.O. are disturbed at the number of members who have not sent in their dues for 1938. The names of delinquents must soon be dropped from the mailing list. It is hoped that all who are in arrears will send their dues at once to Mr. A. O. English, 308 Westover Ave., Roanoke, Va. The list of paid-up members will be published in an early issue.



The Raven

BULLETIN OF THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY
PUBLISHED AT LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA

DR. J. J. MURRAY, EDITOR
LEXINGTON, VA.

Vol. IX

JUNE, 1938

No. 6

THE EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE V. S. O.

APRIL, 1938

The Eighth Annual Meeting of the V. S. O. was convened at the Robert E. Lee Hotel, Lexington, Virginia, on Friday, April 29 at 2:00 P.M. After the opening remarks by President John B. Lewis, Dr. Murray gave a few words of welcome and announced the plans for the field trip on Saturday morning.

Mr. Lewis then called for the first paper, "Report on V. M. I. Breeding Census", by four students of the Virginia Military Institute, R. H. Hutchinson, R. Booth, L. W. Lane and W. P. Boyer. Their report of the partly completed nest of a Baltimore Oriole at a very early date evoked considerable discussion. Dr. H. C. Oberholser said it should be easy to distinguish an old nest from a new one by the color of the material. Mr. Harold Bailey said the finding of a new nest that early was not impossible but improbable.

This was followed by Mr. Charles O Handley's paper, "Additions to Smyth's List of the Birds of Montgomery County, Va." Mr. Handley gave his son credit for the greater part of the field work and Dr. Murray said Mr. Handley's records were interesting and trustworthy.

"Notes on Summer Birds of Chesterfield County, Virginia," by Mr. Russell DeGarmo was commented on by several members. Mr. Harold Bailey reported the Yellow-throated Warbler as a common nesting bird throughout the tidewater district. Dr. Murray said he had not found the Scarlet Tanager nesting under 1500 feet elevation. Mr. J. B. Lewis, however, said the Scarlet Tanager appeared to be much more numerous along low grounds and streams than was commonly believed. He said he had also found them in heavy timber in late July. Mr. Handley reported finding the Scarlet Tanager near Ashland in the summer of 1930-31. Mr. Carroll reported the finding of a nest and Prof. Freer the presence of singing males near Lynchburg in the summer at an altitude of 900 feet.

The next paper, "My Raven Friends of Rockbridge County", proved to be an exceptionally enjoyable number as Mr. J. H. Hostetter, who was our guide for the field trip, had obtained his material through years of personal observation on the mountain ridges near Lexington.

"Observations on Virginia Birds", by Mr. Otis Taylor; "Recent Records and New Problems in Virginia Ornithology", by Dr. J. J. Murray; and "Ducks In Amelia County, Virginia", by Mr. John B. Lewis, completed the afternoon program.

The proposal to open the season on Ruffed Grouse in certain counties east of the Blue Ridge was discussed. The President was authorized to send the following telegram to Mr. Carl H. Nolting, Chairman of the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries: "The Virginia Society of Ornithology¹unanimously opposes the proposal to open the grouse season in several²Virginia counties on the ground that only the surplus of any species should be harvested and that no such shootable surplus of grouse exists at present in the counties in question."

It was announced that the annual dinner would be held at 6:30 in the small dining room at the hotel and that the evening program would begin at 8:00 P.M. in Washington Chapel, Washington & Lee University campus. The following committees were appointed and asked to report at the business meeting: Nominations: Mr. T. L. Engleby, Mr. James Eike, Mr. Ralph Brown; Resolutions: Mrs. C. L. Burgess, Mrs. F. W. Shaw, Mr. M. G. Lewis. The afternoon session was then adjourned.

Twenty-nine members and guests attended the annual dinner. Following the dinner the business meeting was held. The treasurer's report was read by Mr. A. O. English.

The following officers for the ensuing year were elected: President, Mr. M. G. Lewis; Vice-President, Dr. William B. McIlwaino, Jr.; Secretary, Dr. Florence Hague; Treasurer, A. O. English. The report of the Resolutions Committee was adopted, as follows:

1. We wish to express to Dr. Murray our sincere appreciation of his work in planning and arranging for this meeting and field trip, and to thank him in advance for the luncheon to which we are invited following the field trip.
2. To express to the Robert E. Lee Hotel our appreciation of their hospitality and provision for a very suitable meeting place.
3. To thank Mr. J. H. Hostetter for his aid in arranging the field trip and for his valuable part on the program and to invite him to become a member of this society.
4. To thank Washington & Lee University for its part in providing suitable meeting facilities.

The evening session held in Washington Chapel, Washington & Lee University Campus, consisted of the following delightful program:
"America's Wild Fowl", Dr. Harry C. Oberholser, U. S. Biological Survey.

"Motion Pictures of Blacksburg Nests", Charles O. Handley.

"Showy Florida Birds", (with motion pictures), J. J. Murray.

"Canadian Birds, Rare and Fantastic", motion pictures.

The field trip on Saturday morning took us first to Big Spring,

Errata: 1. Omitted "in session at Lexington, Va."

2. Omitted "eastern".

a beautiful rock-bordered mountain lake, especially to see the nest of a wild Mallard which had mated with a domestic drake. She received us with little show of fear and did not leave the nest although she moved aside to show the eggs.

From the farm at Big Spring we drove to a mountain a few miles west of Lexington. Leaving the cars we began a stiff climb, in due time reaching our goal, a sheer rocky cliff on which, about twenty feet from the ground, tucked in on a shelf under the overhanging rock was a mass of coarse sticks, the Raven's nest. Mr. Hostetter had built a ladder from the ground to the nest so that it was possible to climb up and look into it, but as the birds had left, the less active members of the party contented themselves with viewing it from the ground.

The party then returned to the lake where we had expected to have luncheon, but a light rain drove us to the broad steps of the fine old farm house where we enjoyed the welcome hot coffee and plate lunch provided by Dr. Murray.

The consolidated list of 68 species of birds as kept by Mrs. James W. Wiltshire, Jr., of Randolph-Macon Woman's College, is recorded below:

Red-winged Blackbird; Redstart; Starling; Bluebird; Barn Swallow (and nest); English Sparrow; Purple Grackle; Kingbird; Song Sparrow (and nest); Yellow Warbler; Mallard Duck (and nest); Baltimore Oriole; Goldfinch; Robin; Yellow-throated Vireo; Flicker; Catbird; Bob-white; Little Green Heron; Killdeer; Chimney Swift; Savannah Sparrow; Meadowlark; Rough-winged Swallow; Crow; Field Sparrow; Phoebe (and nest); Chipping Sparrow; Prairie Warbler; Carolina Wren (and nest); Brown Thrasher; Orchard Oriole; Migrant Shrike; Black Vulture; Black and White Warbler; Crested Flycatcher; Red-eyed Vireo; Yellow-breasted Chat; Mourning Dove; Blue Jay; Cardinal; White-throated Sparrow; Ovenbird; Worm-eating Warbler; Purple Finch; Downy Woodpecker; Towhee; Chickadee; Scarlet Tanager; Tufted Titmouse; Turkey Vulture; Parula Warbler; Cerulean Warbler; Raven (and nest); Hairy Woodpecker; Bewick's Wren; Sharp-shinned Hawk; House Wren; Pied-billed Grebe; Solitary Sandpiper; Red-bellied Woodpecker; Sparrow Hawk; Cedar Waxwing; Red-legged Black Duck; Rock Dove; Tree Swallow; Warbling Vireo; Kingfisher.

Elizabeth M. Shaw, Acting Secretary,
Richmond, Va.

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THE V. S. O. FIELD TRIP

By J. J. Murray

A few of the V.S.O. members had to leave after the Friday night meeting, but on Saturday morning at 7:30 twenty-five people of all ages gathered to start on the field trip, which is always one of the most enjoyable features of the meetings. We headed out the Midland Trail.

A short stop was made at Big Spring Pond to visit the Mallard's nest which the members had been told was waiting there for them. The eggs in this nest were about due to hatch and we did not want to wait until we got back to the pond at noon for fear the young might have left the nest by that time and have been hidden away somewhere in the tangles of pond lilies by the wary mother Mallard. This nest was of peculiar interest since it is the first known nesting of this bird anywhere in western Virginia. This wild female Mallard has spent most of the winter and spring at Big Spring. She probably mated with one of the domestic mallards in the farmyard flock. At least no wild Mallard drake has been seen around there of late. The nest is located in a high tuft of grass on a flat rock out in a water cress bed and not far from the barn on Mr. Hugh Wash's farm. The sitting duck is so well hidden that one might pass within a few yards without seeing her. This 'wild' duck was not at all wild in her actions, only spreading her tail in a futile effort to frighten us and hissing at us when we came near to see the nest. We found that several of the eggs were pipped. None of them, however, had hatched when we returned at noon. A few days earlier there had been ten eggs in the nest, but on Saturday we found that two of them had been pushed out of the nest by the mother duck, who realized that they were 'bad eggs'. A venturesome member of the party found one of these eggs floating in the cress bed and put it in his pocket for examination later. Unfortunately he forgot that it was there and when he climbed carelessly into his car the egg burst and for the rest of the morning he had to keep his distance from the rest of the group. Another member, too eager to reach the nest, went up to his middle in the cress bed.

After this visit we again took to the road. Always on a V.S.O. field trip an official census taker is appointed to keep the list of birds seen. Mrs. Wiltshire of Randolph-Macon, who was given the task this year, was besieged at each stop by members who had new birds to add. Many of the common birds were seen from the cars, including a batch of Black Vultures resting in a dead tree. As we left the cars and started the mountain climb other and less common birds were added. A Worm-eating Warbler was heard, then a Cerulean Warbler seen, then a Scarlet Tanager, a Sharp-shinned Hawk and many others.

The big goal of the trip was the Raven's nest which Mr. Jake Hostetter had found two weeks before the meeting. Finally the great cliff near the top of the mountain was reached and the Raven's nest soon twenty feet above us on a narrow ledge. On a former trip Mr. Hostetter and I had prepared for the coming of the V.S.O. by cutting a tree and building a rough ladder. With this assistance each member of the group had the very unusual opportunity of not only seeing but of touching a nest that few bird-students have ever seen. The Raven, while still fairly common in the rougher parts of Rockbridge county, is a very rare bird in the eastern United States. Here we met the only disappointment of the trip, when we found that the single young bird which the nest had contained had either flown or, as is more likely, met one of the disasters to which young birds are all too subject.

At the close of the trip an hour was spent at Big Spring, listing the birds and admiring the beauty spots around the little lake. A Song Sparrow's nest with heavily marked eggs was discovered in a cedar bush. A flock of Cedar Waxwings in a walnut tree chattered at us. During lunch a pair of Baltimore Orioles displayed their beautiful orange and black plumage on a wire fence in full view of the crowd. Before we left our list of birds for the day had reached a total of 68. At the end the field party was entertained at a picnic lunch. It had been planned for the open on the rocks across the pond but the rain drove us into the shelter of Mr. Wash's hospitable home.

Lexington, Va.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

Statement of Treasurer, covering receipts and disbursements from January 1, 1937 to December 31, 1937:

December 31, 1936, Balance on hand as per last report \$63.05

Receipts account of memberships

5 Associate memberships for 1936	\$ 7.50
3 Active memberships for 1936	7.50
42 Associate memberships for 1937	64.50
14 Active memberships for 1937	35.00
2 Associate memberships for 1938	3.00

Miscellaneous receipts

Back numbers of Raven sold	7.85
Delinquent dues for 193650
Delinquent dues for 1936	1.00

Total receipts for 1937

126.85

Total receipts including old balance..... \$189.90

Disbursements

Voucher No. 18	Ruskin S. Freer	
	Nov.-Dec. Raven	8.70
" No. 19	Economy Printing Co.	
	350 Statemont cards	3.00
" No. 20	A. O. English	
	75 Envelopes (U.S. 3-cents)..	2.43
" No. 21	Ruskin S. Freer	
	January Raven (also Handley's	
	Article in Times-Dispatch on	
	Hawks and Owls)	10.11

Voucher No. 22	Nat'l Ass'n of Audubon Societies	
	Rental motion picture film	2.50
" No. 23	Dr. J. J. Murray	
	Account expense Annual Convention	2.40
" No. 24	Ruskin S. Freor	
	Feb.-March Raven	4.85
" No. 25	Ruskin S. Freor	
	April-May and June Raven	13.45
" No. 26	Ruskin S. Freor	
	July-August Raven	8.22
" No. 27	Ruskin S. Freor	
	Sept-Oct. and Nov.-Dec. Raven	13.46
Total amount of disbursements		69.12
Balance on hand December 31, 1937		
per bank statement		120.78
Total		\$189.90

Respectfully submitted,
A. O. English, Treasurer.

REPORT OF THE AUDITING COMMITTEE

The undersigned have examined the report of the Treasurer of the Virginia Society of Ornithology for the fiscal year ending December 31, 1937, and vouchers accompanying the same, and found them correct.

Respectfully submitted,
T. L. Engloby
M. G. Lewis

Date: March 11, 1938.

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LIST OF PAID UP MEMBERSHIP

CLASS	NAME	ADDRESS
A	J. W. Bailey,	Box 107, University of Richmond, Richmond, Va.
A	Miss Ada Ball,	4508 Forest Hill Ave., Richmond, Va.
Act	Ralph M. Brown,	V. P. I., Blacksburg, Va.
A	Mrs. Arthur Bovan,	Box 1428, University, Va.
Act	Mrs. C. L. Burgess,	1900 Memorial Ave., Lynchburg, Va.
A	Compton Crook,	Matthew Whaley School, Williamsburg, Va.
A	John B. Calhoun,	c/o U.S. Hayes, Cabell Ave., University, Va.
A	Robt. P. Carroll,	52 Washington St., Lexington, Va.
A	Carry Naturo Sanctuary,	Sweet Briar College, Sweet Briar, Va.
A	Dr. Wm. P. Caton,	R. D. No. 1, Alexandria, Va.
A	Mrs. Marion Charlton,	R. F. D., No. 1, Portsmouth, Va.
A	Miss Martha Clark,	1403 Filmore St., Lynchburg, Va.

CLASS	NAME	ADDRESS
Act	Mrs. Colgate Dardon,	Algonquin Park, Norfolk, Va.
Act	Miss Bertha Daniel,	Naruna, Va.
A	Wm. Davidson,	Insecticide Laboratory, Silver Springs, Md.
A	Edward A. Dunton,	Birds Nest, Va. (Now member 1938)
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Act	A. O. English,	308 Westover Ave., Roanoke, Va.
Act	T. L. Engleby,	1002 Patterson Ave., Roanoke, Va.
A	James Eiko,	P. O. Box 4, Woodbridge, Va.
A	Miss Jane Eliason,	255 Campbell St., Harrisonburg, Va.
A	J. Bowie Ferneyhough,	Box 1458, Richmond, Va.
Act	Ruskin S. Freer,	"Arden", R.F.D. #2, Lynchburg, Va.
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A	Mrs. Thomas P. Thompson,	Lochhaven, "Mirimar", Norfolk, Va.
A	Dr. A. Wetmore,	Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.

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RECENT RECORDS AND NEW PROBLEMS IN VIRGINIA ORNITHOLOGY

By J. J. Murray

(Read at the Annual Meeting of the V. S. O.)

The study of ornithology in Virginia is making progress at a rate which, if not always rapid enough to satisfy those who are working at

it, is at least steady. The purpose of this paper is to point out some of the recent discoveries and to indicate opportunities for further work.

I. Recent Records. When in 1890 Dr. William Cabell Rives published his book, "A Catalogue of the Birds of the Virginias", he reported a list of 304 (incorrectly tabulated as 305) birds for the two states. Of these 3 were recorded only from West Virginia; and 10 others must now be dropped from that list for various reasons. He did not number the Carolina Paroquet, which although extinct in Virginia was entitled to a place on the list. With these changes the Virginia list stood at 292 as of 1890. My paper on "Additions to the Virginia Avifauna Since 1890," published in 'The Auk,' April, 1933, pp. 191-200, was a revision of Rives' list, with the addition of 61 species and subspecies which had been recorded during the intervening 43 years. The Virginia list in 1933 thus stood at 353.

Six other birds were listed in a paper, "Further Additions to the Virginia Avifauna," in THE RAVEN, July, 1934. These were the Iceland Gull, Eastern Screech Owl (which should have been included in the 1933 paper), Wayne's Marsh Wren, Loggerhead Shrike, Alabama Towhee, and the race of the Sharp-tailed Sparrow known as Ammodramos caudacuta diversa. This brought the list to 359.

Since then the following 8 birds have been recorded:

1. Greater Shearwater. Puffinus gravis. One found dead at Cobb's Island, July 2, 1934, by Paul Bartsch (The Auk, Oct., 1934, 507). Rives had put this bird on his hypothetical list.

2. European Cormorant. Phalacrocorax carbo. Mr. Lester L. Walsh tells me that he saw one at Knott's Island, on the Virginia side of the state line, December 31, 1934.

3. Water Turkey. Anhinga anhinga. One spent several weeks, following August 7, 1936, at Roache's Run Sanctuary, near Washington, D. C., and was seen by Dr. Paul Bartsch and many other observers.

4. European Teal. Nettion crecca. A male collected by me at Big Spring Pond, near Lexington, February 1, 1936.

5. Southern Brown Creeper. Certhia familiaris nigrescens. Collected by me at Lexington, December 20, 1937.

6. Southern Winter Wren. Nannus hiemalis pullus. Collected by Dr. Alexander Wetmore and myself near the top of Mt. Rogers, June 3, 1937. I took a winter specimen at Lexington, December 20, 1937.

7. Bicknell's Thrush. Hylocichla m. minima. The remains of one were found at Kiptopeke, Cape Charles peninsula, by William J. Rusling, October 3, 1936 (The Auk, July, 1937, 395).

8. Mississippi Song Sparrow. Melospiza melodia ouphonia. Collected by Dr. Alexander Wetmore and myself, September 26, 1935, near Pulaski and Marion; and again at various places in western Virginia in the following June. It is the breeding Song Sparrow of the Virginia mountains.

The Virginia list now stands at 367, which is not a bad list when compared with the records in neighboring states.

II. New Problems. Much remains to be done on the birds of Virginia. Aside from the deeper problems of ornithology, we are far from a complete knowledge of the distribution of birds in our State. There are many obvious questions which we are not yet able to answer. Some forms which probably occur in the State have not yet been recorded, such as the Southern Flicker and the Southern Carolina Chickadee. So far as I know, there are only a few of these which we may hope to find. There are, of course, any number of possible new casualties which may be found. Again, there are certain birds which we know only as migrants or winter residents, which may be found to breed in the higher mountains, particularly along the Alleghany backbone near the West Virginia line, such as the Alder Flycatcher, Black-capped Chickadee (for which there is just one Blue Ridge breeding record), Brown Creeper, Hermit Thrush, Mourning Warbler, Purple Finch, Siskin, and Swamp Sparrow. All of these birds are known to breed nearby in West Virginia. Much remains to be known about the distribution of species of which more than one form breed in the State. Those who have worked on this of late know that it is not yet possible for us to make a satisfactory distributional map of the State. There is much to be done in life history work, particularly on the life history of the species and races which are only found in the South. Prof. D. Ralph Hostetter has just done a notable piece of work on the Carolina Junco as the thesis for his Doctor's degree at the University of Virginia.

It may be of interest to ask some questions to which some of us should seek the answers.

1. Do we have two forms of the Ruffed Grouse in Virginia? Recent work has shown that the bird of the Alleghanies in Virginia is not umbellus, as has always been taken for granted, but togata, the Canadian form. Is, then, the bird of the Blue Ridge or of Southwest Virginia umbellus or togata?
2. How extensively does the Woodcock breed in the State? New breeding points have been turning up of late.
3. At what altitude or in what parts of the State do the breeding grounds of the Eastern and Southern Screech Owl meet?
4. Does the Southern Flicker, auratus, breed in Virginia, and if so, how far does it come up in the State?
5. How far down and east does the range of the Northern Pileated Woodpecker come, and where do intermediates between it and the southern form begin to occur?

6. The same question may be asked, and so far without an answer, about the two forms of the Hairy Woodpecker.
7. Does the Southern Downy occur in Virginia? Dismal Swamp birds are certainly intermediates.
8. Does the Fish Crow breed in western Virginia? Winter specimens have been taken in the Valley.
9. Does the Florida Blue Jay occur in eastern Virginia?
10. Does the Southern Carolina Chickadee occur in the State? Mr. W. Clyde Todd has recently described the Northern Carolina Chickadee, P. c. extimus. It is the bird apparently of most of the State. Is it our only form?
11. The newly described southern forms of the Brown Creeper and the Winter Wren are found in winter in the Valley. Do they also occur in winter in eastern Virginia?
12. What is the distribution of the two forms of the Robin in the State? This is one of the most puzzling of our questions. We are at least learning that the range of migratorius in Virginia is much more limited than we once thought.
13. Where is the boundary line between the breeding ranges of the Eastern and Ohio House Wrens? Which form breeds in the northern part of the Blue Ridge?
14. How far north and west does the Loggerhead Shrike occur?
15. Where is the boundary line between the ranges of the two forms of the Parula Warbler? From the statements of the 1931 A. O. U. 'Check-list' one would suppose that all the birds of western Virginia belong to the northern race. Consequently I had taken for granted that pusilla was the breeding bird of Rockbridge County. But when I decided to find out and collected a bird here last June, it turned out to be americana. Probably the range of pusilla in Virginia is quite limited.
16. How widely does the Sycamore Warbler occur in Southwest Virginia? Mr. F. M. Jones has found it breeding there.
17. How widely are the Bachman's and Henslow's Sparrows distributed in the State?
18. How far east does the range of the Mississippi Song Sparrow extend? Does it occur east of the mountains at all?

