

The Raven

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

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

Vol. X

January, 1939

No. 1

Some Characteristics of the Canadian Zone in the Southern Mountains.

By J. J. Murray.

This subject cannot be discussed without recognition of the fact that many biologists are raising the question whether there is any such thing as the Canadian or any other life zone and whether the whole system of faunal zones so diligently worked out in America by field naturalists has any significance. Criticism of Dr. C. Hart Merriam's life zone maps has been increasing of late, and particularly of his statement, as expressed in the two temperature laws, of the causal factors underlying these zones. Such criticisms are summed up in a recent article, "Merriam's Life Zones of North America," by Prof. R. F. Daubenmire, of the University of Idaho. (Quarterly Review of Biology, Vol. 13, September, 1938, pp. 327-332.) Dr. S. C. Kendeigh and Dr. V. E. Shelford (both in 'The Wilson Bulletin,' Vol. 44, September, 1932) have well stated the difficulties faced by Merriam's theory. It is easy to make such criticism both ungracious and unjust, ungracious if we forget the pioneer conditions under which Merriam was working, and unjust if we imply that the results of his work are overthrown. A pioneer can hardly be held responsible for his limitations or expected to state his theory in a form that will be subject to no future modification, else Darwin would by now have lost all credit for his theory of evolution. Yet it cannot be denied that the effect of these criticisms has been very damaging, particularly to the theoretic basis of Merriam's work. His use of a purely floristic and faunistic viewpoint cannot stand against the objections brought by the sociological (plant-animal communities) concept dominant in modern ecology. His temperature laws were based on insufficient and faulty data and involved a considerable amount of guess work. His emphasis on temperature as the almost solely regulative factor in distribution was a pure assumption. It is, indeed, likely that the present disposition to minimize greatly the effect of temperature is a swing too far in the other direction; but the group of ecological factors regulating the occurrence of plant-animal groups is entirely too complex to make it safe to choose any factor as a favorite. Further, the maps delimiting these zones

have been found to call for considerable revision. Particularly is the painting of transcontinental bands a risky undertaking. The zone concept is much easier to work out in the west than in the northeast, and much simpler to follow in mountain regions, in the west and in the southern Appalachians, than in great level regions. But even the validity of these criticisms must not make biologists forget the great importance of Merriam's pioneer work in the field of distribution in America. Nor has all this criticism destroyed the practical usefulness in field ornithology of the zone concept. Whatever be the causal factors in their distribution systematically, there are avian associations which correspond to the Canadian, Transition, Upper and Lower Austral, and other zones. In the Virginia mountains, for example, a man familiar with the territory and led blindfold to some point on a mountain-side could tell, from the group of birds singing about him, not only the zone into which he had been brought but with reasonable accuracy the altitude at which he stood.

For some years the writer has been interested in the problems connected with the life zones as they appear in the Southern mountains. That interest has been keenest as regards the occurrence of the Canadian Zone in the Virginia mountains. Certain remarks may be made tentatively. One thing that seems fairly clear in the study of the zones in this section is that these zones are much looser entities and the boundaries between them much more ragged than was once thought. That is probably true everywhere. It is particularly true, however, in a region like the Southern Appalachians where my none too adequate field experience has been gained. The map of any zone in the Appalachians is much like the recent Hitler map of Czecho-Slovakia. Not only are there great Sudeten indentations behind the little Maginot line, but there are Teutonic islands far in the interior. This is decidedly true of the boundary between the Carolinian and the Alleghanian, where the boundary is not so much a line as a cross-word puzzle. It is less true of the boundary between the Alleghanian and the Canadian; but that is due to the fact that in the Appalachians the Canadian usually occurs in the form of island mountain tops, where the spruce areas are rather definitely shaped caps, or at least belts. If there were more high country in this region and more extensive spruce forests, the boundaries would probably be more irregular.

The Canadian Zone, as seen in Virginia and in the Southern Appalachians generally, is by no means a pure type of the Canadian. It should be recognized as a Southern or modified Canadian. It has often been pointed out that island spots or finger-like extensions belonging to any faunal zone are rarely typical. It has not been sufficiently recognized that this is true of the whole southward extension of the Alleghanian and Canadian Zones along the mountains through Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, and the states beyond. As an indication of the modified character of the Southern Canadian it may be pointed out that of the 27 birds named by Dr. Frank M. Chapman, in his "Handbook of Birds of Eastern North America," as characteristic of the Canadian there are 16 which do not occur south and east of the West Virginia plateau as breeders, and only one of the 16 occurs even in West Virginia. Virginia is in a particularly unfortunate position as regards a share in this interesting Canadian Zone.

While there is a good deal of Canadian Zone territory (of the modified Southern type) on the high Alleghany plateau of West Virginia, and a fair area of it on the great peaks of the Smokies, along the North Carolina - Tennessee line, there is no territory in Virginia which can really be called pure Canadian, even of that modified form. We have some spots which approach this, although they do not seem quite to reach it.

Virginia once had a good deal more semi-Canadian territory than she now has. The presence of northern conifers of the spruce-fir type seems to be a limiting factor in the presence of this zone. Since man has appropriated almost all of the original spruce areas for purposes which seem to some of us of less importance than the production of Winter Wrens and Hermit Thrushes, we now have only spots of Canadian, very few, very small, and not quite typical. These spots are to be found in Southwest Virginia, where there is spruce at the tops of such mountains as Mt. Rogers and White Top, which go up around 5,000 feet; and on the high plateau regions of Highland County, bordering the West Virginia Alleghanies. Dr. William C. Rives, in the map accompanying the discussions in his book, "A Catalogue of the Birds of the Virginias," certainly allotted too much territory to the Canadian in Virginia; and since he wrote in 1890 that territory has dwindled still further. That process of diminution is evident in the contrast between conditions on White Top as found by Rives in his visit in 1888 and the dryer, more open and, therefore, less Canadian conditions to be found there now. On middle Mountain, in Highland County, the contrast between 1900 and today is still more painfully evident. It may be noted that the effect in the Southern mountains of man, with his heavy foot and his sharp axe, is definitely to raise the altitude for both the Carolinian-Alleghanian and the Alleghanian-Canadian boundary line. As he clears the heavy forests on the mountain-sides and then burns them over he changes the character of the flora, reduces the ability of the soil to hold moisture, exposes the ground to the sun and raises the average temperature; and all these changes together swing the pendulum from boreal toward austral conditions. Happily the United States Forest Service is doing something to weight the balance in the other direction; happily, because we in the South, where there is plenty of austral territory to work on, would like an occasional chance at the higher zones. Unhappily, however, man's influence is greater when he blunders into the Canadian than anywhere else. Winter Wren habitats can be destroyed in a few days. They cannot be restored, if indeed they can ever be really recreated, short of generations.