And so on. These are some of the many questions to be asked about Virginia bird life. Further, there are certain birds on our State list of which there are no Virginia specimens, some of them difficult or wellnigh impossible to secure, others that are easier, -- Swallow-tailed Kite, Pomarine Jaeger, Glaucous Gull, Black-necked Stilt,

European Cormorant, Wayne's Warbler, Sycamore Warbler. All of this has bearing on the amount of work still to be done in the State; and some of it has bearing on the question of collecting. It has been stated in recent years that there is no further need of collecting in most eastern states. Certainly there is no need nor justification for building up private collections, for collecting merely in order to own skins. And there is no justification for collecting unless it is done very wisely. But if there is any value in the answers to the questions raised here, there is need and justification for a certain amount of judicious collecting, for few of these questions can be answered in any other way.

Lexington, Virginia.

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SNOWY OWL NEAR FARMVILLE

(One of the interesting exhibits at the Annual Meeting was a Snowy Owl, mounted by Mr. Harold Bollinger, of Farmville, Virginia. Mr. J. B. Lewis saw the picture of the owl in a newspaper and invited Mr. Bollinger to bring it to the meeting. Mr. Bollinger's note about it is found below.--Ed.)

The owl was killed near Farmville in the early part of February of this year by Mr. Meade Stuart, of Farmville. Although it was about eight o'clock in the morning when the owl was discovered, the bird flew as if accustomed to the daylight. The owl stands about 26 inches high and has a wing-spread of 60 inches. The plumage is white, barred with dark brown, shading to black. The eyes were yellow and black, the bill black. The feet are covered with hair-like feathers all the way to the talons.

Harold Bollinger,
Farmville, Va.

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NESTING NOTES NEAR NARUNA, VIRGINIA

Great Horned Owl. On March 20, a nest of the Great Horned Owl was found in a large hemlock tree about 40 feet from the ground. The hemlock was near the river bank and walking along a road on the edge of the bluff one could get a good view of the nest. There were two young owls in the nest almost large enough to fly. On approaching the nest one owl flew off across the river and the other was sitting on a branch over the nest.

Prairie Horned Lark. Prairie Horned Larks are still here, four miles southeast of Naruna, showing many signs of nesting though I have not stopped in fields to investigate.

Chickadee. Young birds in nest in cavity in fence post, May 9.

House Wren. Nest in eaves of front porch in home where I was visiting on April 19. Nest was built the week before.

Bewick's Wren. Began building nest in eaves of our front porch, March 22. They stayed around several weeks until something broke up their nest.

Carolina Wren. Began building nest over the one the Bewick's Wren vacated on May 5. May 13, while on a trip along the river in search for sandpipers, I heard the distress notes of a Carolina Wren. I investigated and up on the bluff at foot of a small tree was the nest. A large black snake was trying to swallow the last remaining young which he had taken out of the nest. I found a rock near by and with one throw I smashed his head (of course it was an accident), but the bird's head had already disappeared.

Wood Thrush. Nest in lower limbs of large beech tree. Female sitting on nest May 14. While building nest they found a white handkerchief, partly lace, and tried to work it in nest. They couldn't do much with it, so left it just outside nest. The nest is in a beech near our spring which flows out of a rock in a bluff. Mitchella repens and moss cover the place surrounding the spring, and it is a very cool, dark retreat. I had left the handkerchief at the spring one day and the Wood Thrush was welcome to it. I appreciate his bit of artifice, even though the thrush gets no credit for being sentimental or intelligent.

Unusual Birds near Naruna: On May 13, 2 Solitary Sandpipers were seen on a sand bar on Falling River. I watched them from the old Hobson mill bridge.

On May 8, I found the Wilson Thrush or Veery here in a small strip of woodland near a stream. He was singing his wonderful song and it was very beautiful there in the cool green forest where the ferns, Phlox ovata and hemlock were so luxuriant on that Sabbath morning.

May 8, in the afternoon a Rose-breasted Grosbeak was singing in a tree in our front yard.

May 10, Yellow-throated Warbler in our back yard.

May 17, Wilson Warbler in shrub near a stream.

Bertha Daniel,
Naruna, Va.

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Additions to Membership List:

A	Miss Edna Becker,	401 Furman St., Schenectady, N. Y.
A	W. R. DeGarmo,	Box 229, Blacksburg, Va.
Act	Mrs. J. B. Jurgen,	Box 92, Bon Air, Va.
A	Mrs. A. C. Reed,	1519 Morris Ave., Norfolk, Va.
A	Otis B. Taylor,	2606 The Plaza, Richmond, Va.
A	Mrs. James W. Wiltshire, Jr.,	R. M. W. C., Lynchburg, Va.

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Committee on Virginia Flora
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Virginia Academy of Science

RECENT ARTICLES

Searching for Rock Ferns in Campbell County--Edgar T. Wherry

Plants of the Shale Banks of the Massanutten Mountains of Virginia--
Lena Artz

Exploring for Plants in the Virginia Blue Ridge--Ruskin S. Freer

Ferns and Fern Allies of Mountain Lake, Giles County, Virginia--
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Ruskin S. Freer, Editor, Lynchburg College,
Lynchburg, Va.



The Raven

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DR. J. J. MURRAY, EDITOR
LEXINGTON, VA.

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No. 7

FURTHER NOTES FROM ARDEN

By Ruskin S. Freer

Keeping in touch with the rapidly changing bird population in the spring may be utterly uninteresting and insignificant or tremendously important in exact ratio to one's knowledge of birds. Probably most of us experience some sort of thrill to another's announcement that the first robins have arrived. Doubtless anyone would find his pulse beating a little more rapidly at sight of a V-shaped flock of wild geese flying northward. These are enjoyable experiences because they have meaning for us. Imagine multiplying these sensations a hundred fold or more, with each new bird acquaintance possessing the possibility of conjuring up memories of other springs, or memories of many of one's old haunts and exciting adventures.

My "keeping in touch" during the migration of the past spring was done mainly from our yard. For the first time in several years the regular morning trips had to be omitted. Developing a lawn and flower beds around a new home, where last autumn there had been a dense woods, took time and energy formerly allotted to field trips. Considering the spring's experiences with birds, however, there seems to have been little loss in giving up these trips -- on the contrary it has been a remarkably successful season from the standpoint of new information on local birds. The science of ornithology has not been shaken by new discoveries, but personal knowledge and satisfactions have been advanced. Working in the yard, surrounded by lake and woods, I have had the feeling that a comparatively superficial acquaintance with our birds has been transformed into much more intimate friendship and knowledge of their ways. Instead of hurried trips in the early morning with fragmentary glimpses of what was going on, it has been possible for longer periods to be right out among species of birds formerly seen for only a few moments now and then. It is one thing, for instance, to see a Black and White Warbler for a few seconds, two or three times a week, and quite another to see these birds about one's home all day long, to see them caring for their young.

We enjoy the Wood Thrushes and Catbirds which are nesting in the thicket just back of the house, the Song Sparrows nesting at the edge of the lake in the front yard. They hop about among flower beds or on the lawn and are almost oblivious of our presence. We have especially delighted, however, in the many wild things which have come to our part of the lake which do not visit one's dooryard ordinarily. We will never forget, for instance, the morning in early March when we looked out the front door and saw a male Wood Duck swimming by. This duck remained through the summer, although I never saw a female. We will likewise never forget the early morning when we looked out and saw a Great Blue Heron feeding in the lake at the edge of the yard; or the beautiful pair of Bonaparte's Gulls, resting lightly on the surface of the water or in graceful flight back and forth a few feet above the lake. Another early morning surprise was a trio of Buffleheads, a male and two females, in early April.

One afternoon as I was working in the flower beds I was startled by a loud splash near-by. My first thought was that somebody had spilled a tub of water. Then I saw an Osprey emerging from the lake, shaking himself several times as he ascended and circled. Pied-billed Grebes were common visitors during March, and April brought flocks of Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs frequently. We loved their wild, piping notes.

Three times we have seen a Woodcock fly up from the dense thicket just back of the house. With a startling whir of wings he pops straight up through the trees before he goes off in a horizontal direction. This thicket is to be left as undisturbed as possible, for the exclusive use of Woodcocks, Catbirds, Wood Thrushes and Black and White Warblers. The Ovenbirds delight in it too.

Sitting at the table one warm spring evening, we heard a busy scratching through the open doorway, and looking out, saw a number of Fox Sparrows making the leaves fly. Frequently we have seen other unusual visitors hopping about the doorstep under similar circumstances.

We have actually had only three nests on our premises so far as I know, those of the Song Sparrow, Wood Thrush and Catbird, the last two raising their second broods on our lot. They had their first nests only a few feet away on the adjacent lot. There have been many bird families in the immediate vicinity of our lot, however. There are at least six pairs of Wood Thrushes nesting within a long stone's throw. In a field next to us we have seen families of Red-winged Blackbirds, Bluebirds and Bob-whites. In a large locust tree on the other side a family of Flickers was raised.

Out on the lake there is almost constant bird traffic. Kingfishers, Green Herons, Spotted Sandpipers and Rough-winged Swallows are abundant. Since late June some of the "white herons" appear frequently. On June 28 eight young Little Blue Herons spent the day on our end of the lake. The American Egret has been here twice this summer and more young Little Blue Herons have visited us.

Living among the birds has resulted in many more early and late migration records than usual. These are reported elsewhere in this issue. Probably the greatest surprise of the late dates was the day, June 25, when a Ring-billed Gull rested for part of the afternoon on the lake in front of the house.

We have not yet become accustomed to our new environment and doubtless never will. That is one of the delights of bird-watching. Our constant mood is best expressed in a favorite quotation from John Burroughs:

"It is a surprise that awaits every student of ornithology, and the thrill of delight that accompanies it, and the feeling of fresh, eager inquiry that follows, can hardly be awakened by any other pursuit. Take the first step in ornithology, procure one new specimen, and you are ticketed for the whole voyage. There is a fascination about it quite overpowering. It fits so well with other things,--with fishing, hunting, farming, walking, camping-out,--with all that takes one to the fields and woods. One may go a-blackberrying and make some rare discovery; or, while driving his cow to pasture, hear a new song, or make a new observation. Secrets lurk on all sides. There is news in every bush. Expectation is ever on tip-toe. What no man ever saw before may the next moment be revealed to you. What a new interest the woods have! How you long to explore every nook and corner of them! You would even find consolation in being lost in them. You could then hear the night birds and the owls, and, in your wanderings, might stumble upon some unknown specimen."

Lynchburg, Virginia.

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EASTERN VIRGINIA NOTES

By M. G. Lewis

We have not yet become accustomed to our new environment and doubtless never will. May 20 to 22nd, the writer spent two nights and a day and a half in the wooded swamps of Sussex, Southampton and Isle of Wight Counties. For many years these swamps have held a special appeal to me as I feel that there is much yet to be learned as to the bird life there.

From these and a few previous observations I would name the following as the most abundant species in the order of numbers present: 1. Prothonotary Warbler; 2. Maryland Yellow-throat (mainly along the borders of swamp areas); 3. Red-eyed Vireo; 4. Carolina Wren; 5. Water-thrush; 6. Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher; 7. Yellow-throated Vireo; 8. Acadian Flycatcher. I was rather disappointed on this trip at not finding either of the Night Herons or the Wood Duck, which are usually to be found. The Pileated Woodpecker was much in evidence; and of course many of the warblers not named above. Secrets lurk on all sides. There is news in every bush. Expectation is ever on tip-toe. What no man ever saw before may the next moment be revealed to you. What a new interest the woods have! How you long to explore every nook and corner of them! You would even find consolation in being lost in them. You could then hear the night birds and the owls, and, in your wanderings, might stumble upon some unknown specimen."

Two nests of the Prothonotary Warbler were located, in the swamp along Blackwater River near Zuni. The first nest was in a cavity barely large enough to accommodate it in a small cypress about 6 feet above the water level. The tree had evidently been broken off at that point and was about 6 inches in diameter below this point and possibly three inches above. The nest was in plain view and contained three newly hatched young and one egg. The parent birds evidenced surprisingly little concern at my presence about the nest, the female being more alarmed than the male. After observing the nest carefully I sat down on a log at about 20 feet distance in plain view. In less than five minutes the male bird was at the nest hole alternately peering in and looking at me. After a few minutes he disappeared into the nest hole; soon reappeared, and flew away. After about ten minutes he returned and went through the same procedure. He did not have food for the young as far as I could determine. The female did not come to the nest during the half hour that I remained, but stayed at a short distance, part of the time giving the rather soft alarm note, while at other times apparently unconcerned at my presence. I left the site thinking I might be interfering with her needed attention to the young.

Another nest was located in a black-gum stump only about four feet above the water. It was also in plain sight and contained four eggs. The female was flushed from the nest and both she and the male left the scene entirely and did not return during my wait of twenty minutes.

Prothonotary Warblers are very fearful ss. Often a male bird would approach within five or six feet of me while singing, eye me from one side and then the other, take a worm from a limb, a leaf, or catch an insect on the wing, with no apparent fear whatever.

Salem, Virginia.

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NOTES FROM THE COAST

By Mrs. A. C. Reed

- Feb. 10, 1938, Brown-headed nuthatch at Miss Ryan's, Va. Beach.
" 18, " about 1000 Greater Snow Geese, Canada Geese fine numbers,
few ducks, Back Bay.
" 25, about 100 Pipits, Bayville Farms. 23 Tree Swallows,
flying, Cape Henry.
" 27 3 Red-backed sandpipers, 1 Black-bellied plover (storm
probably accounts for this), Lynnhaven Spit. Woodcock,
Seashore State Park.
" 28 Many Fox Sparrows and Hermit Thrushes, also Brown
Creepers, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Red-bellied Woodpeckers,
Seashore St. Park.
March 6 4 Gannets, Cape Henry.
" 13 Savannah Sparrows migrating, Knott's Island; also
American Egret, American Bittern, King Rail, Long-billed
Marsh Wrens coming into song.

- March 17 Ruby-crowned Kinglet, seemingly in full song, Wild Flower Sanctuary. 9 Cormorants, Lynnhaven Bridge.
- " 21 Purple Martin, Mrs. Thompson's Martin house.
- " 22 Put up 2 boxes for Wood Ducks, Little Creek Lake, with Mrs. Thompson. Later we put up another.
- Courtship of Osprey: female soars, while male performs above her. Male rises perpendicularly up in air, seems to be standing on his tail, flutters wings or hovers, revealing white of breast and underparts, calls q-q-q- all the while, then pitches downward spreading wings and tail. Sometimes downward movement a spectacular dive. Again mounts and continues as before, and this may be repeated until he ascends so high as to be a mere speck in sky. Have counted in one performance, 9 upward steps, each followed with downward swoop. Legs are held straight down and very stiff while mounting. Saw 2 males perform before one female.
- " 27 Courtship of male Red-breasted Merganser: 3 different movements, 1- stretches neck up and down, 2- careens completely over on side, green head rests horizontally almost on water, reveals white under-plumage. 3- pushes head back between shoulders so that it almost seems to rest on back, a slower movement and not as spectacular as throw-back of Golden-eye or Red-headed Duck.
- April 2 About 1200 Greater and Lesser Scaup (mostly Lesser it seemed to me) every morning for a week, Larchmont Bridge in city.
- " 10 125 female Red-breasted Mergansers, Little Creek.
- " 17 Courtship of Pied-billed Grebe: male stands up in water, wings pinned closely to sides, seems to tread water with feet, thrusts out breast, pouter-fashion, then ducks head to belly, and draws it back up pressing bill against breast. When 3 or more performing same time, an attractive sight.
- Courtship of Coot: 13 in group. Male and female swim toward each other, touch white bills together 3 or 4 times as if kissing, then separate.
- " 29 Wilson Snipe, mudpuddle in road, Little Creek.
- " 29 Summer Tanager, Wild Flower Sanctuary.
- May 3 Clapper Rail, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, brackish marsh near my home. Yellow-crowned feeds chiefly on crabs, snaps off legs first, then crushes body in bill.
- " 6 About 300 Bobolinks, Hunchback Rd. Louisiana Water thrush, Wild Flower Sanctuary, also Kentucky Warbler (this did not stay, disturbed by visitors at week-end I believe; in 1937 it nested here and I observed it May 5-8-28, and June 1 and 6). Hooded Warblers, Prothonotary Warblers, and Parulas, 3 abundant warblers in Seashore State Park. Wood Ducks breeding, White Oak Pond, Seashore State Park. Red-headed Woodpeckers nesting, White Oak Pond.
- " 7 Cobb's Island: Red-backed Sandpipers, about 300 one large group, Turnstones, Black-bellied Plovers, Black Skimmers, Oyster Catchers, 21 in one flock flying out to sea, Royal Terns, Least Terns, 1 Common Loon, 7 Wilson Plovers, -- in marshes, Dowitchers and Curlews in good numbers.

- May 8, Chuck-will's Widow, Seashore State Park.
- " 15-17-18 Pungo Marsh: 2 pairs Least Bitterns, Greater Yellow-legs, 9 Little Blue Herons, 4 immature little Blues, 5 American Egrets, American Bittern, 2 Big Blue Herons, King Rail (carrying tiny crawfish to nest, made several trips). Red-headed Woodpecker, nest in dead tree. Purple Gallinule, beautiful view, within 8-9 feet, of this gorgeous bird. Hummingbird about pickerel weeds. This marsh has been beautiful with quantities of water lilies, blue pickerel weed, and water covered as with snow with tiny flowers of sagittaria subulata.
- " 20 Black-throated Blue warbler, male, by my kitchen window, city.
- June 1 Summer Tanager's nest in pine with 2 young that I could see, Wild Flower Sanctuary.
- " 2 3 records of Louisiana Water Thrush on streams between Portsmouth and Elizabeth City. Also 2 Ovenbirds (separate woods)
- " 9 Navy Base: a colony of Chats, 7 males at least, heard 4 singing simultaneously -- also flight performance. 2 Indigo Buntings, singing males; - these abundant about Norfolk.
- " 11 Dismal Swamp: 3 nests of Acadian Flycatcher; did not find Swainson's Warbler.
- " 15 King Rails, parents and 3 young, marsh near my home.
- " 21 2 singing males, Summer Tanager, Seashore State Park.
Female Red-breasted Merganser, Lynnhaven Bridge.
1519 Morris Ave., Norfolk, Va.

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HENSLOW'S SPARROW IN AMELIA COUNTY

By John B. Lewis

In nine summers' residence in Amelia county, the eastern Henslow's Sparrow, Passerherbulus henslowi susurrans, has been found in only two localities.

July 7, 1932, a small colony was found in an old field about six miles east of Amelia Court House. At least two males were singing at this station that day, and again when the place was revisited on July 10. Since that time none have been found there though search has been made many times.

August 2, 1937, a large colony of Henslow's Sparrows was found in a tract of several hundred acres of nearly level old fields in the extreme southeast corner of the county, bordering the Dinwiddie county line. The place is known locally as the old Mill Quarter Plantation. It has a sandy soil on a blue, sandy clay subsoil. The elevation above sea level is about 200 feet. Several plants and trees characteristic of the coastal plain have been found there. This colony was reported in THE RAVEN for July-August, 1937.

My first visit to this place in the spring of 1938 was on April 15, when at least six Henslow's Sparrows were singing from the tops of weeds or small pines in various parts of the tract. May 10, another visit was made to Mill Quarter and at least eight males were singing, each in his own territory. Considerable time was spent in searching for nests, but none were found. The cover of grasses, sedges and other herbaceous plants is very dense in most parts of the tract.

June 7, during a short visit at least five males were singing. June 16, a dozen or more Henslow's Sparrows were singing in various parts of the tract. An intensive search was made in the territory of one singing male, but no nest was found. July 2, in a visit of about one and one-half hours ten singing males were counted.

July 12, in company with M. G. Lewis of Salem, the territory of eight singing males was located, but no nests were found. At this visit some time was spent in studying the singing habits of Henslow's. Usually, but by no means always, the singing bird could be located on the top of a weed or grass stalk, or a small pine, slightly above the general level of the vegetation. Some times a bird whose song was clearly heard for several minutes was either down in the grass or completely hidden in the top of a small pine.

We noticed repeatedly, the ventriloqual quality of the song. In a majority of cases we located the singer at a much greater distance than we expected. There was no mistake as to the bird that was doing the singing, as with binoculars the motions of the head were distinctly seen. I have not seen Henslow's sing on the wing, as described by Chapman.

Amelia, Virginia.

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NOTES ON VIRGINIA BIRDS

By Austin H. Clark

Prothonotary Warbler: This bird is especially common in the gum swamps along the Blackwater and North Landing rivers in Princess Anne County. Is it not normally an inhabitant of these great gum swamps? I visited these swamps on June 14, 1938.

Shrike: Haymarket, May 22, 1938.

Egret: Lake Drummond, June 12, 1938.

Little Blue Heron: Dark adult, Feeder Ditch, June 12, 1938. Dark adults, a flock of five, swamps of the North Landing river, June 13, 1938.

Pileated Woodpecker: On revisiting a colony of a dark form of the common carpenter bee in a telephone pole on the Norfolk Southern Railway at Brinkley on June 11, 1938, I found that a Pileated Woodpecker had bored into many of the cells and destroyed the bees. The woodpecker

bores directly into the galleries of the bee; one gallery may have several holes along it. Later I noticed many of the characteristic borings of this woodpecker in telephone poles, so that I judge that the carpenter bee is a regular item in the food of this fine bird.

On July 3 at Lynnhaven we saw a young merganser, at a distance of about four feet. It was first noticed lying in the grass with its neck stretched out along the ground. Later it scuttled off into the water. I do not pretend to be able specifically to determine young mergansers at sight, but I assumed that it was a Hooded Merganser. It might well have been. There is no reason why they should not occasionally breed about the ponds at Lynnhaven.

In the salt marshes on the same day we saw a sooty downy chick, recently hatched, of the Clapper Rail. The little thing pushed its way rather weakly through the swamp grass, keeping its body close to the ground and its neck stretched out.

The next day we visited the vast marshes of the Back Bay. Our intrusion was strongly resented by the very numerous Marsh Wrens, which swore at us from every available perch. The amount of bird life in these marshes is astonishing.

On the same day we visited the great gum swamp along the North Landing river, driving over the Gum Swamp road from North Landing to Pungo. This swamp is full of birds, much more so than the Dismal Swamp.

On July 10 in Frederick County, north of Winchester, I again noticed the general prevalence and abundance of the Vesper Sparrow.

While we were having lunch we observed the technique of the Hummingbird when visiting large thistles. The bird nestles down into the flower head, closes its wings, and probes the flower head thoroughly with its beak. I never had observed this technique before.

Smithsonian Institution,
Washington, D.C.

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THE BIG SPRING MALLARD'S NEST

V. S. O. members who visited the wild Mallard's nest at Big Spring on the Annual Field Trip may be interested in learning the fate of the eggs. A few days before the field trip there had been ten eggs in the nest. On the field trip we found that two of the eggs had been pushed out. Several of the eggs were pipped at this time. As the eggs neared the hatching time the domestic ducks gave the nesting Mallard a good deal of trouble, so Mrs. Wash took six good eggs out of the nest and put them under a hen. The other two eggs seemed to be infertile. The six eggs hatched successfully and the young ducks are now almost grown. They have the trim appearance of wild ducks. However they look much more like Black Ducks than Mallards. It occurred to me that the male

parent of this brood might be the wild male Red-legged Black Duck with a nicked bill that has stayed at Big Spring for the past three or four years, but Mrs. Wash tells me that this drake has been mated with a domestic duck and that the pair have stayed to themselves all summer. Evidently the mate of the Mallard is one of the nondescript drakes with both mallard and black duck ancestry.

After the six good eggs were taken from the Mallard she continued to sit on the two infertile eggs for a few days. Then, moving to a site on the edge of the pond some forty yards away, she made a second nest and laid ten eggs in this one also. Again the domestic ducks worried her, trampling on her nest and pushing some of the eggs out. Two of the eggs, however, hatched, and the young are half-grown. The young of both broods wander about the barnyard with the young domestic ducks. The two birds of the second brood are still in juvenal plumage and so far look more like the mottled barnyard ducks than the cleanly-marked birds of the first set.

J. J. Murray.

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AMELIA COUNTY NEST NOTES

By John B. Lewis

- March 21, Carolina Wren, 1 egg, in flower pot; 5 eggs finally laid.
March 30, Carolina Wren, nest in English ivy on wall of house, 4 feet from ground, 5 eggs.
April 14, Cardinal, on interlocking branches between two young short-leaf pines that stand about a foot apart; 4 feet from ground, 3 eggs; 3 young birds raised.
April 19, Cooper's Hawk, nest 50 feet up in tulip poplar in lowlands of Smack's Creek.
June 6, Nighthawk, 1 egg on bare ground on top of hill in a pasture field on Sheppard's Dairy farm. Only 1 egg laid. It was incubated faithfully until June 20. Visited June 22, found nest deserted and egg cracked.
June 15, Brown Thrasher, nest on the ground in sedge grass under a small, branching scrub pine 3 feet high. 3 eggs.
June 17, Orchard Oriole, on outer end of a long, slightly drooping limb of a black walnut tree in farm yard.
June 21, Bob-white, in and under sedge grass and dewberry vines in pasture field, 14 eggs. June 23, 13 eggs had hatched. Shells were cut in circle around large end, leaving cap hinged by membrane at one edge. Most of the caps were pressed back into the shells.
July 11, a brood of 4 young Bluebirds left nest box in our back yard and at present, July 18, are still with the old birds about the place. The first nest of this pair in another nest box was broken up by a pair of House Wrens.

Amelia, Virginia.

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LYNCHBURG NOTES

By Ruskin S. Freer

Earliest arrival dates: Pied-billed Grebe, Mar. 5; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Mar. 27; Wood Thrush, Yellow-throated Vireo, April 13; Summer Tanager, Apr. 17; Baltimore Oriole, Catbird and Red-eyed Vireo, Apr. 20; Wood Pewee, Apr. 28; Blue Grosbeak, Apr. 30; American Egret, June 22.

Latest departure dates: Ring-billed Gull, June 25; this was the only appearance of this gull here this spring. I have seen it here only once before, Apr. 18, 1937, when there were seven at Timber Lake. The bird seen this year was observed through glasses at close range, as it rosted on the lake just in front of the house. Osprey, June 14. Lesser Scaup, one male here on June 27. Two pairs remained on the lake from June 3 through June 22. Blue-headed Vireo, May 15.

Other notes: Broad-winged Hawks, which I had always considered as being confined to the mountains here, have appeared every few days up to July 15. Little Blue Heron: eight white young at Timber Lake June 25. Wood Duck: a male arrived March 6 and has remained up to mid-July. All spring and summer he has been almost constantly with a white domestic duck. On April 7, there were two males and one female on the lake, the most I have seen here at one time. (Aug. 17: the one male has remained and we have had many good views of him in eclipse plumage, now just beginning to be replaced by winter plumage.) Scarlet Tanager: a male has been singing at the lake again this summer. On July 11, I heard two males singing in woods near Sherwill, eastern Campbell County. A resident of Altavista reports both Summer and Scarlet Tanagers as residents in an oak grove near her home. Two reports of Scarlet Tanagers from widely separated parts of Lynchburg have come to me this summer, one observer finding a nest. Woodcock: three times this summer we have seen a Woodcock fly up from a dense thicket back of the house, May 20, June 3 and July 9. This evidently indicates breeding here. Black-billed Cuckoo: On June 16, Rev. James Sprunt of Lynchburg found this bird on Apple Orchard Mountain, Bedford County. It was seen also by A. O. English and myself. Bald Eagle: C. B. McCutchen of Altavista, Campbell County, reports the killing of an immature bird a few miles north of Altavista about June 12. It seems singular that of five positive eagle records here, the birds were all immature. It seems that all our eagles are immature birds which range away from the areas where they were reared just as the young of the Little Blue Heron do. In addition to these five records based on birds that were killed, we have several times seen Bald Eagles in the Blue Ridge, but have never seen a mature bird. Cowbird: Apparently much more abundant here this spring and summer. I had always considered it rare as a breeding bird, but it has been common through May and June. Nighthawk: rarely seen in spring here in previous years, I saw and heard Nighthawks frequently in May, and saw one as late as June 9. Swamp Sparrow: heard singing here for the first time this spring, several times, first week in April. Barn Swallow: soon later in the spring than usual, May 20. I have never found it breeding in the Piedmont near Lynchburg, although we found a colony nesting near Montebello in the Blue Ridge in Nelson County, June 28, 1936. On July 6, 1938.

I saw a flock of two old birds and four young on wires in front of the Tavern at Timber Lake. Bonaparte's Gull: a pair present on the lake from April 9 to 15. Canada Goose: just after midnight, early on the morning of April 22, I was awakened by the honking of a flock of geese passing low over the house; an unusually late date. A few days later I read a newspaper account of abnormally late lingering of Canada Geese at some point to the south, in North Carolina I think, where food was abundant. Henslow's Sparrow: two new colonies have been located in Campbell County this spring and summer in addition to the one reported for last summer (RAVEN, November-December, 1937, p. 77). One is at Timber Lake, the other at Sherwill. Summer Tanager: Dr. J. I. Hamaker, head of the Biology Department at Randolph-Macon Woman's College at Lynchburg, has reported twice to me his observations of Summer Tanagers engaged in feeding on wasps and other hymenopterous insects and deliberately tearing up their nests to extract the larvae. He has published one note in The Auk on this practice and it is referred to by Forbush in "Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States". On July 14 we witnessed similar behavior when a male Summer Tanager hovered in mid-air several times under a small porch roof at our home, finally seizing and detaching with its bill a small nest of a Polistes sp., one of the papermakers. The bird evidently located the nest by watching the insects flying to it. We watched it as it tore the nest apart, devouring larvae. Later we watched it dismember and swallow some other sort of adult wasp. Mud-daubers also have a nest under the same porch roof.

Nesting records: Wood Thrush, building first nest, May 13; incubating, May 20; building second nest, June 14; incubating, June 16; young off nest, July 14. Catbird: building first nest, May 20; feeding young, June 14; young off nest, June 19; building second nest, July 9; incubating, July 12. Bluebird: young just off nest, May 11. Bob-white: young out of nest only a day or two, June 23. Black and White Warbler: full-grown young, May 20. Red-winged Blackbird: young in down, May 20. Flicker: young came from nest on May 29.

Ducks at Timber Lake this spring (12 species): Wood Duck, Pintail, Black Duck, Ring-neck, Blue-winged Teal, Hooded Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Golden-eye, Baldpate, Canvas-back, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead.

Lynchburg, Virginia.

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NOTES FROM SCATTERED VIRGINIA POINTS

Massanetta Springs, Rockingham County. On July 22 I saw a male Scarlet Tanager still in the full red and black plumage. He was also in full song. When Dr. Ellison A Smyth published his paper on "Birds Observed in Montgomery County, Virginia" (The Auk, 1912, October, pp. 508-530), he mentioned seeing red males passing south from July 4 to 17. The editor commented that it would seem more probable that the birds had passed into the green plumage by this time. Dr. Smyth later maintained that he was right. The editor of THE RAVEN would be interested in getting the latest dates on which red males have been seen in Virginia.

At Massanetta Springs on the same day I saw a Barn Swallow's nest with nearly grown young on a rafter in the laundry in the Hotel. This laundry room is a semi-basement. Another nest with young was located under the roof of the porch of the Hotel; and an empty nest was seen over the cornice of a window under the eaves of the Hotel roof.

Grayson County. On July 15, I saw one American Egret and one white Little Blue Heron at the power dam on New River, three miles east of Mouth of Wilson. The same day I saw a Black Vulture near the Wytheville Highway, six miles north of Independence, at an elevation of about 3000 feet.

Wise County. Mr. F. M. Jones writes me that he found a breeding pair of White-eyed Vireos on a tributary of Indian Creek, two miles south of Pound, at an elevation of 1610 feet, on May 30, 1938. This was near the place where I heard a male singing in June, 1935.

Leesburg. Mr. W. L. McAtee, of the Bureau of Biological Survey, writes me that there are indications of an increase in the number of Upland Plovers in northern Virginia. Judging from what appear to be sentinel birds he thinks that there are at least three pairs along the highway from Leesburg to the Point of Rocks Bridge.

J. J. Murray,
Lexington, Va.

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A PRELIMINARY LIST OF THE BUTTERFLIES OF ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

By Ellison A. Smyth, IV.

Butterflies caught in Rockbridge County, Virginia, in the year from July, 1937 to July, 1938. The nomenclature follows that of the "Preliminary List of the Butterflies of Virginia", published in June, 1937 by Austin H. Clark and Leila F. Clark.

Family PAPILIONIDAE.

Subfamily Pierinae

Pieris rapae(Linne)
Pieris protodice(Boisduval and LeConte)
Euchloe genutia(Fabricius)
Colias philodice philodice(Godart)
Tortois lisa(Boisduval and LeConte)

Subfamily Papilioninae

Papilio philenor(Linne)
Papilio polyxenes asterias(Cramer)
Papilio cresphontes(Cramer)
Papilio glaucus(Linne)-(forms glaucus turnus, and glaucus
Papilio troilus(Linne) glaucus
Papilio marcellus(Cramer)-(forms ajax, telamonides, marcellus

Family NYMPHALIDAE.

Subfamily Satyrinae

- Neonympha eurytus(Fabricius)
- Cercyonis alope alope(Fabricius)

Subfamily Nymphalinae

- Polygonia interrogationis--forms Fabricius and Umbrosa
- Polygonia comma(Harris)
- Nymphalis antiopa creta(Verity)
- Vanessa atalanta(Linne)
- Vanessa virginionsis(Drury)
- Precis coenia(Hubner)
- Basilarchia arthemis astyanax(Fabricius)
- Basilarchia archippus(Cramer)
- Phyciodes nycteis(Doubleday and Hewitson)
- Phyciodes tharos(Drury)
- Argynnis idalia(Drury)
- Argynnis diana(Cramer)
- Argynnis Cybele(Fabricius)
- Argynnis aphrodite(Fabricius)
- Euptoieta claudia(Cramer)

Subfamily Danaiinae

- Danaus plexippus(Linne)

Subfamily Libytheinae

- Libythea bachmani(Kirtland)

Family LYCAENIDAE.

Subfamily Gerydinae

- Feniseca tarquinius(Fabricius)

Subfamily Lycaena

- Lycaena phlaeas hypophlaeas(Boisduval)

Subfamily Plebeiinae

- Lycaenopsis argiolus pseudargiolus(Boisduval and LeConte)
- Everes comyntas(Godart)

Subfamily Theclinae

- Mitoura gryneus(Hubner)
- Incisalia irus(Godart)

Family HESPERIIDAE.

Subfamily Pyrginae

- Epargyreus clarus(Cramer)
- Thorybes pylades(Scudder)
- Pholisora catullus(Fabricius)
- Erynnis juvenalis(Fabricius)
- Pyrgus communis(Grote)

Subfamily Hesperinae

Ancyloxypha numitor(Fabricius)
Hylephila phylaeus(Drury)
Atalopedes campestris(Boisduval)
Polites manataaqua(Harris)
Poanes zabulon(Boisduval and LeConte)

Colias philodice eurytheme(Boisduval), seen but not caught.
Vanessa cardui(Linne), seen but not caught
Strymon melinus(Hubner, seen but not caught.

With one or two exceptions, all of these butterflies were caught within two or three miles of the town of Lexington. Argynnis diana was found in abundance ten miles out in the county.

Lexington, Virginia.

(While THE RAVEN exists primarily for the spread of knowledge about birds, the Editor will be glad whenever space is available to publish notes on other forms of animal life in Virginia.--Ed.)

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FIELD TRIP PICTURES

Kodak pictures taken on the Annual Field Trip to the Raven's nest and Big Spring Pond, by Dr. Murray and Mr. Eike, may be obtained from Ruskin S. Freer, "Arden", RFD. 2, Lynchburg, Va. Price, 6¢ each. A set is being added to the VSO album. Please order by number.

No. Taken by Murray:

1. Mallard and eggs.
2. Raven nest
3. Whole group in field.
4. Whole group on porch.

Taken by Eike:

5. Collie on porch
6. Small group on porch.
7. Murray in tree by Raven's nest.
8. Whole group in field.
9. Oberholser and Murray.
10. Small group in field.
11. Small group on porch.
12. Brown and Freer.
13. Engleby and Miss Jane Freer.
14. Whole group on porch.



The Raven

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SUMMER BIRDS OF MIDDLE MOUNTAIN, HIGHLAND COUNTY, VIRGINIA

By J. J. Murray

Middle Mountain is the center of a high mountain region which ornithologically is at the same time one of the most interesting and one of the least known sections of Virginia. Professor Maurice Brooks has contributed a few notes to THE RAVEN (November-December, 1935) from this region, but no one else, so far as I know, has spent much time there. There are several reasons why this section is of special interest to Virginia bird students. There is a good deal of country there which is at elevations around 4,000 feet and which is farther north than any other high mountain territory in the State. Furthermore, it is closely connected with the high country of the Alleghany Mountains, where so many interesting finds have been made in recent years. And, finally, it was until recently covered with primitive spruce forests. Here one might expect to find the Canadian fauna in more nearly pure form than anywhere else in Virginia. It is a region which I have longed to visit. Finally on June 4-11, 1938, I had the pleasure of doing some work there. The base of operations was the little cottage on Middle Mountain belonging to the home mission work of the Presbyterian Church.

The territory covered in this paper is the extreme northwestern corner of Highland County, Virginia, of which Middle Mountain is the center, bordered on the west and north by the West Virginia line, on the east by Lance Mountain, and on the south by the northern slopes of Red Oak Mountain which form the headwaters of Straight and Laurel Forks. This territory is about five by seven miles in extent, consisting of three parallel mountain ranges--Lance Mountain(reaching 4,000 feet), Middle Mountain(3,500 to 4,000 feet) and the Alleghany Backbone(3,800 feet)--and two high mountain valleys at 3,000 feet--Straight Fork, between Lance and Middle Mountains, and Laurel Fork, between Middle Mountain and the Alleghany Backbone. The road running west from Crabbottom valley cuts straight across the three mountains and into West Virginia. Lance is a narrow, wooded ridge, while Middle Mountain is a rough plateau about two miles wide with a great variety of country on it. The cottage on Middle Mountain stands at an elevation of 3,500 feet. Sapling Ridge, to the south of the cottage, and Stump Ridge, to the north, rise out of the Middle Mountain plateau to something over 4,000 feet. Red Oak Knob forms

a water-shed, the two streams mentioned flowing north into the North Fork of the South Branch of the Potomac. The two valleys are very narrow, there being one farm on this part of Straight Fork but very little cleared land on Laurel. The tops of the broader ridges on Middle Mountain are open land with beautiful grass. Sapling Ridge has a clearing of three or four hundred acres, made when the spruce was lumbered off about thirty years ago and now dotted with clumps of young spruce and with Crataegus bushes, much like the openings on White Top and Mt. Rogers. The growth on the lower slopes of the ridges consists of cut-over hardwoods, with hemlocks and patches of young spruce in the hollows. Almost all of this country was once covered with fine red spruce forest, but about thirty years ago the spruce was lumbered in a most wasteful fashion and the mountains subsequently burned over, thus destroying much of the beauty of the woods and effecting great changes in the avifauna. Comparatively little land, however, is under cultivation, there being scarcely a dozen farms in the area here covered.

A very interesting feature of the country is the number of wet, marshy places to be found. In this it is like the adjoining mountain country of West Virginia but unlike most of the Virginia mountains. One such swamp close to the cottage comes near being a typical sphagnum bog. It covers possibly a hundred acres, very wet in spots, with high grass and spongy moss turf, higher islands of spruce and hemlock, and thickets of flame azalea about the edge. Along Laurel Fork are other bogs even wetter but more open. Flame azalea was in full bloom all over these mountains during the first week in June. Mountain laurel was just coming into bloom. Rhododendron is mainly confined to the streams. From the higher points of Middle Mountain magnificent views are obtained of range after range of mountains. The high dome of Spruce Knob, West Virginia's greatest peak, is near at hand; and the peculiar formation known as the Devil's Backbone, from the sharp seams of rock sticking up from the top of a ridge, lies just across Crabbottom valley to the east.

The object of this trip was to make a survey of the bird life of this high region, with a special effort to locate some of the northern forms that are found nearby in West Virginia. I wanted also to collect a few birds about the sub-specific identification of which there might be some question. For this purpose specimens of Robin, Chickadee, House Wren, Cairn's Warbler, Yellow-throat, Grackle and Song Sparrow were obtained, but no report has yet been secured on them. As is usually the case there were many surprises on the trip, both as to birds seen and as to birds missed. The greatest disappointment came when I found that there are very few tracts of old spruce left in the whole region, and none of any size that I could discover. No Kinglets, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Brown Creepers or Winter Wrens were seen, although Professor Brooks has found the nuthatch and wren in Highland County. No Hermit Thrushes were found. Veeries were surprisingly scarce. The discovery of the Purple Finch was interesting and unexpected. The bird life of the two little valleys was very different from that in the near-by and not much lower Crabbottom valley, which is much more open and settled country. The list of birds seen is certainly nothing like a complete list of the birds of the region, since Professor Brooks lists a number that I did not find and since there are no doubt others that neither of us has found.

I was in the field almost continuously for five days and covered the various types of country rather thoroughly. The part that was least carefully worked was the Alleghany Backbone along the State line, where only one morning was spent.

In general I might say that this region seems to lie in the upper Transition zone, with a definite Canadian influence. This trip has about brought me to the conclusion that there is no pure Canadian territory in Virginia, even in the sense that parts of West Virginia might be called pure Canadian of a southern type.

The annotated list of the 64 species of birds observed in this region, with comments on some birds not seen, is as follows:

1. Turkey Vulture. Fairly common. A small flock was gathered at the southern end of Sapling Ridge one morning, evidently attending to a dead sheep.

2. Red-tailed Hawk. Seen three times.

(I should like to include a record, which, while just outside the territory included in this paper, is of considerable interest, since it is a record, at least fairly definite, of a Virginia nest of the Golden Eagle. A farmer living at the foot of the Devil's Backbone told me that he had often seen eagles there. From his description of two which he had shot I was reasonably sure that they were Golden Eagles. He then told me that two or three years ago he found an eagle's nest in one of those cliffs, which he could not reach. In his words, the pile of sticks was as large as a hay fork load. The size and location of the nest, taken with his description of the birds and with the fact that Professor Brooks has reported Golden Eagles at this place, seem to me to make the record a satisfactory one.)

3. Sparrow Hawk. Two seen on Lance; one on Sapling Ridge.

4. Ruffed Grouse. Common everywhere. I flushed one bird that was probably a male and found four females with young birds, most of them about the size of day-old chicks of the domestic chicken. The females did not always show the same boldness. On one occasion, although I picked up a young bird and held it in my hand for several minutes before releasing it, the old bird did not come nearer to me than about thirty feet. On another occasion, when the little chicks were in some difficulty in crossing a wet road, the mother ran at me with ruff raised and tail spread, hissing and coming within ten feet of me. As Dr. Alexander Wetmore has pointed out, the Ruffed Grouse of this part of Virginia is the Canada Ruffed Grouse, *Bonasa umbellus togata* ("Observations on the Birds of West Virginia", Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus., Vol. 84, 1937, p. 406).

(The Wild Turkey was listed for this region by Professor Brooks).

5. Woodcock. I flushed three of these birds on June 7, two in the bog below the cottage and one on a dry, wooded hillside. This was similar to the experience which Dr. Wetmore and I had the previous June on

Mt. Rogers, when we found Woodcock in dry woods some distance above a bog where they had probably bred.

6. Mourning Dove. Not common; two seen on Middle Mountain, and two on Straight Fork.

7. Cuckoo, sp? One cuckoo was heard and briefly seen, which I thought was the Black-billed, but the identification was not positive.

8. Whip-poor-will. I have not been accustomed to find this bird on the high mountains and was consequently surprised to find it very common about the cottage. There were at least five singing one night. One of these birds called 220 times without coming to a real stop. Several times it hesitated, and there would then be a few broken notes in the series.