This ability of man to effect changes in the limits of faunal zones in the mountain region suggests that the factor of altitude may not be entitled to the importance once assigned to it among the factors which make the zones. The Canadian Zone, certainly, is limited not so much by altitude as by a complex of ecological factors, of which high altitude and its attendant factor of low temperature is only one. As has already been pointed out, the presence of northern conifers of the spruce-fir type is one of the essential and limiting factors, or at least indicators. Merriam, in the first paper in which he discussed his temperature laws, the San Francisco Mountain paper of 1890, stated that "temperature is more potent than humidity." As far as the Canadian Zone in the South is concerned, humidity is certainly a highly important factor, possibly more

important than temperature. At least it is true that, temperature and other factors being equal, humidity is important enough then to become decisive. White Top and Mt. Rogers, side by side in Southwest Virginia, stand at almost exactly the same altitude. Both are capped with northern conifers. But Rogers is damp under its dark spruces, while White Top today is relatively dry. Correspondingly, at the same elevation Dr. Alexander Wetmore and I found on White Top only one of three distinctive and commonly associated Canadian Zone species (Winter Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and Red-breasted Nuthatch), while on Rogers we found all three. It would seem likely, as suggested by Transeau in a paper of the Michigan Academy of Science in 1905, that the precipitation evaporation ratio is a factor of critical importance in the limiting of these zones. ("Climatic Centers and Centers of Plant Distribution," E. D. Transeau, 1905, Rept. Mich. Acad. Sc., 7:73-75).

Since this Southern form of the Canadian Zone is not altogether typical, it is not easy to compile a list of birds so definitely characteristic that the group may be considered as 'zonal indicators' for the Canadian and their presence as a group on any mountain taken as proof that the mountain lies within that zone. Probably it is not easy to compile such a group of 'zonal indicators' anywhere. In fact, one of the weaknesses of the whole theory of zones is that the lists of characteristic birds usually offered will not bear critical analysis. The difficulty of getting a satisfactory list is greater than usual in our modified form of the Canadian. Of course we can never depend on any single species as an index to a zone. In each case the 'zonal indicators' form a group, or avian association. And it is clear, at least in the case of the Southern Canadian, that this is not a very large group. Dr. Chapman names 27 species as characteristic of the Canadian Zone. Of these, 15 do not occur in the South at all; and another, the Olive-backed Thrush, does not occur south and east of West Virginia. Two of the remaining 11, the Red Cross bill and the Siskin, are so erratic in their occurrence that they are of little value for this purpose. Three others, Blackburnian and Canada Warblers and Carolina Junco, are as common in the upper Alleghanian in this region as in the Canadian and so are of no help. Consequently we have only six birds of the list left as a group of 'zonal indicators' for the Canadian Zone in Virginia and in the South generally. These six are the Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, and Magnolia Warbler. To these might be added two other species which are not named by Dr. Chapman but which, since in the Southern mountains they overlap at most only the uppermost edge of the Alleghanian, may be considered as sufficiently characteristic of the Canadian, the Black-capped Chickadee and the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. This group of eight birds seems rather definitely indicative of the presence of the Canadian Zone in Virginia and the South. When all of this group are found together, which is not the case in any place I know of in Virginia, we may be certain that we are in Canadian territory. Four of them are so trustworthy in this respect - the nuthatch, creeper, wren and kinglet - that if any one of them is met with, we may feel fairly sure that we are in Canadian territory, even though some factor in the environment may so incomplete as to keep the territory from being altogether typical. It may mean that we are in territory which, once Canadian, is not losing its character because of changes

in the environment. In addition there is another group of birds, consisting of the Veery, Mountain Vireo, Blackburnian, Cairns' and Canadian Warblers, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Carolina Junco, and a few others, which is a border line group. These birds, when found together, indicate that we are at least in the neighborhood of Canadian conditions.

These suggestions are offered hesitantly, not with any idea that they contribute much to the question before us, but with the hope that they may lead other workers to tackle the problem of zones in the South and begin to amass data which will be useful in a reconstruction of the zone concept.

Lexington, Virginia.

(This paper was read at the meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union in Washington, D. C., October 18, 1938.)

-----000000000-----

THE NINTH ANNUAL MEETING

The ninth annual meeting will be held at the Southland Hotel in Norfolk, February 17 and 18th, 1939. The meeting will open at 2 P. M. on the 17th with the annual dinner at 6:30 P. M.

All members of the Society are urged to take part in the program. Mr. A. O. English, 308 Westover Avenue, Roanoke is program chairman, and should be notified as early as possible of the title of papers and approximate length of time required on the program.

In addition to papers by members of the Society the program will include one paper by a leading ornithologist from outside the state, by invitation. The evening program following the banquet will include colored moving pictures of special interest.

Mrs. Catherine C. Reed of Norfolk who is in charge of local arrangements is sparing no effort in preparing for the comfort and entertainment of all who attend. All members are urged to bring friends and visitors who are interested in bird study. All sessions of the general meeting including the banquet are open to everyone interested in birds.

The field trip on the 18th will be of particular interest and enjoyment. The Back Bay Water Fowl Refuge will be the main objective. The Warden, Mr. Harry Bailey, is making preparations for us and will have ready a sufficient number of boats to take the entire group out on Back Bay. Increase in the number of waterfowl since the refuge was established is of particular interest. There are about 4,000 snow geese, and a large flock of swans in addition to tens

of thousands of ducks of many kinds, spending the winter on the refuge.

Lunch will be served at the CCC Camp on the refuge. Make your plans to be there.

M. G. Lewis, President.

William Cabell Rives III

Members of the Virginia Society of Ornithology will be distressed to learn of the death of Dr. William C. Rives, who passed away at his home in Washington on December 18th last. Funeral services were held on December 21st at the Cathedral in Washington. Dr. Rives was the author of our most important book on Virginia birds. "A Catalogue of the Birds of the Virginias," and one of the first Honorary Members elected by our Society. A sketch of his life will appear in an early number of The Raven.

-----0000000000-----

The Kingfisher's Song To
Falling River

Flow rapid little stream
Over dark crags that lie,
Within your willful way
And let your spray dash high.
Tall, sighing, hemlock trees,
Over your fern banks look
Flow silent in and out
Beneath their stately gloom.

Flow past the curving hills,
Keep these old friends asleep:
With lap of tripping waves,
Flow calm, flow clear; flow deep.
Flow under summer's sun,
Gently, serene, and wide--
And let the moon's soft glow
Within your bosom hide.

Bertha Daniel

-----0000000000-----

ALBINISTIC JUNCO IN AMELIA COUNTY.

On the afternoon of December 2 I was looking for water birds along the south side of Beaver Pond, the largest body of water in Amelia county. In a large flock of Juncos I noticed one with a conspicuously white back. Its markings were recorded from a field glass examination, but I decided the next morning, to return and, if possible, to collect it. After some search the albinistic bird was again located, and was collected, and the skin made up.

The top of the head and neck and the front back are the usual slate color, but much mottled and spotted with white. From the middle of the back to and including the upper tail coverts it is almost pure white. In fact the feathers may be so arranged that no slate color shows. The front breast is also mottled with white. The tail is normal.

John B. Lewis,
Amelia, Virginia

-----000000000-----

THE CHRISTMAS CENSUS

Norfolk, Virginia. (Hunchback Rd and Little Creek Lake to Va. Beach; then Seashore St. Park; finished at Lynnhaven Bridge.) --Dec. 26; 8:15 A.M. to 4:15 P.M. Cloudy, with a drizzle all afternoon; wind moderate, East; temp. 46° at start, 52° at return. Observers together from Va. Beach to finish, 3½ hours; C. Reed alone rest of time. Total miles by car, 50; miles on foot, 1st observer 5. Horned Grebe, 1; Pied-billed Grebe, 16; Double-crested Cormorant, 30; Great Blue Heron, 1; Mallard, 1; Black Duck, 15; Pintail, 1; Ring-necked Duck, 186; Lesser Scaup, 12; Golden-eye, 5; Buffle-head, 4; White-winged Scoter, 3; Surf Scoter, 1; Hooded Merganser, 1; Red-breasted Merganser, 18; Turkey Bulture, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 2; Bob-white, 5; Killdeer, 23; Red-backed Sandpiper, 3; Herring Gull, 219; Ring-billed Gull, 5; Bonaparte's Gull, 1000 (est); Kingfisher, 2; Flicker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Eastern Crow, 15; Carolina Chickadee, 11; Tufted Titmouse, 1; Brown-header Nuthatch, 1; Carolina Wren, 6; Mockingbird, 1; Brown Thrasher, 1; Robin, 81 (est); Hermit Thrush, 1; Bluebird, 8; Starling, 47; Myrtle Warbler, 3; English Sparrow, 21; Meadowlark, 72; Cardinal, 2; Towhee, 1; Junco, 7; White-throated Sparrow, 6; Fox Sparrow, 2; Song Sparrow, 8. Total, 47 species, 1995 individuals. The Surf Scoter was observed quite close to shore with 10x binoculars by C. Reed. The white on nape and white forehead and red on bill were noted. -- Mrs. Albert C. Reed, Miss Sally Ryan.

On December 15, in the same area and in addition to the above, I obtained Greater Scaup, 1 (this was with a group of Lesser scaup and had been observed

before); Black Vulture, 1; Coot, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 1. At Cape Henry I added considerably more. It was a bitter cold day, so cold one could hardly stand outside the car. The sea was very rough. There was, I should think, a compact flock of from 1500 - 2000 Bonaparte's gulls, tho' it was impossible for me to count them. It was an immense flock and a wonderful sight. Because of the rollers and spondrift, when on the sea, they utterly disappeared from view. In fact it was not until a freighter was passing up coast, sent them up from the water, that I knew they were there! Then they performed there beautiful evolutions. I have seen large flocks of Bonaparte's at Nahant peninsula, Boston, but never one as large as this. It seemed as tho all the Bonaparte's Gulls on the New England coast must have moved south with the storm. There was also Red-throated Loon, 1; Gannets, 50 (est); White-winged Scoters, 6 (flying); American Scoter, 1 (flying); and Laughing Gulls, 15. It seems as tho we were having an unusual number of scoters.

Mrs. A. C. Reed
1519 Morris Avenue
Norfolk, Virginia

-----0000000000-----

Cape Henry, Virginia. December 28, 8:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. 4½ hours in car and on foot, 20 miles. Weather 28-40 degrees, clear, stiff northwest wind. Cape Henry westward along Chesapeake Bay to one mile beyond Little Creek, including Lynhaven Inlet and Linkhorn Bay and intermediate points. Pied-billed Grebe, 1; Lesser Scaup, 2; Am. Golden-eye, 2; Bufflehead, 12; Old Squaw, 1; Red-breasted Merganser, 1; Turkey Vulture, 5; Black Vulture, 3; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Bald Eagle, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Killdeer, 15; Sanderling, 10; Herring Gull, 110; Ring-billed Gull, 60; Kingfisher, 1; Flicker, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Crow, 61; Fish Crow, 7; Carolina Chickadee, 5; Titmouse, 6; Winter Wren; 1; Carolina Wren, 16; Mockingbird, 3; Robin, 175; Hermit Thrush, 3; Bluebird, 20; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1; Starling, 10; Myrtle Warbler, 90; English Sparrow, 5; Meadowlark, 13; Red-wing, 25; Cardinal, 10; Goldfinch, 2; Towhee, 3; Slate-colored Junco, 15; Field Sparrow, 10; White-throated Sparrow 12; Swamp Sparrow, 3; Song Sparrow, 25; Total, 42 species, 734 individuals. Seen at Virginia Beach, but not counted in this census: Great Blue Heron, 1; Canada Goose, 5; White-winged Scoter, 200 (est.) Surf Scoter, 600 (est.); American Scoter, 50; Cowbird, 75.

John Grey
Raleigh, N. C.

-----0000000000-----

Back Bay, Virginia. December 29, 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. 1 hour out in

middle of day. 7 hours in field. In car from Sandbridge south 12 miles along coast and return in morning. In motor boat with Bailey in afternoon through Sand Bay, Red Head Bay, Shipps Bay, Big Narrows and intermediate points in afternoon, this latter section covering the Federal Migratory Waterfowl Refuge of Back Bay. Larger numbers of waterfowl mainly estimates. About 35 miles. Weather: 24 to 40 Degrees, clear in forenoon, cloudy in afternoon, light northwest wind. Common Loon, 15; Pied-billed Grebe, 2; Great Blue Heron, 1; Whistling Swan, 1,000; Canada Goose, 3,000; Greater Snow Goose, 4,000; Blue Goose, 20; Mallard, 2; Black Duck, 300; Baldpate, 2,000; Pintail, 2,000; Greater Scaup, 125; White-winged Scoter, 100; Surf Scoter, 450; American Scoter, 450; Ruddy Duck, 100; Turkey Vulture, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Bald Eagle, 1; Marsh Hawk, 8; Western Sandpiper, 1; Sanderling, 50; Herring Gull, 96; Ring-billed Gull, 91; Kingfisher, 1; Flicker, 1; Crow, 14; Fish Crow, 20; Carolina Wren, 10; Meadowlark, 10; Red-wing, 50; Towhee, 1; Swamp Sparrow, 50; Song Sparrow, 35. Total, 36 species, 15,500 individuals. (First Snow Geese arrived on November 9,; and first Swan on November 10.)

John Grey, Raleigh, N. C.
Harry A. Bailey, Oceana, Va.

-----0000000000-----

Amelia, Virginia. Amelia village, down Amelia branch one mile, through woods and fields to Nibb's Creek, up creek to Hardaway pond, west 2 miles to Mindel farm; by auto to Winterham, 2 miles on foot on adjoining farms; by auto to Beaver Pond, 2 miles on foot around pond, by auto home. Greatest distance between places visited, 12 miles. December 20, 7:20 A.M. to 12:20; 1:10 P.M. to 5 P.M. Total time a-field 8 hours and 40 minutes. Observer alone. Miles on foot, about 11; miles by auto, 18. Temp. at start 20, at return 42; clear, little wind, no snow.

Wood Duck, 3; Lesser Scaup, 4; Turkey Vulture, 6; Black Vulture, 2; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Killdeer, 9; Mourning Dove, 32; Great Horned Owl, (heard at night), 1; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Red-Header Woodpecker, 4; Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 5; Phoebe, 2; Blue Jay, 10; Crow, 26; Carolina Chickadee, 6; Tufted Titmouse, 2; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Brown Creeper, 2; Winter Wren, 2; Carolina Wren, 4; Lockingbird, 6; Hermit Thrush, 2; Bluebird, 9; Golden-Crowned Kinglet, 5; Shrike, 1; Starling, (flock estimated), 160; House Sparrow, (partly estimated), 40; Meadowlark, 38; Cardinal, 8; Purple Finch, 2; Goldfinch, 14; Junco, 86; White-throated Sparrow, 23; Song Sparrow, 14. Species, 36; individuals, 407.

Robins and Bob-whites were seen, December 18; and Field Sparrows, Red-bellied Woodpecker and Flicker were seen, December 19. Myrtle Warblers are scarce this winter.