9. Nighthawk. One bird flew about over the cottage each evening.

10. Chimney Swift. One pair seen regularly around the cottage.

11. Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Seen three times on Middle Mountain.

12. Belted Kingfisher. Two seen on Laurel Fork.

13. Flicker. Common. Nest, with young just leaving, June 11, on Laurel Fork.

14. Pileated Woodpecker. A mountaineer told me of shooting at one on Middle Mountain on June 8. I did not see one.

(Professor Brooks found the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker common in the small tracts of spruce on the Alleghany Backbone.)

15. Downy Woodpecker. Nest with young, Laurel Fork, June 10. Only one other bird seen.

16. Crested Flycatcher. Not common; seen at three places on Middle Mountain.

17. Phoebe. Common. Two nests over window frames; one of them with eggs, June 10.

18. Least Flycatcher. Common in open woods around the cottage; also seen on Laurel Fork.

19. Wood Pewee. Common; half-finished nest, June 8.

20. Prairie Horned Lark. A pair seen on Sapling Ridge, June 9.

(Professor Brooks found the Tree Swallow in summer in this section.)

21. Barn Swallow. One seen on Stump Ridge; common on Straight Fork.

22. Blue Jay. Fairly common.

23. Raven. I got many close views of one on Sapling Ridge on June 9. It was the loast shy and the noisiest Raven I ever met with, sitting in full view of me in a dead tree and squalling continually. I also saw two over the Devil's Backbone.

24. Crow. Fairly common.

25. Black-capped Chickadee. Quite common, both on Middle Mountain and on the Alleghany Backbone. I did not see the Carolina Chickadee anywhere in this region. The mountaineers call the Black-cap the "You see bird."

26. Tufted Titmouse. Only one seen, on Newman Ridge, which is a low ridge on the Alleghany side of Laurel Fork.

27. White-breasted Nuthatch. Generally distributed but not common.

(Professor Brooks found the Red-breasted Nuthatch in large spruce on the Alleghany Backbone. I did not see it.)

28. House Wren. Common everywhere. Nest, with young, at the cottage, June 6. They are by no means confined to the houses, but are common on the mountains wherever there is an opening with small dead trees. They are exceedingly shy.

(Professor Brooks found the Winter Wren on the Virginia side of the Alleghany plateau in June, 1931. Although I found places that seemed suitable, I did not see the bird.)

29. Bewick's Wren. Two seen on Middle Mountain.

30. Catbird. Common.

31. Brown Thrasher. Common.

32. Robin. Abundant. Young on the wing.

33. Wood Thrush. Fairly common. Seen on Lance and Middle Mountains and more abundantly on Laurel Fork.

34. Veery. The scarcity of this bird was one of the great surprises of the trip. I heard one singing and heard another call in the bog below the cottage on June 9. These were my only records for the area covered in this paper. I heard one singing in a thick hemlock grove at an altitude of 2,800 feet three miles north of Monterey on the road to Franklin on June 6.

35. Bluebird. Uncommon. Nest with five eggs in stump on Middle Mountain. Three other birds were seen on Middle Mountain and two on Straight Fork.

36. Cedar Waxwing. Abundant.

37. Red-eyed Vireo. Common everywhere, even on the Alleghany Backbone. Every vireo which I followed up and positively identified turned out to be this species. My missing the Mountain Vireo at these altitudes is to me inexplicable, especially since Professor Brooks has found them breeding commonly on the higher ridges in this region. It goes to show that no one trip into any region will give an adequate picture of its bird life.

38. Black and White Warbler. Common.

39. Golden-winged Warbler. Three different males seen on Laurel Fork, and a female carrying food on Newman Ridge. I also saw two males at the hemlock grove referred to above, three miles north of Monterey. From three of these males I heard songs which, though of the same general character, were quite different in syllabification and emphasis.

40. Parula Warbler. Two seen on Middle Mountain; one on Laurel Fork. I tried without success to collect one for identification.

41. Yellow Warbler. One seen on Straight Fork, June 8. In my experience this bird is either missing or scarce in the higher mountain valleys in Virginia. Reports either of its presence or absence in such places in the State would be of interest.

42. Magnolia Warbler. Fairly common along the streams or in marshy places on Middle Mountain and Laurel Fork. Its song could be heard all day in the bog below the cottage.

43. Cairn's Warbler. Common everywhere.

44. Black-throated Green Warbler. Common everywhere.

45. Blackburnian Warbler. One on Middle Mountain; one on Newman Ridge.

46. Chestnut-sided Warbler. The commonest warbler everywhere.

47. Oven-bird. Common everywhere.

48. Yellow-throat. Fairly common on Middle Mountain; common on Laurel Fork. A specimen seems large and bright enough to be the northern form, but I have not yet had a report from it.

49. Yellow-breasted Chat. One heard and seen on Laurel Fork on June 10. In the Virginia mountains the Chat pays little attention to its supposed range, but it did seem odd to stand under the shadow of the Alleghany Backbone and hear a Magnolia Warbler, a Black-capped Chickadee and a Chat singing in unison.

50. Canada Warbler. One on the Alleghany Backbone; three on Middle

Mountain; and eleven in one morning on Laurel Fork.

51. Meadowlark. Three on Stump Ridge.

52. Red-winged Blackbird. Only on Straight Fork; common there.

53. Grackle. A few on Straight Fork. One collected in Crabbottom valley, where they were abundant.

54. Scarlet Tanager. Fairly common everywhere.

55. Rose-breasted Grosbeak. None seen on Middle Mountain; one on the Alleghany; abundant on Laurel Fork.

56. Indigo Bunting. Common everywhere.

57. Purple Finch. I had not gone far on my first walk into the bog below the cottage on Middle Mountain on June 7 before I heard a Purple Finch singing from a dead tree. I got a good view with glasses. It was a bright red adult. So far as I can learn this is the first summer record for the Purple Finch for Virginia. I did not see another during the trip, nor did I see this one again.

58. Goldfinch. Common everywhere, especially in marshy places.

59. Red-eyed Towhee. Common everywhere.

60. Vesper Sparrow. Fairly common in the high pastures on Sapling and Stump Ridges; two seen on Straight Fork. Nest on Sapling Ridge, June 9, with one egg and three young.

61. Carolina Junco. Common to abundant everywhere. Three nests: June 6, four apparently fresh eggs; June 9, three young and a hatching egg; June 10, four small young. Apparently these are first nestings, as I saw only three immature birds on the wing during the week.

62. Chipping Sparrow. Fairly common.

63. Field Sparrow. Common.

64. Song Sparrow. Common.

Lexington, Virginia.



The Raven

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ANNOTATED LIST OF BIRDS

OBSERVED IN AMELIA AND BRUNSWICK COUNTIES

By John B. Lewis.*

Based on observations made in Brunswick county, January, 1912 to December, 1923 and Amelia county March, 1930, to October, 1937.

Common Loon Gavia i. immer.

Brunswick. January 16, 1914, a loon was shot on Meherrin river, in central part of county, and brought to me for identification.

Horned Grebe. Colymbus auritus.

Amelia. Four records. Following a very rainy night, one was seen on Beaver Pond, September 11, 1934.

During a sleet storm, March 23, 1934, one was caught alive on dry land by a farmer on the southern border of the county and brought to me for identification.

March 17, 1936, one was seen on Rowlett's pond, in the center of the county. December 13, 1936, one was seen on Beaver pond.

Pied-billed Grebe. Podilymbus p. podiceps.

Amelia. Not common, but fairly well distributed on the larger ponds. Reported to nest on Rowlett's, Barksdale's and Beaver ponds.

Brunswick. Not common, but a few found on all the larger ponds.

Great Blue Heron. Ardea h. herodias.

Amelia. Rather rare summer visitor. Not known to nest. The greatest concentration I have seen anywhere was on October 9, 1937, when 3 were seen on Appomattox river at the confluence of Flat creek.

Brunswick. Rather rare and irregular summer visitor. Not known to nest.

* This report was prepared for the Virginia Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, supported jointly by the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries of Virginia, the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, the American Wildlife Institute, and the United State Dept. of Agriculture, Biological Survey, cooperating.

American Egret. Casmerodius albus egretta.

Amelia. Two records. One at Beaver Pond August 12, 1934; and one at a very small wooded pond $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of Amelia village, August 27, 1935.

Brunswick. One record. July 9, 1925, a flock of 6 were seen flying up Merhorrin river at considerable height.

Little Blue Heron. Florida c. caerulea.

Amelia. A few are seen about the larger ponds each summer.

Brunswick. Not common but generally distributed in suitable places.

Black-crowned Night Heron. Nycticorax nycticorax hoactli.

Amelia. In the very early morning of May 17, 1931, one was flushed from the bank of an old ice pond near Amelia village. July 17, 1931, a bird in juvenal plumage was seen on a bayou of Deep Creek near Route 38. At dusk on the evening of November 11, 1931, one was flushed from Amelia branch, a half mile below the village. On the night of November 11, 1931, with a full moon in a clear sky, one was flushed from farther down the same branch, probably the same bird seen on the 6th. April 8, 1936, one was seen at the old ice pond near Amelia village.

American Bittern. Botaurus lentiginosus.

Amelia. One seen in April, 1932, in a large wooded swamp near Flat Creek, a half mile above Burton's Bridge.

Canada Goose. Branta c. canadensis.

Amelia. Migratory flocks seen or heard at long intervals in spring and fall migration.

Brunswick. Rare in spring and fall migration.

Common Mallard. Anas p. platyrhynchos.

Amelia. Small flocks seen at rare intervals on Beaver pond in spring migration.

Brunswick. One record, A flock of 6 flushed from Great Creek, 2 miles east of Lawrenceville, in March 1928.

Common Balc Duck. Anas rubripes tristis

Amelia. Three seen on Rowlett's Pond March 17, 1937, four seen on Rowlett's Pond March 16, 1938.

Baldpate. Mareca americana

Amelia. A flock of 20 on Rowlett's Pond, March 16, 1938.

Blue-Winged Teal. Querquedula discors.

Amelia. One dependable record. Following 40 hours of heavy rain a flock of 12 were seen on a rain pond in a large lowground pasture on lower Nibb's Creek, April 26, 1937. Several times teal have been seen on Beaver Pond, but at a distance too great to identify the species with certainty.

Shoveller. Spatula clypeata.

Amelia. One positive record. A pair seen and studied at close range on a small pond a half mile east of Amelia village, March 22, 1932. Ducks probably of this species have been seen on Beaver pond several times at long range.

Wood Duck. *Aix sponsa*.

Amelia. Fairly common on Beaver Pond, Rowlett's Pond, the Appomattox River and the lower reaches of Flat Creek and Namezine Creek, where it nests regularly. May 10, 1937 two young about two thirds grown were seen on Namezine Creek about a mile from its confluence with Appomattox river. They swam rapidly to a grassy spot on the opposite bank where they landed and disappeared. A few minutes later, and a few hundred yards farther down the creek I disturbed what appeared to be a male, that swam rapidly down stream, splashing and squealing excitedly, followed by one duckling that was less than half grown. June 2, 1937, two well grown young and an adult female were seen on Appomattox river half a mile above Bevel's Bridge. June 9, 1937, while collecting plants about a half mile below the Southern railroad bridge across Appomattox river at Mattox station, a female and three young less than half grown were seen. At times the female seemed actually to push the young ahead of her in her haste to get them to safety.

Lesser Scaup Duck. *Nyroca affinis*.

Amelia. Small flocks seen on Beaver Pond in spring migration, usually in March.

Hooded Merganser. *Lophodytes cucullatus*.

Amelia. One record. On Beaver Pond, December 13, 1936.

Turkey Vulture. *Cathartes aura septentrionalis*.

Amelia. Abundant resident, nesting in hollow stumps, under fallen logs and occasionally under ledges of rock. Nesting dates, May 6, 1935, two eggs, one of which was pipped.

Brunswick. Abundant resident. (See "Sight and Scent in the Turkey Vulture", The Auk, Vol. XLV, No. 4, Oct. 1928.)

Black Vulture. *Coragyps a. atratus*.

Amelia. Very common resident, but much more irregular in its movements than the turkey vulture. Often gathers in very large numbers at a large carcass, a horse or cow.

A nest found May 12, 1935, contained two eggs. Revisited May 18, when the bird was still incubating. This nest was under a dense tangle of honeysuckle, *Lonicera japonica*, that covered the bushes at the edge of a field.

Brunswick. Common, but erratic resident.

Sharp-Shinned Hawk. *Accipiter v. velox*.

Amelia. Seen occasionally, mostly between October 1 and March 15. Not known to nest.

Brunswick. Same as above.

Cooper's Hawk. *Accipiter cooperi*.

Amelia. Uncommon resident, though probably the most common of the hawks. Usually nests in lowland woods. Nests, in my experience, are usually 15 to 35 feet high.

A very late nesting date was recorded in 1934, when a pair had a nest 30 feet up in a large white oak that when found on July 9 contained young birds. The last of the young left the nest between July 16 and 18. Young

chicken feathers were found under this nest several times, but a wood thrush and an Acadian flycatcher sang within 50 yards of it much of the time without apparently attracting any attention from the hawks.
Brunswick. Same as for Amelia.

Eastern Red-Tailed Hawk. Buteo b. borealis.

Amelia. Rare and irregular. Not known to nest.

Brunswick. Rather rare resident. Young being fed by parents seen a few times.

Northern Red shouldered Hawk. Buteo l. lineatus.

Amelia. Next to Cooper's our most numerous hawk, though uncommon.

Nesting records in 1937 are as follows: May 18, nest 25 feet up in beech contained very young nestlings; May 25, nest 35 feet up in pin oak in Flat Creek lowgrounds contained young nearly ready to fly.

Brunswick. In 1912 it was fairly common. In 1928 it was rare. Nesting data: May 24, 1917, young nearly grown. May 11, incubating. (This pair nested in a woods adjoining my farm for many years, until a "Bounty Hunter" shot and killed both old birds and the whole brood of young just before they would have left the nest.)

Southern Bald Eagle. Haliaeetus l. leucocephalus.

Amelia. One authentic record. One shot by rabbit hunters near Appomattox river on the north side of the county in December 1935.

Brunswick. Two sight records of birds in adult plumage, both in winter.

Marsh Hawk. Circus hudsonius.

Amelia. Rather rare migrant. Seen occasionally flying low over open fields.

Brunswick. Same as for Amelia.

Osprey. Pandion haliaetus carolinensis.

Amelia. One record. One seen and studied for a half hour as it circled over Rowlett's Pond, April 2, 1937.

Eastern Sparrow Hawk. Falco s. sparverius.

Amelia. Rare and very irregular. Seen mostly in winter. Not known to nest.

Brunswick. Same as for Amelia.

Eastern Ruffed Grouse. Bonasa u. umbellus.

Amelia. Said by old residents to have occurred in Amelia county 25 or 30 years ago, but now seems to be entirely extinct.

Bob-white. Colinus v. virginianus.

Amelia. Common in suitable localities, and seems to be holding about stationary as to numbers. The large acreage of Korean lespedeza being sown by farmers is of great benefit to Bob-white. Sportsmen claim that it has learned to go to the woods and remain in trees when hunted, so that it is very hard to get more than one shot at a covey.

Brunswick. Much the same as Amelia.

Eastern Turkey. Meleagris gallopavo silvestris.

Amelia. Present in almost every large tract of woods in the county, seeming to prefer stream lowgrounds. I often see them when collecting plants in large tracts of forest.

Brunswick. Probably fewer per square mile than in Amelia, though quite a number are found along Meherrin river.

Virginia Rail. Rallus l. limicola.

Amelia. One record. One caught by a boy in a muskrat trap, December 24, 1930, and given to me for identification.

Sora. Porzana carolina.

Amelia. Not seen by the writer. Hunters report it on rare occasions.

American Coot. Fulica a. americana.

Amelia. Rare migrant. Seen a few times on Beaver Pond. One was caught alive on the highway near Amelia village, October 31, 1932. It was apparently completely exhausted.

Brunswick. Rare migrant.

American Oyster-catcher. Haematopus p. palliatus.

Brunswick. One was shot by a farm hand in a dry, open field about 3 miles northeast of Lawrenceville, January 23, 1924. A few days later the owner of the farm on which it was shot told me of the "strange bird". I at once visited the man that shot it and found that he had kept the wings and head, which proved it to be an Oyster-catcher. (See Auk, Vol XLI, P. 473.)

Killdeer. Oxyechus v. vociferus.

Amelia. Locally abundant summer resident, mostly in pasture lands. A few spend the winter, passing extreme cold periods along small, spring fed branches that do not freeze. They usually nest in April.

Brunswick. Less common and more local than in Amelia, probably due to the fact that there are much fewer cattle and less grazing lands. They would rank as locally common summer resident and occasional winter residents. Young out of nest April 27.

Woodcock. Philohela minor.

Amelia. Not common, but fairly well distributed in wooded stream lowgrounds, where it nests regularly. Present all the year, but probably there is a migratory movement.

Brunswick. Same as in Amelia.

Wilson's Snipe. Capella delicata.

Amelia. One record. March 16, 1933.

Brunswick. A few seen in migration, mostly in March and November, usually along small open streams and spring branches.

Upland Plover. Bartramia longicauda.

Amelia. The calls have been heard from the air several times in spring migration. April 27, 1937, after 40 hours of continuous rain, two were heard and seen in a large lowground pasture on lower Nibb's Creek.

Brunswick. The very characteristic call notes were heard from the air a number of times in spring migration, mostly in April.

Spotted Sandpiper. Actitis macularia.

Amelia. Not common but fairly well distributed summer resident along creeks and ponds. First arrival dates, April 26 to May 5.

Brunswick. Same as for Amelia.

Eastern Solitary Sandpiper. Tinga s. solitaris.

Amelia. Rare migrant.

Greater Yellow-legs. Totanus melanoleucus.

Amelia. Rare migrant. Two records, April 5 and August 21, 1933, both at the same small pond.

Lesser Yellow-legs. Totanus flavipes.

Amelia. One record, at old ice pond near Amelia, August 21, 1930.

Herring Gull. Larus argentatus smithsonianus.

Amelia. One seen circling low over fields, March 21, 1933. April 26, 1937, after a 40 hour heavy rain, 5 herring gulls were seen at a rain pool in a large lowground pasture on lower Nibb's Creek, about 3 miles north of Amelia village.

Ring-billed Gull. Larus delawarensis.

Amelia. April 26, 1937, three were seen at the same time and place as the herring gulls mentioned above.

Forster's Tern. Sterna forsteri.

Amelia. April 26, 1937, a single tern of this species was with the gulls mentioned above. It was much easier to approach than the gulls, giving me ample time to study it with 6 X glasses at about 60 yards after the gulls had all flown.

Black Tern. Chlidonias nigra surinamensis.

Amelia. One record, Beaver Pond, September 3, 1934. This bird was studied with 6 X glasses, sometimes at a very close range, as it circled low over the lily pads near the upper end of the pond on a rainy afternoon.

Eastern Mourning Dove. Zenaidura macroura carolinensis.

Amelia. Common resident, Nesting dates from March 30 to September 11. The nest of the latter date contained eggs.

Brunswick. Same as for Amelia, except that latest nesting date is August 27.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Coccyzus a. americanus.

Amelia. Fairly common summer resident. Nest with eggs, July 18, 1931.

Brunswick. Fairly common summer resident.

Black-billed Cuckoo. Coccyzus erythrophthalmus.

Amelia. Summer resident, less common than the yellow-billed.

Brunswick. Fairly common summer resident.

Barn Owl. Tyto alba pratincola.

Amelia. Rare and very local resident. A specimen was shot just east of Winterham in September 1931, and examined by me while on exhibit at a filling station. One was caught in a pole trap on Winterham Farm, April 18, 1934, and kept in a cage until I persuaded its owner to release it.

Brunswick. The screams of one of these owls were heard frequently at night during the last half of August, 1922, at my home near Lawrenceville. I did not see the bird.

Southern Screech Owl. Otus a. asio.

Amelia. Fairly common resident.

Brunswick. Fairly common resident.

Great Horned Owl. Bubo v. virginianus.

Amelia. Rather rare resident, mostly in large tracts of woods remote from human dwellings or activities. Nest notes. February 2, 1933, a nest was located in a tract of about 400 acres of heavy forest about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Amelia village. It was about 20 feet up in a pine about 11 inches in diameter and was probably an old crow's nest. February 11, low, twittering squeaks were heard from the nest, indicating that the young had hatched. March 7, young owls quite active, showing heads and wings above nest and moving about much. Young left nest between March 16 and 18. During this period pieces of several rabbits were found under the nest as well as feathers from a small hawk, a guinea fowl and a blue jay. Blue jay feathers were also found several times under the roost trees of the adults. Pellets found consisted very largely of the bones and fur of rabbits.

Brunswick. A rather rare resident in large tracts of forest. November 3, 1922 I caught a Bubo in a steel trap that was set beside a hen he had killed and partly eaten the night before. It was kept in a large cage until late February 1923, during which time it ate any kind of animal food offered it except frogs. These were offered dead and alive, whole and skinned, but were not eaten. A fair sized stray cat was shot and given it and in 24 hours all that remained of it was the small intestine and a piece of the base of the skull.

Northern Barred Owl. Strix v. varia.

Amelia. Locally common mostly in lowground woods along streams.

Brunswick. Same as for Amelia.

Long-eared Owl. *Asio wilsonianus*.

Brunswick. One record, November 4, 1914, I found one lying in a little-used country road about 2 miles east of Lawrenceville. It was much emaciated.

Chuck-will's-widow. *Antostomus carolinensis*.

Amelia. One record. One heard singing the evening of May 25, 1933, about a mile east of Mannboro, in the southeast part of the county.

Brunswick. Locally fairly common summer resident. First arrival, April 12 to 30.

Eastern Whip-poor-will. *Antrostomus v. vociferus*.

Amelia. Locally common summer resident. Does not seem to be as generally distributed as in Brunswick.