John B. Lewis

-----0000000000-----

Lexington, Virginia. (Circle of 8 miles' diameter, from Lexington northwest; territory usually covered; campus of Washington & Lee University and of Virginia Military Institute, Big Spring Pond, open fields, oak woods, cedar thickets). -Dec. 26; 8 A.M. to 5 P.M., one hour out at noon. Heavy clouds; snowing hard after 10 o'clock, turning to sleet and rain in late afternoon; visibility at minimum; brisk wind, east in morning to northwest in afternoon; ground frozen; temp. 32 at start, 33 at return. Observers together entire 8 hours. 25 miles by car, 8 on foot. Mallard, 2; Red-legged Black Duck, 1; Common Black Duck, 8; Baldpate, 2; Green-winged Teal, 3; Hooded Merganser, 4; Sparrow Hawk, 2; Killdeer, 5; King-fisher, 1; Flicker, 1; Pileated Woodpecker, 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 3; Red-headed Woodpecker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 4; Prairie Horned Lark, 75; Blue Jay, 1; Crow, 29; Carolina Chickadee, 22; Tufted Titmouse, 12; White-breasted Nuthatch, 8; Carolina Wren, 9; Mockingbird, 2; Robin, 2; Bluebird, 9; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 6; Migrant Shrike, 1; Starling, 534; Myrtle Warbler, 11; House Sparrow, 83; Meadow lark, 37; Cardinal, 69; Purple Finch, 30; Goldfinch, 30; Junco, 106; Tree Sparrow, 103; White-crowned sparrow, 4; White-throated Sparrow, 18; Fox Sparrow, 2; Song Sparrow, 15. Total, 40 species, 1258 individuals. This Red-legged Black Duck has almost become domesticated at Big Spring. Prairie Horned Larks identified sub-specifically. A flock of 20 Cardinals seen in one small thicket. J. Southgate Y. Hoyt, J. J. Murray.

-----000000000-----

Blacksburg, Va. (V.P.I. farm and along Strouble's Creek to New River and one mile down-stream). --Dec. 20; 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Clear at start to completely overcast by 3:30 p.m.; ground bare; no wind at start to light west wind by noon; temp. 20° at start, 40° at return. Observers in two groups as follows: party 1, 3 observers starting at Lover's Leap on New River thence afoot up the river and up Strouble's Creek to Blacksburg, 11½ hours, 15 miles; party 11, 3 observers in forenoon, 5 in afternoon; listened for owls before daybreak and after sundown, 11½ hours, 12 miles afoot, 20 miles by automobile; observations within an area 8 miles in diameter. Total miles afoot, 27; miles by automobile, 20; total hours afoot and by automobile, 23. Great Blue Heron, 1; Mallard, 7; Red-legged Black Duck, 1; Common Black Duck, 13; Baldpate, 2; Pintail, 1; Green-winged Teal, 4; Canvasback, 1; Lesser Scaup Duck, 20; Hooded Merganser, 12; Turkey Vulture, 154; Black Vulture, 1; Goshawk (observed by Handley & Woolley), 1; (feeding on a mourning dove) Cooper's Hawk, 3; Red-tailed Hawk, 4; Bald Eagle, 1; Marsh Hawk, 2; Sparrow Hawk, 4; Ruffed Grouse, 1; Bob-white, 76 (6 coveys, also remains of 8 recently killed birds, appeared to be mostly work of Cooper's Hawk); Killdeer, 5; Wilson's Snipe, 6; Domestic Pigeon, 22; Mourning Dove, 78; Barred Owl, 1; Belted Kingfisher, 4; Flicker, 7; Pileated Woodpecker, 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 2; Red-header Woodpecker, 57; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 4; Downy Woodpecker, 12; Phoebe, 5; Prairie-horned Lark, 8; Blue Jay, 57; Crow, 328 (part est.); Carolina Chickadee, 31; Tufted Titmouse, 17; White-breasted Nuthatch, 25; Brown Creeper, 1; Winter Wren, 8;

Carolina Wren, 31; Mockingbird, 9; Robin, 4; Hermit Thrush, 2; Bluebird, 21; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 20; Migrant Shrike, 2; Starling, 2074 (part est.); English Sparrow, 52; Meadowlark, 101 (part est.); Cardinal, 122; Purple Finch, 42; Goldfinch, 209 (part est.); Savannah Sparrow, 1; Junco, 163 (part est.); Tree Sparrow, 190 (part est.); Field Sparrow, 6; White-crowned Sparrow, 30; White-throated Sparrow, 12; Fox Sparrow, 6; Song Sparrow, 100. Total, 63 species, 4194 individuals. Edward Addy, J. E. Thornton, C. O. Handley, Jr., Ruth Ellis, T. R. King, Donald J. Woolley, W. W. Bailey, C. O. Handley.

-----000000000-----

Lynchburg, Va.---(Timber Lake, country roads via Poplar Forest, Graves' Mill.) Dec. 26; 8:00 A.M. to 12 M. Cloudy; ground bare at start, heavy, wet snow beginning at 10 A.M.. inch of snow at noon; wind from N.E., rather strong, cold and raw; temp. 35 degrees at start. Four miles on foot, fifteen in car. Mallard, 7; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Marsh Hawk, 1; Wild Turkey, 1; Killdeer, 8; Mourning Dove, 4; Flicker, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 9; Phoebe, 1; Prairie Horned Lark, 6; Blue Jay, 7; Crow, 11; Chickadee, 9; Tufted Titmouse, 8; White-breasted Nuthatch, 6; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 4; Brown Creeper, 1; Winter Wren, 1; Carolina Wren, 9 (singing); Mockingbird, 1; Bluebird, 8; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 2; Starling, 29; Myrtle Warbler, 2; English Sparrow, 12; Meadowlark, 30 (flock, est.); Cardinal, 13; Purple Finch, 70 (flocks of 18 and 40 est.); Goldfinch, 50 (flock of 40 est.); Junco, 281; Tree Sparrow, 12; Field Sparrow, 6; Swamp Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 6 (singing). The Wild Turkey was near the main highway at Timber Lake. I assumed at first that it was an escaped domestic turkey, but it took flight and flew clear across the lake, arousing my suspicions. Later a neighbor boy told me that it had been around the lake since last summer. It is a very large male.--Totals, 34 species, 620 individuals.--
Ruskin S. Freer.

-----000000000-----



The Raven

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

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

Vol. X

February-March, 1939

Nos. 2&3

The Ninth Annual Meeting of the

V. S. O.

February, 1939

The ninth Annual Meeting of The V. S. O. was called to order by the president, Mr. M. G. Lewis, at two o'clock on February 17, 1939, in the Southland Hotel, Norfolk, Virginia. Letters of regret because of their inability to attend the Annual Meeting were read from Dr. Wetmore, who is preparing to go on an expedition to Vera Cruz, and from Mr. Eike, who is out of the state on a business trip.

During the afternoon session, Mr. A. O. English presided. Mrs. A. C. Reed welcomed the Society to Norfolk and gave a summary of her field work in that region. She has listed 193 species of which 47 are migrants, 39 are permanent residents, 52 winter and 56 summer residents. The Norfolk vicinity is particularly good for bird study because of the different types of birds found there. The plans for developing Seashore State Park for tourists and the consequent effects on the birds of the wilderness portion of the park were also discussed. Dr. J. J. Murray moved that the Society go on record and that the National Park Service and the State Conservation Department be so informed--as opposed to any development of Seashore State Park that would violate the wilderness area of the Park. Mr. George C. Mason seconded the motion and spoke in favor of keeping the narrow road rather than the proposed double road. The motion was amended by the addition of the clause 'that a committee with Mrs. Reed as chairman be appointed to draw up the resolution'. The amended motion was passed unanimously.