Brunswick. Common summer resident. First arrival dates from March 19 to April 30. Nesting date, half grown young, April 12, 1923.

Eastern Nighthawk. *Chordeiles m. minor*.

Amelia. Fairly common fall migrant. Rare breeder. One nest found contained 2 eggs, July 1; young nearly grown, July 16. (Miss Mary C. Sheppard). Two other pairs that were doubtless nesting were observed through the spring and early summer.

Brunswick. Fairly common fall migrant, occasional in spring. No records of nesting, nor of its occurrence through the nesting season.

Chimney Swift. *Chaetura pelagica*.

Amelia. Abundant summer resident. Dates of first arrivals, April 3 to 14. Average first date about April 11.

Brunswick. Abundant summer resident. Average date of arrival in spring, April 10. In 1927 and again in 1928 a pair of swifts nested on the stone wall of an abandoned well about 7 feet below the curb. I examined this nest on May 14, 1928, when it contained 5 eggs. July 25, 1928 a heavy rain caused a nest containing four nearly fully feathered young to fall to the top of the back wall of a large stone fireplace in my home near Lawrenceville. This gave me a chance to observe the feeding and development of these young swifts at close range. (See Auk, Vol. XLVI, No. 4, October, 1929.)

Ruby-throated Hummingbird. *Archilochus colubris*.

Amelia. Abundant summer resident. Nesting dates, May 7, 1932, nest not yet completed; May 26, 1935, one egg.

Brunswick. Abundant summer resident.

Eastern Belted Kingfisher. *Megasceryle a. alcyon*.

Amelia. Locally fairly common summer resident and occasional in winter. Nesting dates, nest found May 1. Young left nest between June 29 and July 2.

Brunswick. Locally fairly common summer resident and occasional in winter.

Northern Flicker. *Colaptes auratus luteus*.

Amelia. Common resident. Nesting dates, May 25, 1935, feeding very young nestlings; June 3, 1935, feeding young; June 7, 1936 young leaving nest.

Brunswick. Common resident.

Pileated Woodpecker. Ceoph'ous p.pileatus.

Amelia. Uncommon resident. Locally fairly common, in large tracts of forest. Nesting dates, April 30, 1932, incubating; May 12, 1934, feeding very young nestlings; May 3, 1935, feeding young in nest.
Brunswick. Rather rare resident.

Red-bellied Woodpecker. Centurus carolinus.

Amelia. Fairly common resident. Nest record, May 17, 1935, feeding very young nestlings.
Brunswick. Rather rare resident.

Red-headed Woodpecker. Melanerpes erythrocephalus.

Amelia. Very irregular resident and irregularly accidental. A pair usually nests in the dead limbs of a large tulip poplar in an open field near Amelia village.
Brunswick. Very irregular resident. Usually found in groves of large oaks about old residents.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Sphyrapicus v.varius.

Amelia. Fairly common winter resident.
Brunswick. Fairly common winter resident.

Southern Hairy Woodpecker. Dryobates villosus auduboni.

Amelia. Fairly common resident.
Brunswick. Fairly common resident.

Northern Downy Woodpecker. Dryobates pubescens medianus.

Amelia. Common resident.
Brunswick. Common resident.

Red-cockaded Woodpecker. Dyobates borealis.

Brunswick. In 1919 a nesting pair was located in a tract of very large original growth loblolly pines, Pinus taeda, in the south central part of Brunswick county, near "Rock Stone". In early May, 1921, I made a number of visits to them and located their nest in a hole high up in the trunk of a living pine, with pitch glazing the bark below it. In the winter of 1921-22 lumbermen cut down this forest. May 26, 1922, I saw a pair of Red-cockades in the brush and small growth left by the lumbermen, but never saw them afterward.

Kingbird. Tyrannus tyrannus.

Amelia. Very common summer resident. First arrivals in spring show great regularity. Beginning with 1930, there are 4 records of April 22, three of April 24, one of April 27, and one of April 30. The last two are probably incorrect, as they are for 1935 and 1936, when very little time could be spent in the field.
Brunswick. Very common summer resident.

Northern Crested Flycatcher. Myiarchus crinitus boreus.

Amelia. Fairly common summer resident.
Brunswick. Fairly common summer resident.

Eastern Phoebe. Sayronis phoebe.

Amelia. Common summer resident. A few always spend the winter.

Brunswick. Same as for Amelia. (Probably 50% of them now nest under highway bridges.)

Acadian Flycatcher. Empidonax viroscens.

Amelia. Locally fairly common, usually along wooded stream banks.

Brunswick. Same as for Amelia.

Eastern Wood Pewee. Myiochanes virens.

Amelia. Common summer resident. Dates of first arrival in 8 years of observation are May 4-6-4-4-7-7-2-6.

Brunswick. Common summer resident.

Prairie Horned Lark. Otocoris alpestris praticola.

Amelia. Irregular winter visitor and rare summer resident. It seems to have begun nesting here in recent years. A pair nested in a high, open field $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of Amelia village in 1936 and 1937. The nest of 1937 was located and carefully watched by the writer, and visited by Mrs. F.W. Shaw, a V.S.O. member of Richmond. This nest was located on April 10, when it contained 3 eggs, the complete set in this case. All three eggs hatched and the young left the nest on April 21. Another pair, in a high, open field near Earls Post Office, on the Nottaway county line, gave every evidence of having either a nest or young just out of the nest, though neither was actually found.

Brunswick. Very irregular winter visitor. Seen oftenest in very cold, snowy weather.

Tree Swallow. Iridoprocne bicolor.

Amelia. Irregular migrant, mostly in spring.

Brunswick. Irregular migrant, most common in spring.

Rough-winged Swallow. Stelgidopteryx ruficollis serripennis.

Amelia. Rare and irregular migrant and rare breeder. A pair nested in a natural cavity in a sandy clay bank of Amelia Branch in 1933, the nest being found May 21, when it was just completed. The young left nest on Jy. 5. A pair nested across the branch from the 1933 location in 1934, being first located on June 31, when it contained good-sized young. These birds were studied by Mrs. F.W. Shaw and Mrs. O.A. James of Richmond. Nothing was seen of the rough-wings in 1935 or 1936, but in 1937 a pair nested in a last year's kingfisher hole about 100 yards farther down the branch. The young left this nest between June 24 and 26.

Barn Swallow. Hirundo erythrogaster.

Amelia. Irregular and rather rare migrant. Not known to nest.

Brunswick. Same as for Amelia.

Purple Martin. Progne s.subis.

Amelia. Locally common summer resident. A few males often arrive in spring in late March, 10 days ahead of the females.

Brunswick. Same as for Amelia.

Blue Jay. Cyanocitta c.cristata.

Amelia. Very common resident.

Brunswick. Fairly common resident, more common in fall migration.

Southern Crow. Corvus brachyrhynchos paulus.

Amelia. Abundant resident and winter migrant.

Brunswick. Abundant resident and winter migrant.

Fish Crow. Corvus ossifragus.

Amelia. Recorded, April 8, 13, and 27, 1930, and April 2, 1931.

Brunswick. The peculiar calls heard a number of times, mostly in spring.

(All records for Amelia and Brunswick are based on the peculiar cawing of the species, and as most of them are in spring it is possible that they may have been the calls of females of the common crow, though I believe they were the fish crow.)

Carolina Chickadee. Penthestes carolinensis.

Amelia. Common resident.

Brunswick. Common resident.

Tufted Titmouse. Baeolophus bicolor.

Amelia. Common resident.

Brunswick. Common resident.

White-breasted Nuthatch. Sitta c.carolinensis.

Amelia. Fairly common resident.

Brunswick. Common resident.

Red-breasted Nuthatch. Sitta Canadensis.

Amelia. Rare winter visitor. October 24, 1931, three were seen and studied at fairly close range with 6 X glasses in some pines in the edge of Amelia village. November 12, 1933 four were seen on Nibb's Creek, 2 miles west of Amelia village.

Brown-headed Nuthatch. Sitta p.pusilla.

Amelia. Rare nesting summer resident. April 14, 1932, a nest was found in an old downy woodpecker hole in a fence post that separates a large pasture field from pine woods. Young left this nest between April 26 and 30. A small group of brown-heads, usually 5 or 6, were seen in woods near nest December 26, 1932, and February 5 and 9, 1933. In the spring of 1933 a pair nested in a half-rotten pine stump far out in the same pasture field. They were seen by Mrs.F.W.Shaw, Mrs.O.A.James and Miss Ryland of Richmond. None have been seen since the late summer of 1933.

Brunswick. Fairly common resident in south half of county, rare in north half. No nests found, but one record of adults feeding young in south part of county.

Brown Creeper. Certhia familiaris americana.

Amelia. Rare but regular winter resident.

Brunswick. Rare but regular winter resident. I have often noticed that there is usually a brown creeper associated with a flock of Golden-Crowned Kinglets.

House Wren. Troglodytes a. aedon.

Amelia. Common summer resident. Average date of spring arrival April 21.

Brunswick. Fairly common summer resident.

Eastern Winter Wren. Nannus h. hiemalis.

Amelia. Rather rare winter resident. Usually found along banks of little streams, in drift and brush.

Brunswick. Rather rare winter resident.

Carolina Wren. Thryothorus l. ludovicianus.

Amelia. Fairly common resident, frequently woods and thickets about as often as the vicinity of buildings.

Brunswick. Common resident. In 1928 a pair built a nest in a small outhouse at my home, so situated that I could readily see into it. Nest completed, July 14; first egg, July 17; second egg, 18; third egg, 19; fourth egg, 20. All eggs hatched, August 4. Birds left nest, August 16. Incubation period, 15 days. Young in nest 12 days.

Mockingbird. Mimus p. polyglottos.

Amelia. Common resident. There seems to be some migratory movement, as it is often found in winter in territory not occupied in summer.

Brunswick. Common resident.

Catbird. Dumetella carolinensis.

Amelia. Abundant summer resident. If we except a single individual that was seen April 5, 1934, all first arrivals in spring are between April 21 and 26, averaging April 23.

Brunswick. Abundant summer resident.

Brown Thrasher. Toxostoma rufum.

Amelia. Very common summer resident. Rare in winter, January 16, 1936.

Brunswick. Abundant summer resident. Rare in winter, November 20; February 1.

Southern Robin. Turdus migratorius achrusterus.

Amelia. Abundant summer resident. The bulk of the summer residents leave in late summer, August 15, to September 15. There is often a considerable gap between their departure and the arrival of migratory flocks.

Brunswick. Fairly common summer resident. Irregular but usually abundant winter visitor.

Wood Thrush. Hylocichla mustelina.

Amelia. Fairly common summer resident.

Brunswick. Fairly common summer resident.

Eastern Hermit Thrush. Hylocichla guttata faxoni.

Amelia. Rather rare winter resident.

Brunswick. Rather rare winter resident.

Veery. Hylocichla f.fuscescens.

Amelia. Rather rare migrant. Heard singing at rare intervals in spring migration.

Brunswick. Rather rare spring and fall migrant.

Bluebird, Sialia s.sialis.

Amelia. Fairly common resident.

Brunswick. Fairly common resident.

Blue-gray Gnat-catcher. Polioptilla c.caerulea.

Amelia. Common summer resident. Nesting dates; May 27, very young birds; May 31, incubating.

Brunswick. Common summer resident. Nesting dates; May 30, young nearly grown.

Golden-crowned Kinglet. Regulus s.satrapa.

Amelia. Irregularly fairly common winter visitor.

Brunswick. Same as Amelia.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Corthylio c.calendula.

Amelia. Irregularly fairly common spring and fall migrant.

Brunswick. Same as Amelia. Rarely seen in winter in either county.

American Pipit. Anthus spinoletta rubescens.

Amelia. Very irregular migrant, mostly in spring.

Brunswick. Irregular and rather rare migrant and winter visitor.

Cedar Waxwing. Bombycilla cedrorum.

Amelia. Very erratic. Flocks seen from early September until mid May.

Brunswick. Same as above.

Loggerhead Shrike. Lanius ludovicianus ludovicianus.

Amelia. Not common, but regularly distributed resident. The fact that our shrike is the loggerhead, and not the migrant shrike, was proven in the spring of 1933, when I sent the skins of a nesting pair of Dr. Harry C. Oberholser, of the Biological Survey, who wrote that they were loggerheads.

Brunswick. Rather rare resident breeder.

Starling. Sturnus v.vulgaris.

Amelia. Common resident and irregularly abundant winter visitor, large flocks coming mostly in very cold weather.

Brunswick. Rather rare resident breeder.

White-eyed Vireo. Vireo g. griseus.Amelia. Fairly common summer resident.Brunswick. Common summer resident.Yellow-throated Vireo. Vireo flavifrons.Amelia. Common summer resident.Brunswick. Common summer resident.Blue-headed Vireo. Vireo s. solitarius.Amelia. Rare spring migrant. Two records, April 9 and 23.Brunswick. Rather rare spring migrant. The earliest of the genus to arrive in spring. All first dates from March 24 to 29.Red-eyed Vireo. Vireo olivaceus.Amelia. Common summer resident.Brunswick. Common summer resident.Warbling Vireo. Vireo g. gilvus.Brunswick. One song record in spring migration.Black and White Warbler. Mniotilta varia.Amelia. Fairly common, or probably rare, summer resident. Nesting date, May 9, 5 eggs. First arrivals, April 4 to 6.Brunswick. Fairly common summer resident. First arrival dates, April 1 to 5. (The 10 years average of first dates at Eubank, Kentucky, was April 4. see Chapman's "Warblers of North America", P. 40)Worm-eating Warbler. Helmitherus vermivorus.Amelia. One seen at Deep Creek near route 38, May 8, 1934.Blue-winged Warbler. Vermivora pinus.Amelia. A male in full song seen along Amelia branch, near the village of Amelia, April 28, 1936.Parula Warbler. Compsothlypis a. americana.Amelia. Locally common summer resident in wooded stream lowgrounds.Brunswick. Locally common summer resident in wooded stream lowgrounds.Eastern Yellow Warbler. Dendroica aestiva.Amelia. Rare spring migrant.Brunswick. Rather rare spring migrant.Magnolia Warbler. Dendroica magnolia.Amelia. Rather rare spring migrant.Brunswick. Rather rare spring migrant.Black-throated Blue Warbler. Dendroica c. caerulescens.Amelia. Rather rare spring and fall migrant.Brunswick. Rather rare spring and fall migrant.

Myrtle Warbler. Dendroica coronata.

Amelia. Common migrant and rather rare winter resident.

Brunswick. Common migrant and rather rare winter resident.

Black-throated Green Warbler. Dendroica v. virens.

Amelia. Rather rare spring migrant.

Brunswick. Rather rare spring migrant.

Cerulean Warbler. Dendroica cerulea.

Amelia. A few song records in spring migration. Probably should not be definitely listed.

Yellow-throated Warbler. Dendroica d. dominica.

Amelia. Seen three times in southeastern part of county in very early May. Seems to be accidental.

Brunswick. Fairly common summer resident. Dates of first arrival in spring, March 19 to 31.

Chestnut-sided Warbler. Dendroica pensylvanica.

Amelia. Rare spring migrant.

Brunswick. Rare spring migrant.

Black-bold Warbler. Dendroica striata.

Amelia. Fairly common late spring migrant.

Brunswick. Fairly common late spring migrant.

Northern Pine Warbler. Dendroica p. pinus.

Amelia. Fairly common resident except in December and January.

Brunswick. Common resident. Thins out in mid-winter.

Prairie Warbler. Dendroica d. discolor

Amelia. Common summer resident.

Brunswick. Common summer resident.

Yellow-Palm Warbler. Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea.

Amelia. Very rare spring migrant.

Brunswick. Rare spring migrant.

Oven-bird. Seiurus aurocapillus.

Amelia. Rather rare summer resident.

Brunswick. Fairly common summer resident.

Louisiana Water-thrush. Seiurus motacilla.

Amelia. Common summer resident. Nesting date, May 9, very young nestling.

Brunswick. Common summer resident.

Kentucky Warbler. Oporonis formosus.

Amelia. Rather rare, and locally distributed summer resident.

Brunswick. Fairly common summer resident.

Maryland Yellow-throat. Gothlypis t.trichas.

Amelia. Common summer resident.

Brunswick. Common summer resident.

(These songs of this species vary greatly in different localities)

Yellow-breasted Chat. Icteria v.virens.

Amelia. Common summer resident.

Brunswick. Common summer resident.

Hooded Warbler. Wilsonia citrina

Amelia. Rather rare summer resident. Nesting dates: May 27, 1 egg; May 28, 4 eggs.

Brunswick. Fairly common summer resident.

American Redstart. Setophaga ruticilla.

Amelia. Locally common summer resident in wooded stream lowgrounds.

Brunswick. Locally common summer resident in wooded stream lowgrounds.

English Sparrow. Passer d.domesticus. Abundant everywhere.

Bobolink. Dolichonyx oryzivorus.

Amelia. Rather rare spring migrant. Not seen in fall.

Brunswick. Fairly common spring and fall migrant. (The flocks of males in spring frequent alfalfa and clover fields. In Brunswick the fall migrants feed on foxtail grass seed in cowpea and soybean fields)

Eastern Meadowlark. Sturnella m.magna.

Amelia. Fairly common summer resident and common winter resident. Nesting dates May 21, half grown young; July 7, nearly grown young.

Brunswick. Fairly common summer resident, common winter resident.

Eastern Red-winged Blackbird. Agelaius p.phoeniceus.

Amelia. Locally common summer resident, usually in cattail (Typha) swamps. They leave about July 23, and are seen rarely if at all until spring. Nest dates: May 7, 3 eggs; May 16, one egg.

Brunswick. Locally common summer resident. Hardly as numerous as in Amelia.

Orchard Oriole. Icterus spurius.

Amelia. Fairly common summer resident.

Brunswick. Fairly common summer resident.

Baltimore Oriole. Icterus galbula.

Amelia. Rare or accidental spring migrant.

Brunswick. Rare spring migrant.

Rusty Blackbird. Euphagus carolinus.

Amelia. Irregular spring and fall migrant.

Brunswick. Irregular spring and fall migrant.

Purple Grackle. Quiscalus q.quiscala.

Amelia. Nests in local colonies, usually in large trees about buildings. Not generally distributed. Occasional in winter.

Brunswick. Rarely seen except occasional migratory flocks.

Cowbird. Molothrus a. ater.

Amelia. Rare and irregular. Few records.

Brunswick. Rare and irregular summer resident and spring and fall migrant.

Scarlet Tanager. Piranga erythromelas.

Amelia. Rare spring migrant. Occasional pairs have been seen in heavily wooded stream lowgrounds all through May and June, and in 1935 as late as July 28, which indicates that a few pairs may nest, though no nests have been seen.

Brunswick. Rare spring migrant.

Summer Tanager. Piranga r. rubra.

Amelia. Fairly common summer resident.

Brunswick. Common summer resident.

Eastern Cardinal. Richmondona c. cardinalis.

Amelia. Common resident.

Brunswick. Common resident.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Hodymoles ludovicianus.

Amelia. Very rare spring migrant.

Brunswick. Very rare spring migrant.

Eastern Blue Grosbeak. Guiraca c. caerulea.

Amelia. Very irregularly distributed summer resident, mostly in the south-east half of the county. One station in the north side, near Painesville, Nest dates: June 7, 4 eggs; July 23, young birds.

Brunswick. Fairly common summer resident. Congregates in small flocks in late August and early September. Nest date, July 23, young birds.

Indigo Bunting. Passerina cyanea.

Amelia. Not common summer resident.

Brunswick. Fairly common summer resident.

Painted Bunting. Passerina ciris.

Brunswick. June 25, 1925, my daughter saw and studied at rather close range with 6 X glasses, a full plumaged male of this species. The bird came to the shrubbery about our home during my absence. My daughter wrote an accurate description of it while studying it. No other records.

Eastern Purple Finch. Carpodacus p. purpureus.

Amelia. Fairly common but irregular winter resident.

Brunswick. Fairly common but irregular winter resident.

Pine Siskin. Spinus p. pinus.

Brunswick. Usually a rare and irregular winter visitor. A remarkable invasion of siskins occurred in the winter of 1922-23. I was out before dawn the morning of November 15, 1922. It was warm, with a rather heavy fog. The soft call of siskins were coming from the sky in all directions until it was light and the fog began to disappear. Many large flocks were seen and recorded from that date until March 18, 1923.

Eastern Goldfinch. *Spinus t. tristis*.Amelia. Common resident.Brunswick. Common resident.Red-eyed Towhee. *Pipilo e. erythrophthalmus*.Amelia. Not very common summer resident. Irregular winter resident.Brunswick. Not very common summer resident. Rather rare winter resident.Eastern Savannah Sparrow. *Passerculus sandwichensis savanna*.Amelia. Rather rare migrant. Few record.Brunswick. Rather rare migrant.Eastern Grasshopper Sparrow. *Ammodramus savannarum australis*.Amelia. Locally common summer resident. Frequently meadows and pastures.Brunswick. Locally common summer resident.Eastern Henslow's Sparrow. *Passerherbulus henslowi susutrans*.

Amelia. Very local summer resident. July 7, 1932, a small colony was found in a low, partly swampy old field in the central part of the county. They were seen later, several times through July. Two heard singing at the same time. No close watch was kept, but the few visits made to the location in 1933 and since have failed to reveal them. August 2, 1937, when visiting a large tract of level, partly swampy open land in the extreme southeast corner of the county a large colony of Henslow's sparrows was found. In two hours spent walking over this tract I was not out of hearing of singing males at any time, and often there were 3 or 4 in hearing at once.

Eastern Vesper Sparrow. *Pooecetes g. Gramines*.

Amelia. Fairly common spring and fall migrant, and rare and very local summer resident. To date I have found their nests only in an area about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles in extent between Deatonsville and the Prince Edward county line, on the western border of the county. Nesting dates: May 31, 1934, 4 eggs; May 28, 1936, young nestlings.

Brunswick. Fairly common spring and fall migrant.

Bachman's Sparrow. *Amphispiza aestivalis bachmani*.