Mrs. J. Frank Key of Buena Vista reported that in her work for the development of Junior Audubon Clubs she has contacted Womens Clubs, Home Demonstration Clubs, County Agents, County Principals and Supervisors, the State Board of Education and the Co-operative Education Association. She expects definite cooperation from the bird chairmen of the 125 Garden Clubs in the State. In 48 Counties, chairmen have been selected to coordinate the efforts of teachers who are interested in forming clubs. The U. S. Forest Service has a collection of bird skins which they are lending to schools in the National Forest areas.

Dr. Murray presented a Memoir of Wm. Cabell Rivers III, an honorary member of The V. O. C., who died in Washington on December 13, 1938. Mr. Joseph Gould who has been a member of the A. O. U. since 1889 narrated some of his outstanding experiences in bird study. These included seeing Passenger Pigeons in such numbers over Saginaw, Mich., that they darkened the sky; finding the first Harris Finch to be recorded east of the Mississippi River; finding a nest of the Sandhill Crane at English Lake, Ind.; finding of the Swallow-tailed Kite and of the Prairie Warbler (1916) and seeing the Ivory-billed Wood-pecker in Florida. Mr. Mason's paper was postponed until evening because there was no lantern facilities in the room.

Among the Waterfowl Sanctuaries mentioned by Dr. H. C. Oberholser is the Blackwater Wild Life Refuge, an Army Station in the Maryland portion of Chesapeake Bay. It harbors the only breeding colony of Blue-winged Teal east of the Alleghenies. The District of Columbia including the Potomac as far as Alexandria is in effect a Sanctuary. Roaches Run, which is along the Mt. Vernon Boulevard and is controlled by the Dept. of the Interior, has wild ducks throughout the year and is the only place in the vicinity where Blue Goose and Anhinga have been reported. The Back Bay Sanctuary is the only one in Virginia particularly for Waterfowl. This region was formerly the most important hunting ground along the Atlantic shore, but the number of Waterfowl has been greatly reduced because of the food has been destroyed by salt water. In North Carolina there are three waterfowl sanctuaries under the control of the Biological Survey. Swanquarter Refuge at the mouth of the Pamlico River at Washington, N. C. has large numbers of Bufflehead, a species which is now declining. Pea Island Refuge, near Roanoke Island, includes some barrier beach and so attracts both fresh and salt water species. The most unique Refuge is Mattamuskeet Lake some miles inland from Albemarle Sound. It is a natural fresh water lake but is below sea level so the salt water has to be dyked out. Several thousand swans and 10,000 to 20,000 geese winter there.

In the absence of Rev. John H. Grey and any other representative from the North Carolina Bird Club, their greetings were not presented. Notes by Miss Boone about the bird banding at the Carry Nature Sanctuary at Sweet Briar were read. Mr. J. B. Lewis told about the small mammals which he has found in Amelia County and later exhibited the skins of some of them. Bird Silhouettes in Black and white form a device which Mrs. F. W. Shaw is using in teaching children to distinguish birds. The afternoon program was concluded with a discussion of Back Bay Refuge which was led by the warden, Mr. Harry Bailey. With the aid of C. C. C. workers they are trying to restore conditions favorable for water fowl.

The business meeting followed the afternoon session. Minutes of the 1938 meeting were read and approved. Reports of the Treasurer, Secretary and Editor of the Raven were also given. Along with mention of the fact that Prof. Ruskin S. Freer has had to give up the mimeographing of the Raven, it was moved and unanimously voted 'to extend to Prof. Freer a vote of thanks for this very important work which he has been giving to the Society. Dr. Murray called attention to an increase in the number of pages in the 1938 Raven. The total membership has not altered appreciably in the last few years although there have been gains and losses each year. In 1936 there were 66 members; in 1937, 67 and in 1938, also 67 members. The following committees were appointed by the President: Resolutions, O. B. Taylor, chairman, Mrs. Reed, Mr. Mason and Mrs. Shaw; Nominating, Dr. Murray, chairman, The Secretary and Mrs. Wiltshire. Meeting adjourned.

The evening session began with the dinner which was attended by 37 members and friends. At the close of the dinner, the President called for the reports of committees.. Mr. Taylor presented the following resolutions for his committee which were unanimously adopted.

Whereas, the Virginia Society of Ornithology, in meeting assembled, was informed that an improvement program involving a serious threat to the wild natural beauty and animal life of the Seashore National Park is contemplated by the State Park Division of the Department of Virginia; therefore be it

Resolved, that the protest against the development of recreational facilities in any section of the Seashore State Park other than the waterfront, and also oppose the construction of a two-way road and accompanying program of drainage, cutting and clearing which will endanger the unique wild plant and animal life of the wilderness area of the park.

Whereas, Prof. Ruskin S. Freer has published The Raven, the journal of the V. S. O., for more than four years without cost to the Society; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Society extend its thanks to Prof. Freer for this and many other valuable services to the Society since its organization.

Whereas, Mr. Harry A. Bailey, Superintendent of the Back Bay Migratory Waterfowl Refuge, made it possible for the members attending the Annual Meeting of The V. S. O. to make a field study of the Refuge, providing both transportation and lunch; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Society extend its thanks to Mr. Bailey and the Biological Survey for this interesting and instructive trip.

Whereas, the Southland Hotel, Norfolk, Virginia, provided an assembly room for the Annual Meeting of The V. S. O.; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Society extend its thanks to the Southland Hotel for providing the use of this room.

For the nominating committee Dr. Murray submitted the following recommendations: President, M. G. Lewis; Vice-President, Dr. Wm. B. Mellwane, Jr; Secretary, Dr. Florence Hague; Treasurer, A. O. English; Members of the Executive Committee at large, Prof. Ruskin S. Freer and C. O. Handley; Members of the Executive Committee representing local groups, Mrs. A. C. Reed and Mrs. F. W. Shaw. There was no response to a call for nominations from the floor and a vote was cast for the officers recommended by the committee.

The following were introduced: new members, Evelyn Watkins, Harrisonburg, Mary Leigh, Norfolk, Mrs. Herbert D. Thompson, Norfolk; nominated for membership, Dr. Lillian Thomsen, Staunton, Sally C. Ryan, Virginia Beach, Mrs. J. S. Barron, Va. Beach (absent) and C. F. Burgess, Lynchburg. During a brief intermission the room was rearranged for the projection of slides and films.

Mrs. C. L. Burgess gave her humorous paper entitled 'An Amateur's Observation'-which had been left over from the afternoon program--and also imitated the sound of the drumming of a Ruffed Grouse. Mr. George C. Mason showed a number of slides of animal life photographed on the grounds of the Mariner's Museum which is a wild life sanctuary. After difficulties with the projection apparatus the showing of the motion picture, Bird Life on Cobb's Island, Va., was given up. Dr. H. C. Oberholser discussed Wild Fowl of America using numerous lantern slides of the birds and their homes in many parts of North America.

On Saturday morning about 37 went on the field trip to the Back Bay Refuge. We drove to the seashore near the C. C. C. Camp, rode down the beach several miles and then were taken in boats to Ragged Island. This is a small island on which the previous owners located their club house. The search for plants, birds and other animals was carried on over all available parts of the island and then, the weather being mild, all enjoyed having lunch--which the C. C. C. had prepared--out of doors. Flocks of ducks, geese and swans and a Bald Eagle or two were seen from the boat and from the island. Forty-six species were recorded. The list is appended. It was a delightful and worthwhile trip even though Mr. Bailey told us that because of the mild temperature most of the ducks had gone out to sea.

List of Birds Observed on V. S. O. Field Trip.

Common Loon; Horned Grebe; Great Blue Heron; Common Mallard; Common Mallard; Common Black Duck; Baldpate; Canvasback; Scaup; American Scoter; White-winged Scoter; Surf Scoter; Red-breasted Merganser; Canada Goose; Snow Goose; Whistling Swan; Turkey Vulture; Black Vulture; Red-tailed Hawk; Bald Eagle; Marsh Hawk; Sparrow Hawk; American Coot; Killdeer; Wilson's Snipe; Herring Gull; Ring-tailed Gull; Kingfisher; Crow; Fish Crow; Carolina Wren; Mockingbird; Robin; Bluebird; American Pipit; Starling; Myrtle Warbler; Meadowlark; Red-winged Blackbird; Beach-tailed Grackle; Cardinal; Towhee; Savannah Sparrow; Seaside Sparrow; Field Sparrow; Fox Sparrow; Song Sparrow.

-----00000-----

In Memoriam: William Cabell Rives.

By J. J. Murray.

Dr. William Cabell Rives III, distinguished Virginia Ornithologist and member of the Virginia Society of Ornithology, died at his home in Washington on Sunday, December 18, 1938, after a brief illness. Funeral services were held at the Cathedral on Wednesday, December 21st. Dr. Rives was the author of the most important of the books dealing with Virginia birds, "A Catalogue of the Birds of the Virginias". An associate of the American Ornithologists' Union from 1885, he was elected a Member in 1901 shortly after coming to Washington. At the organization meeting of the Virginia Society of Ornithology at Lynchburg, December 7, 1929, he was made an Honorary Life Member of our society.

Dr. Rives came from a prominent Virginia family. In the direct paternal line his great-grand-parents were Robert Rives and Margaret Cabell. His grand-father, William Cabell Rives, who married Judith Page Walker of Albemarle County, was a distinguished lawyer and served as U. S. Senator from Virginia and as Minister to France from 1849 to 1853. His father was William Cabell Rives II, of Castle Hill, Albemarle Co. The writer, Princess Anelie Rives Troubotzkoy, now living at the Castle Hill home, and George Lockhart Rives, prominent New York lawyer, who died in 1917, are among the first cousins. Dr. Rives was born in Paris January 10, 1850, being just short of eighty-nine years of age at his death. In 1876 he married Mary Rhinelanders Sears, of Boston, Mrs. Rives whose death preceded his, was a sister of Bishop Philip Rhinelanders, former bishop of Pennsylvania. Dr. Rives was a man of distinguished appearance, tall, white-haired, handsome, dignified. During his later years he was very deaf, and because of his infirmity rarely left his home at 1702 Rhode Island Ave, N. W.

William Cabell Rives was educated at Harvard University, graduating in 1871, and at Corpus Christi College, Oxford University, England. He received his medical degree abroad, studying in the hospitals of Vienna. For many years he practiced, mainly in charity work, in the hospitals of New York City and Newport, Rhode Island. Throughout his career he was interested in social service activities. In 1900 he moved to Washington and continued there his charity work. He was a leader in philanthropic work in Washington, especially in organizations for child welfare and for work among the negroes. He was a trustee of the Associated Charities of the Episcopal Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital, and of the Washington Cathedral.

Dr. Rive's first ornithological publication was a paper on "The Birds of Newport," published by the Newport Natural History Society (Proc. Newport Nat. Hist. Soc., Newport, R. I., 1883-84, (July, 1884), pp. 28-41). His chief work, "A Catalogue of the Birds of the Virginias," was published by the same society in 1890. His titles in 'The Auk' number eight. Two of these are short notes dealing with Rhode Island; two deal with West Virginia, one of them an early and valuable study of "The Summer Birds of the West Virginia Spruce Belt;" and four are concerned with Virginia birds. His first Virginia note, in 1885, described the finding of the nest of the Worm-eating Warbler at the family home, Castle Hill, at Cobham, Albemarle County. Another note listed some records for Audubon's Shearwater on the Virginia coast. The other titles were longer papers, one in 1886, entitled "Notes on the Birds of the Salt Pond Mountain, Virginia;" the other in 1889, "Notes on the Birds of White Top Mountain, Virginia." The Mountain Lake Paper, this being the name which is now given to what he called the Salt Pond Mountain, is the most important of his publications, aside from his book. This paper describes a visit made to Mountain Lake in June 1885. This paper indicates an early interest in and knowledge of faunal zones and of the effect of temperature on distribution of plants and animals that was somewhat unusual at that date. Dr. J. A. Allen, as well as certain other biologists who were not particularly interested in birds, had published some studies on the subject of faunal zones, but it is interesting to remember that Rives published his Mountain Lake paper four years before the first of Morrism's publications in this field. This is not cited to claim any original research on Rive's part but to indicate the alertness of his mind and the care with which he endeavored to trace out the implications of the faunal zone theory in the mountains of Virginia. He says, "It has been well established by numerous observations that, as far as birds are concerned, the northern and southern limits of the various faunae correspond more closely with isothermal lines than with parallels of latitude." He refers to the statement made by Bicknell that the Junco is the only species typical of the Canadian fauna which has been ascertained to breed south of Pennsylvania, and goes on to say that in addition to the Junco he has found a few other species at Mountain Lake, namely, the Black-throated Blue, Chestnut-sided and Canada Warblers. He also shows in this early paper a thorough knowledge of botany and the same interest which is seen in all his work in the correlation of botany and zoology in field work.

His most important piece of ornithological work was the book on Virginia and West Virginia, "A Catalogue of the Birds of the Virginias." By far the larger portion of the material of the book is concerned with Virginia birds. This book of one hundred pages is a careful piece of investigation. In a review in 'The Auk' (Vol. VIII, 1891, No. 1, January, pp. 105-106) Batchelder said that "This catalogue of birds of Virginia and West Virginia is so admirably proportioned and so carefully worked out in its details, that it will serve as a model for works of its kind." An introductory chapter tells of "Early Accounts of the Birds of Virginia," giving interesting ornithological quotations from the earliest books of travel. There follows a brief bibliography of modern titles. The most interesting part of the book is the chapter on "The Ornithological Position of the Virginias," in which he gives a careful survey of the geographical divisions and faunal zones of the State, listing the plants and animals, and particularly the birds, characteristic of each region. Accompanying this chapter is a faunal map in colors. The body of the book provides a well annotated list of 304 species occurring in the two states, two of which are accompanied only by West Virginia data. The book closes with a hypothetical list of 40 species, 26 of which have since been added to the Virginia list.

Bibliography:

1884. The Birds of Newport. Proc. Newport Nat. Hist. Soc., Newport, R. I., 1883-84 (July, 1884), pp. 28-41. (Commented on by J. A. Allen, The Auk, 11, 1885, 2, April, pp. 208-209).
- 1885: Nesting of the Worm-eating Warbler (Helmitherus vermivorus) in Virginia. The Auk, 11, 1885, 1, January, pp. 103-104. (Found at Cobham, Virginia, May 19, 1884).
- 1886: Notes on Birds of the Salt Pond Mountain, Virginia. The Auk, 111, 1886, 2 April, pp. 156-161.
- 1887: Wilson's Phalarope (Steganopus tricolor) in Rhode Island. The Auk IV, 1887, 1, January, p. 73. (Written from Newport).
- 1888: Cory's Shearwater at Newport, R. I." The Auk, V, 1888, 1, January, p. 108.
- 1889: Notes on the Birds of White Top Mountain, Virginia. The Auk, VI, 1889, 1, January, pp. 50-53. (Visit, July 25-28, 1888; staying at Miller's, a few hundred feet below the highest point, and working mainly on the highest portion of the mountain.)
1890. A Catalogue of the Birds of the Virginias. Proc. Newport Nat. Hist. Soc., Newport, R. U., 18889-90 (October, 1890), pp. 1-100, map in colors. (Reviewed by C. F. Batchelder in The Auk, VIII, 1891, 1, January, pp. 105-106.)