Amelia. Very irregular in summer. My records are: 1930, May 1, May 8, May 13, May 27; 1931, May 14; 1932, July 12; 1933, May 9; 1935, June 14. No nests found.

Brunswick. Several records of singing males from May 1, to July 15. No nests found.

Slate-colored Junco. *Junco h. hyemalis*.Amelia. Abundant winter resident.Brunswick. Abundant winter resident.Carolina Junco. *Junco hyemalis carolinensis*.

Amelia. Specimens collected in the central part of the county, January 21, and February 10, 1937, in cooperation with Mr. D. Ralph Hostetter of the University of Virginia were identified by Dr. Harry C. Oberholser as of this species.

Eastern Tree Sparrow. Spizella a.arborea.

Amelia. Rare winter visitor.

Brunswick. Rare winter visitor.

Eastern Chipping Sparrow. Spizella p.passerina.

Amelia. Common summer resident abundant spring migrant.

Brunswick. Common summer resident.

Field Sparrow. Spizella p.pusilla.

Amelia. Common resident. Thins out in very cold weather.

Brunswick. Common resident.

White-throated Sparrow. Zonotrichia albicollis.

Amelia. Abundant winter resident. A full-plumaged male was seen and heard singing in Appomattox river lowgrounds near Clementown, June 13, 1930.

Brunswick. Abundant winter resident.

Fox Sparrow. Passerella i.iliaca.

Amelia. Rather rare winter osident.

Brunswick. Rather rare winter resident.

Swamp Sparrow. Melospiza georgina.

Amelia. Rather rare spring migrant.

Song Sparrow. Melospiza m.melodia.

Amelia. Common winter resident.

Brunswick. Common winter resident.



The Raven

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A LIST OF VIRGINIA BIRDS

By J. J. Murray

At a recent meeting of the Executive Committee of the Virginia Society of Ornithology the publication of a nominal list of the birds of Virginia was directed. It was felt that not only Virginia students but those outside the State as well might find such a list useful. The list as here presented is believed to include all forms which have been recorded in Virginia. Data for the occurrence of all these birds, with three exceptions, will be found in the following papers:

1. "A Catalogue of the Birds of the Virginias", by William C. Rives, Newport, R.I., 1890. This book has long been out of print.
2. "Additions to the Virginia Avifauna Since 1890", The Auk, Vol. 50, 1933, April, pp. 190-200. This and the next two papers are by the writer of the present list.
3. "Further Additions to the Virginia Avifauna", THE RAVEN, Vol. 5, 1934, July, p. 1-2.
4. "Recent Records and New Problems in Virginia Ornithology", THE RAVEN, Vol. 9, 1938, June, pp. 39-43.

The three birds not covered in these papers are one form of the Ruffed Grouse, the Southern Carolina Chickadee, and the Florida Grackle. It seems safe to include both forms of the Ruffed Grouse, in spite of the question raised on page 41 of the last of the above papers. Dr. Alexander Wetmore ("Observations on the Birds of West Virginia", Proc. U.S. Nat. Museum, 1937, Vol. 84, p. 407) has shown that birds from the Virginia Alleghanies should be referred to togata, but, as he says, "Peters attributes birds of the Appalachian region to both umbellus and togata". Birds from the Blue Ridge may turn out to belong to umbellus; and it would seem almost certain that lowland birds, formerly occurring as far east as Amelia, belong to this form. As to the Chickadee, a bird collected by the writer in Princess Anne County, August 26, 1938, has been identified by Dr. Wetmore as carolinensis. Dr. Frank M. Chapman ("The Auk", Vol. 52, 1935, January, p. 27) has identified grackles from extreme southeastern Virginia as the Florida Grackle.

In preparing this list it has been thought best to follow strictly the nomenclature of the 1931 A. O. U. "Check-List", even in cases where changes from the 1931 names have already won general acceptance. In forms described since 1931 the name of the author is given and the nomenclature of the author is taken. This, of course, results in occasional inconsistency. It should be mentioned that the total number of Virginia birds as given in the last of the papers named above should have been not 367 but 366. Although the record of the European Teal at Lexington is the first valid record for Virginia, this species should not have been counted in that paper as it had already been counted in Dr. Rives' list. The three other birds included now bring the total to 369.

The list of the species and sub-species which have been recorded in the State of Virginia follows:

1. Common Loon. Gavia immer immer.
2. Red-throated Loon. Gavia stellata.
3. Holboell's Grebe. Colymbus grisegena holboelli.
4. Horned Grebe. Colymbus auritus.
5. Pied-billed Grebe. Podilymbus podiceps podiceps.
6. Sooty Shearwater. Puffinus griseus.
7. Audubon's Shearwater. Puffinus lherminieri lherminieri.
8. Greater Shearwater. Puffinus gravis.
9. Black-capped Petrel. Pterodroma hasitata.
10. Leach's Petrel. Oceanodroma leucorhoa leucorhoa.
11. Wilson's Petrel. Oceanites oceanicus.
12. White Pelican. Pelecanus erythrorhynchos.
13. Eastern Brown Pelican. Pelecanus occidentalis occidentalis.
14. Gannet. Moris bassana.
15. European Cormorant. Phalacrocorax carbo carbo.
16. Double-crested Cormorant. Phalacrocorax auritus auritus.
17. Water-turkey. Anhinga anhinga.
18. Great Blue Heron. Ardea herodias herodias.
19. American Egret. Casmerodius albus egretta.
20. Snowy Egret. Egretta thula thula.
21. Louisiana Heron. Hydranassa tricolor ruficollis.
22. Little Blue Heron. Florida caerulea caerulea.
23. Eastern Green Heron. Butorides virescens virescens.
24. Black-crowned Night Heron. Nycticorax nycticorax hoactli.
25. Yellow-crowned Night Heron. Nyctanassa violacea violacea.
26. American Bittern. Botaurus lentiginosus.
27. Eastern Least Bittern. Ixobrychus exilis exilis.
28. Wood Ibis. Mycteria americana.
29. Whistling Swan. Cygnus columbianus.
30. Common Canada Goose. Branta canadensis canadensis.
31. Hutchin's Goose. Branta canadensis hutchinsi.

32. American Brant. Branta bernicla hrota.
33. Black Brant. Branta nigricans.
34. White-fronted Goose. Anser albifrons albifrons.
35. Lesser Snow Goose. Chen hyperborea hyperborea.
36. Greater Snow Goose. Chen hyperborea atlantica.
37. Blue Goose. Chen caerulescens.
38. Common Mallard. Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos.
39. Red-legged Black Duck. Anas rubripes rubripes.
40. Common Black Duck. Anas rubripes tristis.
41. Gadwall. Chaulelasmus streperus.
42. European Widgeon. Mareca penelope.
43. Baldpate. Mareca americana.
44. American Pintail. Dafila acuta tzitzihua.
45. European Teal. Nettion crecca.
46. Green-winged Teal. Nettion carolinense.
47. Blue-winged Teal. Querquedula discors.
48. Shoveller. Spatula clypeata.
49. Wood Duck. Aix sponsa.
50. Redhead. Nyroca americana.
51. Ring-necked Duck. Nyroca collaris.
52. Canvas-back. Nyroca valisineria.
53. Greater Scaup Duck. Nyroca marila.
54. Lesser Scaup Duck. Nyroca affinis.
55. American Golden-eye. Glaucionetta clangula americana.
56. Buffle-head. Charitonetta albeola.
57. Old-squaw. Clangula hyemalis.
58. American Eider. Somateria mollissima dresseri.
59. King Eider. Somateria spectabilis.
60. White-winged Scoter. Melanitta deglandi.
61. Surf Scoter. Melanitta perspicillata.
62. American Scoter. Oidemia americana.
63. Ruddy Duck. Erismatura jamaicensis rubida.
64. Hooded Merganser. Lophodytes cucullatus.
65. American Merganser. Mergus merganser americanus.
66. Red-breasted Merganser. Mergus serrator.
67. Turkey Vulture. Cathartes aura septentrionalis.
68. Black Vulture. Coragyps atratus atratus.
69. Swallow-tailed Kite. Elanoides forficatus forficatus.
70. Eastern Goshawk. Astur atricapillus atricapillus.
71. Sharp-shinned Hawk. Accipiter velox velox.
72. Cooper's Hawk. Accipiter cooperi.
73. Eastern Red-tailed Hawk. Buteo borealis borealis.
74. Northern Red-shouldered Hawk. Buteo lineatus lineatus.
75. Broad-winged Hawk. Buteo platypterus platypterus.
76. American Rough-legged Hawk. Buteo lagopus s. johannis.
77. Golden Eagle. Aquila chrysaetos canadensis.
78. Southern Bald Eagle. Haliaeetus leucocephalus leucocephalus.
79. Marsh Hawk. Circus hudsonius.
80. Osprey. Pandion haliaetus carolinensis.
81. Duck Hawk. Falco peregrinus anatum.
82. Eastern Pigeon Hawk. Falco columbarius columbarius.
83. Eastern Sparrow Hawk. Falco sparverius sparverius.

84. Eastern Ruffed Grouse. Bonasa umbellus umbellus.
85. Canada Ruffed Grouse. Bonasa umbellus togata.
86. Eastern Bob-white. Colinus virginianus virginianus.
87. Texas Bob-white. Colinus virginianus texanus.
88. Ring-necked Pheasant. Phasianus colchicus torquatus.
89. Eastern Turkey. Meleagris gallopavo silvestris.
90. King Rail. Rallus elegans elegans.
91. Northern Clapper Rail. Rallus longirostris crepitans.
92. Virginia Rail. Rallus limicola limicola.
93. Sora. Porzana carolina.
94. Yellow Rail. Coturnicops noveboracensis.
95. Black Rail. Creciscus jamaicensis stoddardi.
96. Purple Gallinule. Tonornis martinica.
97. Florida Gallinule. Gallinula chloropus cachinnans.
98. American Coot. Fulica americana americana.
99. American Oyster-catcher. Haematopus palliatus palliatus.
100. Piping Plover. Charadrius melodus.
101. Semipalmated Plover. Charadrius semipalmatus.
102. Wilson's Plover. Pagolla wilsonia wilsonia.
103. Killdeer. Oxyechus vociferus vociferus.
104. American Golden Plover. Pluvialis dominica dominica.
105. Black-bellied Plover. Squatarola squatarola.
106. Ruddy Turnstone. Arenaria interpres morinella.
107. American Woodcock. Philohela minor.
108. European Woodcock. Scolopax rusticola rusticola.
109. Wilson's Snipe. Capella delicata.
110. Long-billed Curlew. Numenius americanus americanus.
111. Hudsonian Curlew. Phaeopus hudsonicus.
112. Eskimo Curlew. Phaeopus borealis.
113. Upland Plover. Bartramia longicauda.
114. Spotted Sandpiper. Actitis macularia.
115. Eastern Solitary Sandpiper. Tringa solitaria solitaria.
116. Eastern Willet. Catoptrophorus semipalmatus semipalmatus.
117. Greater Yellow-legs. Totanus melanoleucus.
118. Lesser Yellow-legs. Totanus flavipes.
119. American Knot. Calidris canutus rufus.
120. Pectoral Sandpiper. Pisobia melanotos.
121. White-rumped Sandpiper. Pisobia fuscicollis.
122. Baird's Sandpiper. Pisobia bairdi.
123. Least Sandpiper. Pisobia minutilla.
124. Red-backed Sandpiper. Pelidna alpina sakhalina.
125. Eastern Dowitcher. Limnodromus griseus griseus.
126. Long-billed Dowitcher. Limnodromus griseus scolopaceus.
127. Stilt Sandpiper. Micropalama himantopus.
128. Semipalmated Sandpiper. Ereunetes pusillus.
129. Western Sandpiper. Ereunetes maurii.
130. Buff-breasted Sandpiper. Tryngites subruficollis.
131. Marbled Godwit. Limosa fedoa.
132. Hudsonian Godwit. Limosa haemastica.
133. Ruff. Philomachus pugnax.
134. Sanderling. Crocethia alba.
135. Avocet. Recurvirostra americana.
136. Black-necked Stilt. Himantopus mexicanus.

137. Red Phalarope. Phalaropus fulicarius.
138. Northern Phalarope. Lobipes lobatus.
139. Pomarine Jaeger. Stercorarius pomarinus.
140. Parasitic Jaeger. Stercorarius parasiticus.
141. Glaucous Gull. Larus hyperboreus.
142. Iceland Gull. Larus leucopterus.
143. Great Black-backed Gull. Larus marinus.
144. Herring Gull. Larus argentatus smithsonianus.
145. Ring-billed Gull. Larus delawarensis.
146. Laughing Gull. Larus atricilla.
147. Franklin's Gull. Larus pipican.
148. Bonaparte's Gull. Larus philadelphia.
149. Gull-billed Tern. Gelochelidon nilotica aranea.
150. Forster's Tern. Sterna forsteri.
151. Common Tern. Sterna hirundo hirundo.
152. Roseate Tern. Sterna dougalli dougalli.
153. Least Tern. Sterna antillarum antillarum.
154. Royal Tern. Thalasseus maximus maximus.
155. Cabot's Tern. Thalasseus sandvicensis acuflavidus.
156. Caspian Tern. Hydroprogne caspia imperator.
157. Black Tern. Chlidonias nigra surinamensis.
158. Black Skimmer. Rhyncops nigra nigra.
159. Razor-billed Auk. Alca torda.
160. Brunnich's Murre. Uria lomvia lomvia.
161. Dovekie. Alle alle.
162. Eastern Mourning Dove. Zenaidura macroura carolinensis.
163. Passenger Pigeon. Ectopistes migratorius.
164. Eastern Ground Dove. Columbigallina passerina passerina.
165. Carolina Paroquet. Conuropsis carolinensis carolinensis.
166. Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Coccyzus americanus americanus.
167. Black-billed Cuckoo. Coccyzus erythrophthalmus.
168. Barn Owl. Tyto alba pratincola.
169. Eastern Screech Owl. Otus asio naevius.
170. Southern Screech Owl. Otus asio asio.
171. Great Horned Owl. Bubo virginianus virginianus.
172. Snowy Owl. Nyctea nyctea.
173. Northern Barred Owl. Strix varia varia.
174. Long-eared Owl. Asio wilsonianus.
175. Short-eared Owl. Asio flammeus flammeus.
176. Saw-whet Owl. Cryptoglaux acadica acadica.
177. Chuck-will's-widow. Antrostomus carolinensis.
178. Eastern Whip-poor-will. Antrostomus vociferus vociferus.
179. Eastern Nighthawk. Chordeiles minor minor.
180. Chimney Swift. Chaetura pelagica.
181. Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Archilochus colubris.
182. Eastern Belted Kingfisher. Megasceryle alcyon alcyon.
183. Northern Flicker. Colaptes auratus luteus.
184. Northern Pileated Woodpecker. Ceophloeus pileatus abieticola.
185. Southern Pileated Woodpecker. Ceophloeus pileatus pileatus.
186. Red-bellied Woodpecker. Centurus carolinus.
187. Red-headed Woodpecker. Melanerpes erythrocephalus.
188. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Sphyrapicus varius varius.
189. Eastern Hairy Woodpecker. Dryobates villosus villosus.

190. Southern Hairy Woodpecker. Dryobates villosus auduboni.
191. Northern Downy Woodpecker. Dryobates pubescens medianus.
192. Southern Downy Woodpecker. Dryobates pubescens pubescens.
193. Red-cockaded Woodpecker. Dryobates borealis.
194. Eastern Kingbird. Tyrannus tyrannus.
195. Arkansas Kingbird. Tyrannus verticalis.
196. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. Muscivora forficata.
197. Northern Crested Flycatcher. Myiarchus crinitus boreus.
198. Eastern Phoebe. Sayornis phoebe.
199. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. Empidonax flaviventris.
200. Acadian Flycatcher. Empidonax virescens.
201. Alder Flycatcher. Empidonax traillii traillii.
202. Least Flycatcher. Empidonax minimus.
203. Eastern Wood Pewee. Myiochanes virens.
204. Olive-sided Flycatcher. Nuttallornis mesoleucus.
205. Northern Horned Lark. Otocoris alpestris alpestris.
206. Prairie Horned Lark. Otocoris alpestris praticola.
207. Tree Swallow. Iridoprocne bicolor.
208. Bank Swallow. Riparia riparia riparia.
209. Rough-winged Swallow. Stelgopteryx ruficollis serripennis.
210. Barn Swallow. Hirundo erythrogaster.
211. Northern Cliff Swallow. Petrochelidon albifrons albifrons.
212. Purple Martin. Progne subis subis.
213. Northern Blue Jay. Cyanocitta cristata cristata.
214. Northern Raven. Corvus corax principalis.
215. Eastern Crow. Corvus brachyrhynchos brachyrhynchos.
216. Southern Crow. Corvus brachyrhynchos paulus.
217. Fish Crow. Corvus ossifragus.
218. Southern Black-capped Chickadee. Penthestes atricapillus praticus.
219. Northern Carolina Chickadee. Penthestes carolinensis extimus Todd.
220. Southern Carolina Chickadee. Penthestes carolinensis carolinensis.
221. Tufted Titmouse. Baeolophus bicolor.
222. White-breasted Nuthatch. Sitta carolinensis carolinensis.
223. Red-breasted Nuthatch. Sitta canadensis.
224. Brown-headed Nuthatch. Sitta pusilla pusilla.
225. Northern Brown Creeper. Certhia familiaris americana.
226. Southern Brown Creeper. Certhia familiaris nigrescens Burleigh.
227. Eastern House Wren. Troglodytes aedon aedon.
228. Ohio House Wren. Troglodytes domesticus baldwini Oberholser.
229. Eastern Winter Wren. Nannus hiemalis hiemalis.
230. Southern Winter Wren. Nannus hiemalis pullus Burleigh.
231. Bewick's Wren. Thryomanes bewicki bewicki.
232. Carolina Wren. Thryothorus ludovicianus ludovicianus.
233. Long-billed Marsh Wren. Telmatodytes palustris palustris.
234. Wayne's Marsh Wren. Telmatodytes palustris waynei Dingle & Sprunt.
235. Prairie Marsh Wren. Telmatodytes palustris dissaeptus.
236. Short-billed Marsh Wren. Cistothorus stellaris.
237. Eastern Mockingbird. Mimus polyglottos polyglottos.
238. Catbird. Dumetella carolinensis.
239. Brown Thrasher. Toxostoma rufum.
240. Eastern Robin. Turdus migratorius migratorius.
241. Southern Robin. Turdus migratorius achrusterus.
242. Wood Thrush. Hylocichla mustolina.

243. Eastern Hermit Thrush. Hylocichla guttata faxoni.
244. Russet-backed Thrush. Hylocichla ustulata ustulata.
245. Olive-backed Thrush. Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni.
246. Gray-cheeked Thrush. Hylocichla minima aliciae.
247. Bicknell's Thrush. Hylocichla minima minima.
248. Veery. Hylocichla fuscescens fuscescens.
249. Eastern Bluebird. Sialia sialis sialis.
250. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Polioptila caerulea caerulea.
251. Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglet. Regulus satrapa satrapa.
252. Eastern Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Corthylio calendula calendula.
253. American Pipit. Anthus spinoletta rubescens.
254. Cedar Waxwing. Bombycilla cedrorum.
255. Northern Shrike. Lanius borealis borealis.
256. Loggerhead Shrike. Lanius ludovicianus ludovicianus.
257. Migrant Shrike. Lanius ludovicianus migrans.
258. Starling. Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris.
259. White-eyed Vireo. Vireo griseus griseus.
260. Yellow-throated Vireo. Vireo flavifrons.
261. Blue-headed Vireo. Vireo solitarius solitarius.
262. Mountain Vireo. Vireo solitarius alticola.
263. Red-eyed Vireo. Vireo olivaceus.
264. Philadelphia Vireo. Vireo philadelphicus.
265. Eastern Warbling Vireo. Vireo gilvus gilvus.
266. Black and White Warbler. Mniotilta varia.
267. Prothonotary Warbler. Protonotaria citrea.
268. Swainson's Warbler. Limnethlypis swainsoni.
269. Worm-eating Warbler. Helminthos vermivorus.
270. Golden-winged Warbler. Vermivora chrysoptera.
271. Blue-winged Warbler. Vermivora pinus.
272. Bachman's Warbler. Vermivora bachmani.
273. Tennessee Warbler. Vermivora peregrina.
274. Orange-crowned Warbler. Vermivora celata celata.
275. Nashville Warbler. Vermivora ruficapilla ruficapilla.
276. Northern Parula Warbler. Compsothlypis americana pusilla.
277. Southern Parula Warbler. Compsothlypis americana americana.
278. Eastern Yellow Warbler. Dendroica aestiva aestiva.
279. Magnolia Warbler. Dendroica magnolia.
280. Cape May Warbler. Dendroica tigrina.
281. Black-throated Blue Warbler. Dendroica caerulescens caerulescens.
282. Cairns's Warbler. Dendroica caerulescens cairnsi.
283. Myrtle Warbler. Dendroica coronata.
284. Black-throated Green Warbler. Dendroica virens virens.
285. Wayne's Warbler. Dendroica virens waynei.
286. Cerulean Warbler. Dendroica cerulea.
287. Blackburnian Warbler. Dendroica fusca.
288. Yellow-throated Warbler. Dendroica dominica dominica.
289. Sycamore Warbler. Dendroica dominica albilora.
290. Chestnut-sided Warbler. Dendroica pensylvanica.
291. Bay-breasted Warbler. Dendroica castanea.
292. Black-poll Warbler. Dendroica striata.
293. Northern Pine Warbler. Dendroica pinus pinus.
294. Kirtland's Warbler. Dendroica kirtlandi.
295. Northern Prairie Warbler. Dendroica discolor discolor.

296. Western Palm Warbler. Dendroica palmarum palmarum.
297. Yellow Palm Warbler. Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea.
298. Oven-bird. Seiurus aurocapillus.
299. Northern Water-Thrush. Seiurus noveboracensis noveboracensis.
300. Grinnell's Water-Thrush. Seiurus noveboracensis notabilis.
301. Louisiana Water-Thrush. Seiurus motacilla.
302. Kentucky Warbler. Oporornis formosus.
303. Connecticut Warbler. Oporornis agilis.
304. Mourning Warbler. Oporornis philadelphia.
305. Northern Yellow-throat. Geothlypis trichas brachidactyla.
306. Maryland Yellow-throat. Geothlypis trichas trichas.
307. Athens Yellow-throat. Geothlypis trichas typhicola Burleigh.
308. Yellow-breasted Chat. Icteria virens virens.
309. Hooded Warbler. Wilsonia citrina.
310. Wilson's Warbler. Wilsonia pusilla pusilla.
311. Canada Warbler. Wilsonia canadensis.
312. American Redstart. Setophaga ruticilla.
313. English Sparrow. Passer domesticus domesticus.
314. Bobolink. Dolichonyx orizivorus.
315. Eastern Meadowlark. Sturnella magna magna.
316. Yellow-headed Blackbird. Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus.
317. Eastern Red-wing. Agelaius phoeniceus phoeniceus.
318. Orchard Oriole. Icterus spurius.
319. Baltimore Oriole. Icterus galbula.
320. Rusty Blackbird. Euphagus carolinus.
321. Boat-tailed Grackle. Cassidix mexicanus major.
322. Purple Grackle. Quiscalus quiscula quiscula.
323. Florida Grackle. Quiscalus quiscula aglaeus.
324. Bronzed Grackle. Quiscalus quiscula anneus.
325. Eastern Cowbird. Molothrus ater ater.
326. Scarlet Tanager. Piranga erythromelas.
327. Summer Tanager. Piranga rubra rubra.
328. Eastern Cardinal. Richmondia cardinalis cardinalis.
329. Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Hedymeles ludovicianus.
330. Eastern Blue Grosbeak. Guiraca caerulea caerulea.
331. Indigo Bunting. Passerina cyanea.
332. Dickcissel. Spiza americana.
333. Eastern Purple Finch. Carpodacus purpureus purpureus.
334. Common Redpoll. Acanthis linaria linaria.
335. Northern Pine Siskin. Spinus pinus pinus.
336. Eastern Goldfinch. Spinus tristis tristis.
337. Red Crossbill. Loxia curvirostra pusilla.
338. Newfoundland Crossbill. Loxia curvirostra perna.
339. White-winged Crossbill. Loxia leucoptera.
340. Green-tailed Towhee. Oberholseria chlorura.
341. Red-eyed Towhee. Pipilo erythrophthalmus erythrophthalmus.
342. Alabama Towhee. Pipilo erythrophthalmus canaster.
343. Lark Bunting. Calamospiza melanocorys.
344. Ipswich Sparrow. Passerculus princeps.
345. Eastern Savannah Sparrow. Passerculus sandwichensis savanna.
346. Eastern Grasshopper Sparrow. Ammodramus savannarum australis.
347. Eastern Henslow's Sparrow. Passerherbulus henslowi susurrans.
348. Sharp-tailed Sparrow. Ammospiza caudacuta caudacuta.

349. Southern Sharp-tailed Sparrow. Ammospiza caudacuta diversa Bishop.
350. Nelson's Sparrow. Ammospiza caudacuta nelsoni.
351. Northern Seaside Sparrow. Ammospiza maritima maritima.
352. Eastern Vesper Sparrow. Poocetes gramineus gramineus.
353. Eastern Lark Sparrow. Chondestes grammacus rammacus.
354. Bachman's Sparrow. Aimophila aestivalis bachmani.
355. Slate-colored Junco. Junco hyemalis hyemalis.
356. Carolina Junco. Junco hyemalis carolinensis.
357. Eastern Tree Sparrow. Spizella arborea arborea.
358. Eastern Chipping Sparrow. Spizella passerina passerina.
359. Eastern Field Sparrow. Spizella pusilla pusilla.
360. White-crowned Sparrow. Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys.
361. White-throated Sparrow. Zonotrichia albicollis.
362. Eastern Fox Sparrow. Passerella iliaca iliaca.
363. Lincoln's Sparrow. Melospiza lincolni lincolni.
364. Swamp Sparrow. Melospiza georgiana.
365. Eastern Song Sparrow. Melospiza melodia melodia.
366. Atlantic Song Sparrow. Melospiza melodia atlantica.
367. Mississippi Song Sparrow. Melospiza melodia euphonia Wetmore.
368. Lapland Longspur. Calcarius lapponicus lapponicus.
369. Eastern Snow Bunting. Plectrophenax nivalis nivalis.

(Brewster's Warbler, Vermivora leucobronchialis, which as a hybrid has been dropped from the A.O.U. "Check-List", has been recorded in Virginia.)

(Additional copies of this list may be secured at fifteen cents each from the Secretary, Dr. Florence S. Hague, Sweet Briar, Virginia.)



The Raven

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THE RAVEN

By Jacob H. Hostetter

The Raven, the wonder bird of the air! Probably no other bird has been so long "Sat for", in order to be studied, and yet is as little known as is the Raven.

The Raven seems to be mentioned in Holy Writ in numerous places recording instances of God's protecting love and goodness. For example, a Raven was sent out by Noah to see if the waters were abated on the earth. Gen. 8:7. This bird was not allowed as food. Leviticus 11:15. Ravens were the means under divine command of feeding the prophet Elijah. I Kings 17:4-6; Job 38:41; Luke 12:24; Psalm 147:9. The Ravens are mentioned as making the place of desolation. Isaiah 34:11. Their glory and beauty is mentioned in Song of Solomon 5:11.

I have watched the Ravens very closely in summer and in winter; they seem to be constantly on the go; they seem to have certain places to visit, for what purpose I cannot tell. One special place is on what is known as Thomas Mountain. There I have watched them for hours; they soar high, and stand still in the air for ten minutes; then they will drop straight down to within twenty feet of the ground, and then seem to take a second look for something; then they go down on the ground, and I have gone to this place on the ground, and could find no evidence of anything there. They would also stand or tremble their wings over a large yellow pine at this place, and make all kinds of sounds.

I have found it better to study the Raven in damp, foggy weather, for then you can get closer to them; and at most times you can find two to five, and sometimes as many as seven together. In cold weather I often see one or two flying around the mountain top, making their natural noise.

In my judgment no kind of bird is quicker on the wing than is the Raven. He can turn right or left like a flash, and will often drop many feet in the air like a stone; turn up-side-down, and fly just the same. I have watched them fight the Turkey-buzzard, chase and worry him until he would vomit, then drop down and catch the vomit, and return to their retreat.

I have watched them fight the large Red-tailed Hawk single-handed. I have seen the hawk get worried, and turn on the Raven, and do his best to kill the

Raven. But the Raven is so skilled in dropping right or left, or downwards, that the hawk gets tired out, and gives it up; he will go off and leave the Raven, and give up in defeat, leaving the mountain.

I have also visited rough, desolate places, where there was little life, and have found the Raven there. I well remember one damp morning, visiting this rough place,- crawling up like a cat, and watching four Ravens on a large dead pine. I got within a hundred feet of them, and peeped through at them; they seemed to be talking one to the other; they would put their heads together, and ruffle their feathers, and spread their tails, and make all kinds of queer sounds, grunts and groans, and keep up a gurgling or chuckling in their throats. If I had not been looking right at them I would have left the mountain in a run. I have heard them make sounds like the ringing of a bell, which is very clear. I have noted the fact that ^{when} the Ravens fly around, and make that doleful sound of theirs in bad weather, it is a sure sign of pretty weather.

If any sort of stock, such as a horse, cow, or hog, dies in the neighborhood, and is not soon buried, you may then listen for the Ravens, for they will surely come to get the eyes. They delight to pick out the eyes from dead animals.

This writer has given much time for the past ten years to the study of Ravens. I have watched them at all seasons, and have gotten much joy in studying these wonderful birds. There are times when you will not see or hear a Raven for thirty days; then all of a sudden they will appear, and you will see and hear them every day for thirty or forty days. I remember once five Ravens came to the woods, on a dry hill, and they came every morning for some time. I looked the ground over carefully, and all I could find were small holes drilled in the ground, where they seemed to be getting grubs of some kind.

On April 23, 1931, I watched the old Ravens and three young ones playing in the air; and the old ones seemed to be training the young to fly. At the same place on May 24, 1932, I watched the old Ravens and five young ones being trained to fly. So we may be sure that weather conditions change their breeding time. If the winter is bad until late, they will not make their nest till the weather begins to warm up.

On June 13, 1934, I watched twelve Ravens on top of what is known as Dale's Mountain. This is the largest number of Ravens I have seen together for ten years. I have been trying to find the Raven's nest, for some years. I would watch every move of the Ravens, hoping to locate him. But I failed until in April, 1938. Then I noted Ravens sailing about White Rock Mountain. On April 8th I was working up close to the mountain, and heard the Ravens making much ado. They were giving their alarm note, very quick, and they seemed to be fighting something. I watched their movements, and where they would return to. On April 17th I went to the mountain to try to find the nest. As I went up near the timber I saw one Raven come out over me, fighting with a crow; I watched them for some time, and the Raven returned to the mountain near where the nest proved to be located.

After climbing the mountain for some four hundred yards, I saw the Raven come around the eastern side of the mountain, White Rock Mountain, and he lit on a dead tree. I watched him for some little time, and he then dropped off under the timber, and I did not see where he went. As I got up near the cliff I heard the Ravens making a queer noise; and they seemed to be keeping hid. I moved on up to the large rocks, and looked in and on every place I thought the nest might

be. I saw both Ravens sail out over the north end of White Rock Mountain, so very high I could hardly tell what they were; and I just walked around the cliff, and spied the nest in a pocket of the cliff, twenty feet from the ground, and thirty-four feet from the top down.

I went back to the nest on the 18th, with Dr. J. J. Murray and Mr. S. Y. Hoyt, and we made a ladder, and investigated the nest. It had but one young bird in it. The nest was about three feet long, and eighteen inches deep, and was made of sticks of pine, of ivy and myrtle and bark. In the center of this pile was the nest proper, a deep nest lined with grapevine bark, grass, and wool; nine inches across, and seven inches deep. The young bird had down something like a young goose, and a few pin-feathers on back, wings, tail, and back of head.

On July 8, 1938 I watched two Ravens fighting a large hawk, but I was not close enough to tell for sure what kind of a hawk it was; they were very high and soon drove him out of my sight.

In closing my short note on the Raven I will say I referred to some few verses from the Bible, which will give some thoughts of God's love for this wonderful bird.

May we study together all we can, and put our minds together, and swap ideas concerning the Raven.

Lexington, Virginia.

(This paper, giving Mr. Hostetter's first-hand observations of the Raven at his home high on the slopes of White Rock Mountain, aroused much interest when presented at the 1938 meeting of the V.S.O.--Ed.)

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FIRST RECORDED CAPTURE OF THE SWALLOW-TAILED KITE IN VIRGINIA

By Ellison A. Smyth, Jr.

On Sunday morning, August 21st, 1938, a friend, Mr. W. H. Oakley, of Salem, Virginia phoned me that a wounded hawk had been brought to him for identification, which had been shot near Salem, Virginia; that he thought it must be a "freak" as he had never seen or heard of anything like it. Upon meeting him and Mr. P. D. Coon, well known dog trainer of this neighborhood, who had shot the hawk, I saw, to my amazement a fine specimen of the Swallow-tailed Kite, with a broken wing, but alive. Mr. Coon, who raises "Bob-whites" for stocking purposes, said he had just turned loose a number of well-grown birds, and that this hawk had swooped down at them. Getting his gun, he shot the bird as it lit on a nearby fence, and wished to find what it could be. I told him of its normal range and snake-eating habits, and would have wished to have the specimen, but he was unwilling to part with it, and intended to have it mounted.

This is only the third record for Virginia, I believe, and the first record of the capture of this beautiful Southern Hawk in Virginia.

Rt. 2, Salem, Virginia.

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NOTES FROM HIGHLAND COUNTY

By Maurice Brooks

Highland County, Virginia, with its high Allegheny mountain ranges and its considerable areas of Red Spruce, is a fascinating area, biologically speaking, and on July 20, 1938, I had the pleasure of exploring rather thoroughly the rugged knife-edged mountain known as the "Devil's Backbone." A number of ornithological observations seem worth recording.

Just north of the more precipitous portions of the mountain is a high ridge over which fire has swept, and where are standing many dead trees. Around the borders of this area, where good timber appears, a number of Olive-sided Flycatchers (Nuttallornis mesoleucus), appearing to be adults and birds of the year, were noted. They were characteristically flying from one dead treetop to another, with frequent excursions into the evergreens. The loud notes were given occasionally.

On the west face of the cliff, overlooking the village of Crab Bottom, two apparently fresh, but unoccupied, nests of Chimney Swifts (Chaetura pelagica) were located. The nests were plastered against the rock, just under a slight overhang. The birds dashed quite close to us while we were inspecting the nesting site, but we saw no evidences of occupied nests. It seems quite possible that the birds we noted may have been preserving an ancestral trait in their selection of a breeding place.

It was pleasant to see a number of Ravens flying about the cliffs, and to note three species of Buteos, Red-tailed, Red-shouldered, and Broad-winged Hawks. Golden Eagles were looked for, but none were seen.

A few days previous to our Devil's Backbone visit, a group of us found Olive-backed Thrushes singing on Allegheny Mountain, Pocahontas County, West Virginia, within one mile of the Highland County border.

West Virginia University,
Morgantown, West Virginia.

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BACHMAN'S SPARROW IN GILES COUNTY, VIRGINIA

By E. R. Grose

On August 9, 1938, a group from the Mountain Lake Biological Station of the University of Virginia carried on bird study in the New River valley. At a point about four miles northwest of Goodwin's Ferry, Giles County, at an elevation of about 1800 feet, the songs of two Bachman's Sparrows (Aimophila aestivalis bachmani) were heard, and one of the birds was seen. One of the birds sang continuously his unmistakable song; the other one was heard from the opposite hillside.

The birds were found on the slopes above small coves, in brushy fields where shrub invasion was getting well started. Despite the lateness of the season and the heat of the day the song was full and melodious.

So far as I am aware, this constitutes the first record for the species in Giles County.

From other bird species noted the surrounding area would seem to fall into the Carolina faunal zone, Mockingbirds, Bowick's Wrens, Carolina Wrens, and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers having been seen.

State Teachers College,
Glenville, West Virginia.

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RANDOM NOTES FROM MOUNTAIN LAKE, VIRGINIA

By D. Ralph Hostetter

During my period of study at the Mountain Lake Biological Station, June 8 to July 23, I made a number of observations which may be of interest to readers of THE RAVEN.

My work centered about the Carolina Junco, (Junco hyemalis carolinensis.) I was very fortunate this summer in finding a Junco nest containing five eggs, and another containing five 2-day old nestlings. Clutches of five occur very infrequently. Compared with the previous summers, the Junco nests were scarce. I found nests which from all appearances were of this year, but they were empty. After having caught a chipmunk (Tamias striatus) in the act of carrying away and presumably eating four 3-day old nestlings, I concluded I had a probable explanation for my empty nests. Later in the summer one of the Station instructors saw a chipmunk seize a Robin fledgling which had just left the nest. The robin was rescued but died from the wounds. I have also found nests containing empty shells. A small hole was made in the shell and the contents sucked out. Probably the chipmunks are more destructive to ground-nesting birds than is generally supposed.

An Ovenbird's nest and a Canadian Warbler's nest were found on the bank along the White Pine Lodge road. The four eggs to the Ovenbird's nest were destroyed before hatching. The warbler reared her brood. Her nest was built in the bank about a foot above the road bed, under a clump of dead Christmas Fern fronds. The nest measured-outside diameter, 3 3/4 in.; inside diameter, 2 in.; depth, 1 1/4 in. It was constructed of dried leaves and grass, and lined with fine grasses and rootlets.

It was not uncommon to see a mother Ruffed Grouse with a flock of 6 to 12 half-grown young. Indications are that the Grouse are increasing in the Mountain Lake region.

Two dead Woodcock, at an interval of a week apart, were picked up from the roadside near the Post Office during the fore part of July. Apparently they were blinded and struck by an automobile coming over the hill from the Lake. Bones and beak were broken.

Robins were most abundant; six nests were occupied at the same time on the Station "lawn". Back of the cottages and along the roads many nests could be located.

The Phoebe which built her nest on the small ledge above the laboratory window last summer, returned and built her new nest on top of the former, making a two-story nest. One of the Hotel guests reported her strange observations on a Phoebe's nest. The nest was built on a ledge in the stone arch over the driveway in front of the Hotel. The nest contained young in the early part of July. On a certain afternoon she noticed the adult feeding the young which appeared very healthy and lively. The following morning the three nestlings were dead, and the adult was not seen at all. I had no explanation for this peculiar occurrence. Is it likely that the adult had obtained poisoned food from some source?

A pair of Broad-winged Hawks reared two nestlings in a dead chestnut tree along the White Pine Lodge road. The nest, about 50 feet above the ground, was poorly and loosely built of sticks. The young left the nest July 20.

A female Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was seen feeding young in a hole in a dead chestnut tree near the top of Butt Mountain, approximately 4000 feet.

Mourning Doves were not seen at any time during the period I was at Mountain Lake.

Probably the most popular birds with the Station folks were the Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. Three nests were located very close to the cottages. A device was constructed by which one could see into the nest. This consisted of a long pole to which was attached at the upper end a small mirror, tilted at an angle so as to give an excellent view into the nest. Through the use of this pole both eggs and young could be studied. In the case of one nest the eggs hatched on the eleventh day after incubation began.

During the past two summers Hummingbird feeding stations have been erected by the director of the Station. The feeding device consists of a bottle fitted with a one-hole stopper provided with a delivery tube bent at such an angle that when the bottle is inverted the open end of the tube is turned slightly upward. This prevents a loss of the food, and also permits the birds to get it readily. The food is a sugar solution made by adding six teaspoons of sugar to one pint of water. If the solution leaves the delivery tube too freely, the flow may be checked by inserting into the tube a small grass stem. To make the feeder conspicuous and attractive, a red ribbon was tied around the tube near the open end. Hummingbirds are very tame and will come to the feeder and sip within three or four feet of the observers.

Eastern Mennonite School,
Harrisonburg, Virginia.

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SOME SPECIMENS FROM MIDDLE MOUNTAIN, VIRGINIA

By J. J. Murray

By the kindness of Dr. Alexander Wetmore, who made the identifications, I am now able to report on the sub-specific status of some birds collected on and near Middle Mountain, Virginia, in the first week of June, 1938. For information as to localities mentioned the paper in the August issue of THE RAVEN may be consulted.

Southern Black-capped Chickadee. Penthestos atricapillus practicus Oberholser. A female collected on June 8 just on the Virginia side of the State line at the top

of the Alleghanies turns out, as would be expected, to be this form. (Cf. Proc. Biol. Soc. of Washington, Vol. 50, pp. 219-220, 1937, "Description of a New Chickadee from the Eastern United States," by H. C. Oberholser.) Dr. Wetmore writes of this specimen, "Your bird is somewhat paler than specimens from the Great Smoky Mountains, but is darker than true atricapillus. This is probably the breeding form of the higher mountains of western Virginia wherever this species occurs." The sex glands of this bird were small, as was the case with females of all species collected that week, while in all males the glands were much enlarged.

Ohio House Wren. Troglodytes aedon baldwini. A male of this race was collected on Laurel Fork on June 11.

Eastern Robin. Turdus migratorius migratorius. Three specimens: a male, June 7, Middle Mountain; a male, June 8, top of Alleghanies; a female, June 11, picked up dead in the road three miles south of Monterey. Dr. Wetmore writes: "I have called all of the robins migratorius although one from the top of the Alleghanies taken June 8 is somewhat intermediate toward the southern bird." It seems odd that the one bird which was not quite typical was the bird which came from the point highest and nearest the great Alleghany plateau.

Cairns's Warbler. Dendroica caerulescens cairnsi. A male collected on Middle Mountain, June 10. The question has been raised as to whether birds from this section of the mountains might not be the northern rather than the southern race. Dr. Wetmore identifies this bird as cairnsi.

Northern Yellow-throat. Geothlypis trichas brachidactyla. A male collected on Middle Mountain on June 7 is the first breeding record for Virginia for this race.

Ridgway's Grackle. Quiscalus quiscula ridgwayi intermediate. The relationships and nomenclature of the grackles is a very complex matter. Dr. Frank M. Chapman, who has been trying to straighten out these questions, recognizes four forms: The Florida Grackle (Q. q. quiscula), which just reaches the coast of Virginia in not quite typical form; the Bronzed Grackle (Q. q. acncus), the Mississippi valley bird, which is an uncommon migrant through western Virginia; Stone's Grackles (Q. q. stonei), which is what we have ordinarily considered the Purple Grackle and which is the breeding bird of most of Virginia, including the Valley of Virginia proper; and Ridgway's Grackle (Q. q. ridgwayi), which is an intergrade between the Bronzed and Stone's Grackles. Those who may be interested in this puzzle may consult Dr. Chapman's papers in 'The Auk,' January, 1935, and October, 1936. Dr. Wetmore identified a female grackle taken in Crabbottom valley on June 8 as ridgwayi. I may add that he identified a grackle which he and I collected in my back yard at Lexington on June 1, 1936 as stonei, and one which we got nine miles southwest of Pulaski on June 1, 1936, as ridgwayi.

Mississippi Song Sparrow. Melospiza melodia cuphonia. A male collected on Middle Mountain on June 7.

Lexington, Virginia.

NOTES ON BIRDS OF PRINCESS ANNE COUNTY, VIRGINIA, JULY-AUGUST, 1938

By John H. Grey

Wilson's Petrel: July 9, Cape Henry, a few seen by Capt. W. B. Stell, Virginia Pilot Assoc.; July 15-Bay from Cape Henry to Washington, none noted, W.B.S.; July 24-Cape Henry, numerous, W.B.S.; July 31-Cape Henry, 2, J.H.G.;

American Merganser: 2 females, August 9, at Lynnhaven Inlet.