1897. A New Bird for the Virginias. *The Auk*, XIV, 1897, 1, January, p. 89. (Young male Stilt Sandpiper, taken near White Sulphur Springs, West Va., Nov. '2, 1896 and received from Thaddeus Surber. Written from New York City).
1898. The Summer Birds of the West Virginia Spruce Belt. *The Auk*, XV. 1898 2, April, pp. 131-137. (Visit with Dr. William C. Braislin, June 9-15, 1897. Fully annotated list of birds with the usual careful attention to correlation with vegetation).
1901. Audubon's Shearwater (*Puffinus auduboni*) on the Coast of Virginia. *The Auk*, XVIII, 1901, 2, April, p. 189. (Specimen sent him from Cobb's Island by Captain C. H. Crumb, September 1, 1893. He also states that William Palmer saw several at Virginia Beach early in October, 1900. Lexington, Virginia

-----0000000000-----

CHEEPIE

When my son was a very small boy, perhaps six or seven years old, he came running to me one day with a tiny baby bird grasped in his little hands. He told me he had traded two marbles to some boys who were going to feed the little bird to a dog. I suggested that we free it but Francis did not like the idea. After awhile he agreed that if I would give him a nickel he would sell it to me. So "big kind-hearted mama" thought she would put the bird out in the garden--but as it seemed rather chilly that evening we decided to wait until morning.

Next day I thought it should be fed before we set it free so I dug a fishing worm for him. I did not like the nasty, wriggly thing--besides the baby bird was too quick for me--by the time I reached his mouth he was evidently out of patience and had closed it. I was a very clumsy substitute for a mother-bird. I saw this method would not do--we were getting nowhere and I knew the baby needed food. So, by afternoon I tried tapping gently with my finger onto some fine crumbs on the kitchen table. Of course at first he did not get my meaning but after several attempts during the afternoon he seemed to be interested in my queer actions, watched my finger go up and down, and finally essayed a peck or two himself. After this it was easy--he did not need any more coaxing.

The second and then the third, day came around and I still had not turned him out--always saying "a cat or something might catch him, let's wait until he is a little older".

His next step was learning to fly. He began under a chair flying from rung to rung. After two days of this he ventured farther afield--this, of course, being farther out into the room. Then it was a few days, possibly a week, until he was flying all over the house. All this time I had been putting him to bed in a box in the kitchen--but one afternoon we went out and did not get back home until rather late. When we looked for the little bird he was nowhere to be found. We were almost in tears fearing a rat might have gotten in and caught him. We searched and called, and called and searched, until we finally spied him perched up on the chandelier in the living room peering down at us as if wondering what all the fuss was about. This was his roosting place for some time, although we did not think it a suitable one for the light certainly disturbed him, as he always went to bed before the lights were turned on. After a week of this he decided to change beds, and this time it was a much safer, tho' **quarer**, place he chose. This was on a small part of the woodwork on the landing--the strip of wood that protects the corner of the plaster. He seemed to like this tiny place for he slept there as long as he was with us. When the light in the upstairs hall was turned on he simply crept around the tiny corner and was in the shadow.

By this time he was a regular member of the family. No mention was now ever made of turning him out, but, rather, fear was expressed of losing him or of his getting out accidentally, although he did not want to go out. If the screen door was held open he would fly back into the room or continue to sit on my head or shoulder as though he were looking at something outside, also. I often took him out onto the porch with me, although I'll admit I had one hand ready for a "grab". He named himself "Cheep" and would answer to his name with a "cheep" in return from any part of the house. I always kept food and water on the kitchen table for him and he would answer from there, on occasion, with his mouth full.

He liked all sorts of food, practically the same thing we ate. He was especially fond of the tiny pieces of banana in banana ice cream--and he simply loved onion--he would eat two or three pieces the size of a grain of wheat. Of course the fibry onion burned and hurt him just as it does humans. He would bite and chew, squinting his eyes and turning his head. It was very amusing to watch him eat onion and "cry".

He always ate at the table with us, or rather our meal time was one of his play times. He was extremely mischievous--just loved "stealing" food from daddy's plate--oh, yes, we were now "muvver" and "daddy" to him--he would snatch a bean or other small piece of food, run behind something on the table and peep out to see how daddy was "taking it". If no attention was paid him, he would come back for another piece. He did not want this food but was simply playing. He wanted daddy to chase him around a bowl or cup. He would peep around one side then the other. If daddy pretended to be real mad or got "tbo hot after him" he would fly to me for protection and peep from either side of my head. He spent half the time sitting on my head and shoulders. I could never keep hairpins in my hair for he just loved taking them out and dropping them on the floor. It was rather difficult for me to go about my housework but he was lots of company.

We did not know the kind of bird he was except that he was some kind of sparrow. He learned to sing to the accompaniment of the sewing machine. He had a very delicate, lovely little trilling song. We have not been able to identify it yet. He was about the same size as an ordinary sparrow with a more slender body, perhaps, with a tiny stripe over each eye and a reddish-brown head. When the tiny feathers began coming on his head they evidently came almost over night for one morning we were startled to see what appeared a drop of blood on Cheepie's head but upon investigation it turned out to be tiny pin feathers. This soon turned into a lovely reddish chestnut color. As well as we remember it now the rest of his body was a warmer brown than an English sparrow. He was more likely a field sparrow.

He always kept his distance for an hour or so; he was interested in callers but cautious. After awhile he would go to anyone perching on the finger for an instant. He would not stay long, though. However, he became intrigued with the bracelet and jewelry of a caller one day and went immediately to investigate. The caller was much pleased and flattered with his attention and kept perfectly quiet during his investigations. He then discovered a mole on her neck and proceeded to make merry. No amount of coaxing--and finally scolding--would prevail upon him to stop picking at the mole. I finally had to shut him up in the kitchen during the remainder of her call. He tried the same with me but I soon taught him that moles were not to be tinkered with. That was the only time that "ruvver" had to chastise little Cheepie. I really did slap him--not too severely, of course--but I smacked him down against my neck--he squeaked but behaved ever after that. Or almost ever--he seemed sometimes to forget for an instant and gave the mole a gentle peck, though he knew what I meant when I raised my hand.

He was very fastidious, keeping an immaculate toilet, oiling and combing his feathers and feet many times each day. His feathers were smooth and glossy and his feet like the most delicate of kid gloves. He would bathe daily in my cupped hands. I put them tightly cupped under the spigot and let a gentle trickle of water run into them. He would bathe and flutter in the water and then sit on the side of my hand to shake, going in several times just as birds do in a regular bath. He always informed me of his desire to bathe by flying onto my hands when I was near the kitchen sink or lavatory. He knew the meaning of running water and wanted to bathe several times every day. Of course, as in all his other performances, this method of taking a bath was his idea and not mine.