Black Rail: 1, July 6, Dam Neck Coast Guard Station, F. H. Craighill.

Semipalmated Plover: July 17, 1st noted; August 9, common.

Ruddy Turnstone: July 31st, 1st noted; August 9, numerous.

Solitary Sandpiper: July 23rd, 1st noted.

Least Sandpiper: July 31, 6 at Virginia Beach, 1st noted.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: August 9, a few Virginia Beach, 1st noted.

Common Tern: July 6th, 6; July 17th, numerous for 1st time; July 23rd, common.

Least Tern: July 6th, 15 in 30 mile trip along coast; July 17th, numerous for 1st time.

Nighthawk: July 21- August 10, one seen irregularly at cottage at Ocean View.

Hummingbird: July 6th, numerous.

Barn Swallow: July 3rd, nest with nearly-grown young, Little Creek bridge; birds are fairly common on wires nearby.

Purple Martin: July 4th, census from cottage to end of Willoughby Spit, about 6 miles, 112 birds. July 22nd, all boxes are deserted, but birds still numerous.

Brown-headed Nuthatch: July 3rd, feeding fully-fledged young out of nest at Cape Henry.

Eastern House Wren: July 17th, nesting at Lynnhaven, said to be second nest this year.

Robin: July 6, only one noted on 30 mile trip along coast, but are numerous in Norfolk.

Bluebird: July 6, scarce along the coast, few noted inland.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: August 11, 2 adult feeding 1 young at Virginia Beach, bird out of nest.

Prairie Warbler: July 3, feeding young out of nest at Cape Henry.

Chat: July 6, common through^{out} county.

Hooded Warbler: July 27, 1 in State Park, Cape Henry.

Grackle: (Sp.???) July- common around cottage and in Norfolk. August- rare along coast, but several seen in town.

Summer Tanager: July 17th, 1 female at Lynnhaven inlet.

Field Sparrow: July 3rd, feeding young apparently just out of nest at Cape Henry.

Atlantic Song Sparrow: July 10th, feeding young, fully fledged at cottage. July 23rd, nest and 3 young (left nest 26th) at cottage.

The following notes are from the records of S. A. Walker, Manteo, North Carolina, Junior Manager, Pea Island Migratory Waterfowl Refuge.

1937

October 21, 4 Swan near Back Bay, early date for these. November 10, usual date.

November 5, 50 Swan on Back Bay, near Caffey's Inlet.

November 17, 50 Swan near Back Bay, many imm.

November 24, 107 Swan Back Bay, many are imm. Ducks have moved on.

December 1, Vernon Halstead of Back Bay says Ruddy Duck is the most abundant of the diving ducks, including Canvasback and Lesser Scaup.

December 10, 600 Greater Snow Geese on Back Bay, near Princess Anne Club House.

December 23, Several Gannets on Back Bay.

December 31, 2 Black-bellied Plover near Caffey's Inlet. Several Horned Grebe also noted.

1938

February 10, Horned Larks (Sp. ?) noted in Princess Anne County.

April 1, 1 Dowitcher at Back Bay, first noted this year. 1 Swan also noted.

June 6, Small nesting colony of Least ^{Terra} 1 mile south Princess Anne Club.

Raleigh, North Carolina.

NOTES FROM NORFOLK

By Mrs. A. C. Reed

July 14 Seashore State Park: 2 Acadian flycatchers, Pocahontas Trail, and one at cypress pool; all were singing. 1 Parula and 2 Hooded warblers singing weak, diminished songs.

July 21 Princess Anne Courthouse: I was driving slowly when I heard a 'g-slick!' Saw Sparrow on top of wood some distance back from road, and inaccessible. Heard one other nearer, and 2 across road, but could not see any of the singers. I was disappointed not to be sure they were Henslow's. Drove along and a little farther, heard 'g-slick' again. Got out of car and almost walked into little singer in bush. Two across road seemed to be trying to outdo each other singing their little songs facing each other from wood tops about two feet apart. Farther along road, another 'g-slick!' Saw 5 singing males in all, and feel certain there were more. The habitat consisted of tall woods, which I have not identified. The sparrows especially like to sing from these; they bent in the wind. One so tossed about, he could hardly keep his perch. There was also swamp milkwood, meadow beauty (rhoxia mariana), scutch cane (arundinaria tecta) and some cat-tails. I had excellent study of the sparrows, noting green cast of side of neck, black spot below ear and line leading to ear, fine black lines on upper breast and sides, and short, thin tail; one especially quite red on wings. In the same place was a pair of grasshopper sparrows. Male tried to distract me by flying across road and singing from tops of furrows. There was also one pair of field sparrows (all 3 species close together.) Both Field sparrows had white grubs in their mouths. 19 Black Vultures soaring together.

July 22 Seashore State Park: Heard 2 Chuck-will's-widows. Followed one about. In dusk could see white on outer tail feathers as it flew ahead of me. I have only heard the Chuck-will here. Believe most people call it 'whip-poor-will.' I am familiar with whip-poor-will from childhood in my home in Massachusetts and the White Mountains. April 25, 1937, I flushed a Chuck-will from the ground on the Dogwood Trail. It was a female, and lit on a stump not far away.

July 28 Because so many people do not think the Indigo Bunting common here, I checked on the singing males today, and between Ballentine Blvd. and Nimo's Church, Princess Anne Courthouse (about 19 miles) I counted 10. At the colony of Henslow's sparrows, P. A. Courthouse, I saw 6 today. Later at the lower end of Virginia Beach, heard 2 others as I drove along; did not investigate.

Little Creek Marsh. 2 Snowy egrets. These were feeding in water close to bridge. Noted black legs, (narrow yellow in rear) yellow toes. Bill black noticeably bright yellow at base.

August 4 Little Creek Marsh, mussy inlet: One Louisiana heron. (Last year I saw what I felt sure was a Louisiana in this same place, but it was not a satisfactory view. However, September 2, I saw one at Lynnhaven spit, a near and fine view.)

The eye very quickly picks out this heron, mostly because of its beautiful white underparts and manner of feeding. The Louisiana seems to feed much as the Little Green, that is it crouches low and in this awkward position slowly advances; or it crouches by some shallow pool, leaning out, as does the Green, waiting for prey. We have not had a large flock of egrets and herons at this marsh this year

so far as I know. Last year, August 1, I counted 300. There was one small group of 12 Snowy herons, which, while I was watching, fed with the Am. egrets and not with the large group of immature Little Blue herons. The same day, at Lynnhaven spit, was a single little Snowy, which was running about in the tide pool in the distracted manner of Greater Yellow-legs. Again September 10, there was a Snowy on the spit (and one Willet.)

Woods by muddy inlet: 1 Acadian flycatcher singing; 1 Hummingbird. It is surprising to me the Hummingbirds one comes upon in the woods here. I suppose it is because there are so many vines, particularly the Chinese honeysuckle (which it was feeding on today) and the Trumpet flower (tecoma radicans.) Now the sweet pepperbush (Clethra alnifolia) is very fragrant.

Lynnhaven Bridge. 9 Black skimmers on spit. Most of them were standing with their huge bills wide agape.

August 10 Little Creek Lake: 2 young Ospreys making short flights away from next and back. 1 male Wood duck flying. Hunchback Rd: 100 and more Killdeer (many young) in field where men were ploughing. Marsh, Cottage Toll Rd: 1 immature Yellow-crowned Night heron, King rail, Least bittern, which came from grasses and advanced over mud flats to stream. When this little bittern comes into the open, the slowness of his movements equals anything in the slow movies. 2 Least terns.

August 18 Lynnhaven Spit: 11 Royal, terns, 3 Caspian terns, 2 Least terns, 5 Dowitchers, 11 Semipalmated plovers, 1 Black Skimmer.

August 21 Navy Base: 2 Snowy egrets.

August 25 Cape Henry: Sanderlings, 2 Caspian terns, 6 Ruddy Turnstones. Each fall I have seen migrating Turnstones climbing over the logs thrown up on the beach by the tide, going from one log to another, and with their sharp bills pecking open the barnacles, and drinking up the little animals within.

Little Creek Inlet: 11 Little Blue herons, 4 Immature Little Blue herons, 33 Great Blue herons, 1 Snowy egret, 2 Am. egrets, 1 Louisiana heron, (this may be the same reported on August 4). I notice the little Snowy egret advances thru the water pushing with one foot then the other in a circular movement, which stirs up the mud, and then it pecks this way and that rapidly with its bill.

In woods by Inlet: a little moving band of 10 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, 6 Pine warblers, singing, 3 Black and White warblers, 2 Tufted Titmice, Carolina Chickadees.

September 22 (The day after the hurricane.) Little Creek. 11 Golden Plovers 1 Black-bellied plover, 5 of the Golden plovers were in transition plumage, with some black beneath, conspicuous white forehead and superciliary, and 3 showing white down side of neck, the rest were in winter plumage, a golden brown on breast, all showed whitish on forehead. The Black-bellied plover kept with the group, altho it pecked at the Golden plovers and was pecked in return by three. I noticed the lack of black axillars on the Golden plovers when they flew, and their wings to me appeared dark brown. Also 6 Common terns and 1 Forster's tern.

October 2 Lynnhaven Bridge: 35 Double-crested cormorants flying, 30 Black Skimmers. Sunset is the best time to see the manouvers of the Black Skimmers, when they fly up and down the estuary in beautiful, compact flight. 100 Laughing Gulls, Herring gulls back in all 3 plumages, but this year's young greatly predominate in numbers right now.

October 12 Seashore State Park: Myrtle warblers and Juncos are back. Also saw 2 Red-bellied woodpeckers (do not see these in summer.)

White Hill Pond: 2 adult Bald eagles and 1 young. We do not know whether or not there are 2 eagle's nests in this park. As we approach the lake the eagles begin calling. The sound coming across the pond is extraordinarily musical, not harsh, and consists of from 5-7 kuks, the last 2 or 3 notes on descending scale. We thought once the call came from an adult.

(200 CCC men are going to work in this park this winter.)

October 30 Lynnhaven Bridge, late in the afternoon. A cold day with a strong wind from the north. Ducks passing south fast, riding high on the wind. Some groups kept out to sea, following the coast. Others without breaking in the least their formation swept up the estuary of the Lynnhaven River, heading for Back Bay. Observing the migration from this point, it seemed the ducks were coming down the Potomac-Chesapeake flyway. I could only identify 2 groups, both widgoons, one numbering about 70, the other 35. There was one group of 9 Canada geese, and 2 groups of cormorants 3, 6, (7 seen later at Cape Henry.) Also at the bridge were 6 Caspian terns, (2 at Cape Henry), and about 50 Laughing gulls were still at the bridge.

November 2 Seashore State Park. Pileated woodpecker. We had been eating our lunch, and listening to a woodpecker drumming. As we started back along trail, the woodpecker gave his loud kuk - kuk call. Then the Pileated flew into a tree and was seen as he scaled up the side of the trunk.

November 10 Back Bay. Mr. Bailey took us out to the Biological Survey Refuge. We saw about 4000 geese and 6000 ducks. Widgeons were in greatest numbers, 1000 or so; then pintails, then lesser numbers of Blacks, Scaup, some Mallards, scattered numbers of Ruddy ducks, a small raft of coots (75) and 1 small group of Green-winged teal (10). There were no swans. We saw 1 Boat-tailed grackle, and a flock of Red-winged blackbirds, chiefly females and young it seemed, and 4 Great Blue herons.

November 20 Cape Henry. A cold, strong wind blowing in from the sea. 3 Gannets. These were not diving, but moving south. In the distance, I tell a gannet, by its size and its gloaming whiteness and sharply black-tipped wings. When not diving, the flight along the coast is often a remarkably even, long-undulating one:



November 22 City Airport. 200 Killdeer in field. City Water-works: on the pond today were 33 mallards which are semi-domestic. They do not belong to anyone, they go to surrounding bodies of water, but they nest on an artificial island provided for their use. There were 5 Black ducks, probably also semi-domestic. There were 3 Shovellers, and 1 Green-winged teal. This is the 1st record of shovellers and green-winged teal I have had about Norfolk. With the teal, the shovellers took flight as I approached, but returned and settled again on pond.

December 8 Cape Henry. A group of 25 Red-breasted mergansers, males not in

full plumage, but crests dark and more bushy than females. Small groups of these mergansers kept passing back and forth along coast. Group of 13 cormorants flying south; 3 fishing, in close to shore. White-winged scoter, flying. This was perfectly seen, it flew along close to shore, not far above the water, an all black duck - scoter shape - with the distinctive white wing patches.

On November 17, 1937, I saw 1 American scoter and 1 female Old-squaw at Cape Henry. This was after a northeast storm. The Old-Squaw rested on the water all the time we were there, fully an hour. The Scoter flew low above the water, an all black duck, but even the orange color on its bill was seen. (I am familiar with these northern species, having spent one winter studying them.)

1519 Morris Ave., Norfolk, Virginia.

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BREEDING NOTES FROM LYNCHBURG AND VICINITY

By Kingsley Stevens

Unless otherwise stated, all nests were found by Kenneth Lawless, Billy McIntosh, and Kingsley Stevens within an eight mile radius of Lynchburg, during the season of 1938. (# - indicates Nelson County).

1. Sparrow Hawk: last young left nest, 6/18.
2. Bob-white: 16 fresh eggs, 6/4.
3. Mourning Dove: 2 eggs, 4/19; 2 half-grown young, 4/23; 2 eggs, 4/28; 2 eggs, 4/30; 2 eggs, 7/25.
4. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 1 young just out of nest, 7/30.
5. Screech Owl: 3 eggs and 1 young, 4/28; 3 young and 1 egg, 5/3; 2 young in nest, 5/5.
6. Chimney Swift: #3 young ready to leave, 7/4; #3 very small young, 7/12; #3 large young, 7/17; #3 fresh eggs, 7/19. (Second brood.)
7. Flicker: 3 young left, 5/8; 7 eggs, 5/27.
8. Red-headed Woodpecker: young, 6/10; young, 6/15; young, 6/28.
9. Hairy Woodpecker: young in nest, 4/23; young still in nest, 5/6.
10. Downy Woodpecker: young, 5/29.
11. Kingbird: 3 young, 5/15; 3 eggs, 6/10; 4 eggs, 6/25.
12. Phoebe: 4 young, 4/30; 3 young and 1 egg, 5/1; 4 eggs, 5/21. (Nest built on railroad car.); # 3 eggs, 6/21; # 4 eggs, 6/21; # 3 young left, 7/14.
13. Wood Pewee: 3 young, 6/15; # 3 young, 6/27.

14. Rough-winged Swallow: 3 fresh eggs, 5/8; 7 eggs, 5/15; 5 eggs, 5/28; 5 young, 5/28.
15. Blue Jay: 3 eggs, 4/30; 5 eggs, 5/1; 4 eggs, 5/2; 5 young, 5/20.
16. Carolina Chickadee: 5 young left, 5/10.
17. Tufted Titmouse: 7 eggs, 4/15; young, 4/22.
18. White-breasted Nuthatch: young just out of nest, 4/18.
19. House Wren: 3 young, 5/2; 3 young left, 5/13.
20. Carolina Wren: # 4 eggs, 6/23; # 5 young, 6/28.
21. Mockingbird: 4 eggs, 4/25; eggs, 6/1; 3 eggs, 6/20.
22. Catbird: 5 fresh eggs, 5/15; 1 egg, 6/8; 3 eggs, 6/20 (Second brood.); 3 young, 6/28.
23. Brown Thrasher: 4 eggs, 4/30; 3 eggs, 5/22 (In hollow in top of tree used as fence post. 3 ft. up.); 4 eggs, 5/30; 3 young, 6/20; # 3 young, 7/5.
24. Robin: 3 eggs, 4/3; 1 egg, 4/9; 3 eggs, 4/19; 4 eggs, 5/8 (On railroad car.); 4 eggs, 5/31; # 3 young left, 7/26; young, 8/3.
25. Wood Thrush: 3 eggs, 5/5; 3 eggs, 5/7; 3 young, 6/21;
26. Bluebird: 4 young, 6/13; # 4 eggs, 7/1.
27. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 2 eggs, 6/20;
28. Cedar Waxwing: 1 egg, 6/5 (Bedford County.)
29. Yellow-throated Vireo: 3 eggs, 6/25; left nest, 7/15.
30. Red-eyed Vireo: young, 7/20.
31. Yellow Warbler: young, 6/6; 3 young, 6/7.
32. Prairie Warbler: 4 eggs, 5/23; 3 eggs, 5/31.
33. Louisiana Water Thrush: 5 eggs, 4/26; hatched, 5/5; left, 5/19.
34. Maryland Yellow-throat: 1 young out of nest, 6/2; 3 young out of nest, 7/25.
35. Yellow-breasted Chat: 4 young (about 2 days old), 5/29; left, 6/5; 4 eggs, 5/29; 1 chat and 1 cowbird egg, 6/15; 3 young left nest, 6/23; # 3 fresh eggs, 7/5.
36. Red-winged Blackbird: 3 eggs, 5/15.

37. Orchard Oriole: eggs, 5/21; 4 young, 5/29; young, 6/8.
38. Baltimore Oriole: eggs, 5/10; eggs, 5/12; eggs, 5/28; eggs, 5/30.
39. Purple Grackle: A colony of about 30 pairs nested at Tomahawk Mill in red cedars; 4 half grown young, 4/30; Average of 4 or 5 eggs, 4/30; young, 6/15 (Lynchburg).
40. Cowbird: 1 egg in Towhee nest, 6/13; 1 egg in Chat nest, 6/15.
41. Scarlet Tanager: 3 young left, 7/8. In dogwood 40 feet from 2 occupied houses and 100 from Oakridge Blvd., a much used thoroughfare. Also only 20 ft. from badminton court used daily. First nest found in Lynchburg. (Alt. 720 ft.)
42. Summer Tanager: eggs, May 10; # 3 eggs, 6/25.
43. Cardinal: 3 eggs, 4/1; 3 young left, 4/30; last young left, 5/15; 2 eggs, 6/19.
44. Goldfinch: young, 8/19.
45. Red-eyed Towhee: 3 eggs, 4/30; 4 eggs, 5/1; 1 towhee egg and 1 cowbird egg, 6/13; # 3 fresh eggs 7/10. (3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ft. up in red cedar.)
46. Chipping Sparrow: 2 young, 5/8; 3 eggs, 7/4.
47. Field Sparrow: 4 eggs, 5/3; 4 eggs, 5/4; 3 eggs, 6/25; 3 eggs, 6/28; 3 young, 6/30; 3 eggs, 7/2; young left, 7/25.
48. Song Sparrow: 5 fresh eggs, 4/29; hatched, 5/11; left, 5/22. 3 eggs, 4/30; 4 eggs, 6/3; 3 young, 6/13.

Approximate total number of nests found of all species: 250.

Lynchburg, Virginia.

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NEWS & NOTES

Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting for 1939, according to the decision of the Executive Committee, will be held at Norfolk on Friday and Saturday, February 17 and 18. The headquarters hotel has not yet been decided upon. The most interesting feature of the meeting will be the field trip to the new Back Bay Migratory Waterfowl Refuge. Mr. Harry A. Bailey, Refuge Manager, writes me that he will be glad to have the group visit the Refuge. Arrangements will probably be made for a beach trip as well as for a trip out on Back Bay to see the ducks, geese and swans. Lunch will be served at the C. C. C. camp near Pungo. Further details will be given in the next issue.

A Doctorate in Ornithology. It is a pleasure to announce that Dr. D. Ralph Hostetter has completed his work for his doctorate and that he was awarded the

Doctor of Philosophy degree by the University of Virginia at the close of the summer session. As most of our readers know, the subject of Dr. Hostetter's work and thesis was, "The Life History of the Carolina Junco."

Bailey-Law Wedding. Members of the V. S. O. will be interested in the announcement of the marriage of Mr. Harold H. Bailey and Mrs. Laura Beatty Law on August 7, 1938, at Alexandria, Virginia, by the Rev. William B. McIlwaine, Jr., D. D. Mr. Bailey is an Honorary member and Dr. McIlwaine is Vice-President of the V. S. O. The bride had been an active worker in ornithology on the West Coast.

Red Phalarope at Charlottesville, Va. Mr. Jack Calhoun writes that he and Mr. Dickinson collected a Red Phalarope on the reflecting pool at the University of Virginia on September 18, 1938. This is the second record for Virginia of this species.

Plumage of Scarlet Tanager. In the July issue of THE RAVEN, page 55, request was made for late dates on which red male Scarlet Tanagers have been seen. Mr. Ralph M. Brown sends in two such dates for Blacksburg, July 29, 1934, and July 17, 1937. Prof. Freer sends the following quotation from his 'Rambler' column in 'The News,' Lynchburg, Virginia, of August 29, 1935; "I found a male scarlet tanager flying about in the tree tops, uttering a quiet and unusual note which I did not recall having heard before.....I found a transition phase of the plumage of the bird that I had not seen, the autumn plumage of the adult male. His head and breast were yellowish-green, while the throat and ~~back~~ were still red, although faded. His wings and tail were black."

Notes from Various Points. From notes furnished by Mr. J. B. Lewis the following items were taken: Lacrosse, Mecklenburg County, Virginia, April 19, 1932, a Common Loon seen. Princess Anne County, Virginia, June 15, 1927, nest of Tree Swallow in old woodpecker hole in fence post between upper end of Back Bay and the ocean. Sounding Knob, Highland County, Virginia, nest of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, June, 1926, adults feeding young in the nest.

Harrisonburg, Virginia. "While on a field trip on September 13 we flushed a Mourning Dove from a honey locust tree. A nest was located, and upon investigation we found it to contain two nestlings, about one-third grown. The primary wing feathers were just breaking through the sheaths.

"On a similar trip on September 19 we found a female Bob-white with 12 or 15 young still wearing the natal down, except for several primary wing feathers. It was remarkable how quickly the young disappeared before our eyes as we came upon the brood. One was caught and he nicely demonstrated his method of squatting. These are unusually late nesting dates." D. R. Hostetter.