One of the funniest and cutest things he did was sitting in daddy's hand--it was a real game enjoyed by both--Cheepie settled down in daddy's partly closed hand--daddy squeezed Cheepie--Cheepie would bite daddy's finger--twist and twist the pinched-up flesh, seemingly trying to take a piece out--then all would be quiet for an instant. Cheepie



The Raven

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

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

Vol. X

April-May, 1939

Nos. 4 & 5

A DUCK HAWK ATTACKS THE RAVEN

By J. Southgate Y. Hoyd

While in Lexington, Virginia, for a few days this spring I took a trip up to the site of the Raven's nest that Mr. Jacob Hostetter discovered last year. Mr. John Welles and I started out shortly after lunch on April 7. We went to the site of the last year's nest, but found that it was not being used this year. Just at this moment we heard the call of the Ravens and looking around we saw three of them flying along the mountain to the east. About this time I heard the call of the young from a cliff some distance along the mountain range. I focused my glasses on the birds just in time to see one of them fly into the cliff. Getting the location of this place and then waiting for the birds to leave the locality, we hurried toward this part of the ridge.

In a few minutes we were nearing the place when I suddenly heard the cry of a Duck Hawk. Knowing that this bird is rare in this vicinity I immediately stopped and looked for the bird. From around the end of the range came the Raven with the Duck Hawk flying high above it calling loudly. As I watched this unusual sight, I saw something at which I still marvel. The Duck Hawk stooped at the Raven, calling faster. Just at the point when I expected to see the Raven get a hard blow, it flipped over on its back with its feet up in the air, and warded off the blow. I could not make out whether it used its feet or just assumed an attitude of guard. The Raven did not seem to use its wings in turning over, but was over in a small fraction of a minute. At this the falcon swooped up in the air again, still screaming loudly. The Raven turned over again just as quickly as it had flipped upside down, and resumed its course slowly and steadily along the face of the mountain.

The Duck Hawk having again reached its position over the Raven, it stooped as it had before. Again the Raven turned over on its back to ward off the blow. This was repeated eight times as the Raven crossed before me and finally settled in a pine tree at the end of the cliff. The Duck Hawk swooped up to a tall dead tree near by and sat there motionless. The next thing I saw was the pair of Ravens flying back along the top of the mountain, and the Duck Hawk was nowhere to be seen. The Ravens were calling as they flew past me again.

The young were still calling so I easily located the nest and climbed up near enough to see that it contained two young. These young were well covered with down and I should say they were about two weeks old.

The two of us hurried from the top of the mountain so as not to disturb the nest any more, and also in order to reach the bottom before dark.

I can find no reference in literature of such an incident, but such encounters may be more frequent than we think.

---0000---

The Burrowing Owl - A New Bird for Virginia

By J. J. Murray

The publication of Part 2 of "Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey," by Arthur C. Bent (Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., No. 170, Washington, 1938) brought to light an old record which is new to Virginia workers. It is a record of a Burrowing Owl captured just off the coast of Virginia on October 22, 1918. It occurs on page 396 of the above volume.

On finding this reference I wrote at once to Mr. Frederick C. Lincoln, who has charge of distribution records at the Bureau of Biological Survey, to ask him about the authority of this report. He wrote that the record was published by William Duncan Strong of Berkeley, California, in the Candor, Vol. 24, 1922, page 29. He was kind enough to copy the reference for me; and it is as follows:

Burrowing Owl off the Virginia Coast.--While on depth-charge watch at night just out of Hampton Roads en route to New York, October 22, 1918, I observed a small owl which for four hours flew about the quarter-deck of the vessel but eluded capture. The next morning a marine caught the bird perched on one of the depth-charges, and on examination it proved to be a Burrowing Owl (Speotyto cunicularia). It was very docile and eagerly gulped down pieces of raw beef fed by hand. As the marine wished to take it ashore as a pet I was unable to secure it, and though I positively identified it as a Burrowing Owl I could not determine its subspecific characters. One would however, presuppose the Florida bird (Speotyto cunicularia floridana), rather than our western representative. At all events its appearance so far from its known range seems worthy of record even at this late date.--

The question as to which sub-species this bird represented naturally arises. Was it Speotyto cunicularia floridana, the Florida Burrowing Owl, as the author of the note argues, or was it Speotyto cunicularia hypugaea,

the Western Burrowing Owl? There is, of course, no way now to know, since the bird was not kept. However, when I sought the judgment of Dr. Harry C. Obernolser on this point he was reasonably sure that the bird was the Western rather than the Florida form. I quote from a letter in which he gives his reason for this opinion: "My reason for thinking that the bird is almost certainly the Western race is that, so far as our records go; the Florida burrowing owl is confined entirely to the State of Florida, apparently does not wander beyond the confines of that State, and is, therefore, a resident bird. On the other hand, the western burrowing owl is a rather widely migratory form and wanders long distances. It, therefore, seems almost certain that the Virginia bird, on which the Virginia record in question was based, belonged to the western race."

In any case this is a most interesting and remarkable record, and adds a new species to the Virginia list.

--Lexington, Va.

-----000000000000-----

Water Birds on an Amelia County Lake

By John B. Lewis

In the central part of Amelia county there is a very old artificial pond, or small lake, known as Beaver Pond. It is said that the name is due to the fact that there was a beaver pond there when the county was first settled by the white race. Beginning with November 1, 1938, I have visited this pond at frequent intervals to keep records of the numbers and species of water birds that visit it during the winter. The pond is about two miles long and is three hundred yards or more in width in many places, which gives water fowl a chance to keep quite a distance between themselves and the observer on the bank. This often makes identification difficult for one who is not expert in that line. This will account for the considerable number of records of unidentified flocks of ducks.

A list of dates and number of species seen, follows:

Nov. 1, 1938.
Lesser Scaup 12, one flock
Pied-Billed Grebe 2
Horned Grebe 1

Holboell's Grebe	1--First record for the county, and only a "sight record", though I am quite confident that it is correct.
Coot	7
Nov. 7, 1938.	
Black Duck	4--Too far away to get leg color.
Mallard	10
Lesser Scaup	15--Number partly estimated.
Coot	5
Nov. 11, 1938.	
Lesser Scaup	8
Baldpate	6--Second record for the county.
Blue-Winged Teal	7
Coot	6
Nov. 14, 1938.	
Lesser Scaup	2
Shoveleer	11
Canvasback	1--Keeping to himself.
Baldpate	6
Unidentified ducks	15--(About) One flock.
Horned Grebe	1
Coot	1
Nov. 18, 1938.	
Lesser Scaup	11--Both sexes, diving for food.
Shoveleer	9--In shallow water, upper end of pond.
Nov. 22, 1938.	
Lesser Scaup	16
Unidentified ducks	6--One flock.
Coot	5
Grebe, probably Pied-bill	1
Nov. 28, 1938.	
Lesser Scaup	5--All males.
Unidentified ducks	8--Seen only on the wing.
Coot	2
Dec. 2, 1938.	
Lesser Scaup	5--All males.
Black Duck	7
Pied-Billed Grebe	1

Dec. 3, 1938.		
Lesser Scaup	5--All males.	
Black Duck	5	
Pied-Billed Grebe	1	
Dec. 9, 1938.		
Lesser Scaup	5--All males.	
Kingfisher	1	
Dec. 12, 1938.		
Lesser Scaup	5--All males.	
Ringneck Duck ?	2--First record for the county.	
Dec. 20, 1938.		
Lesser Scaup	4--All males.	
Wood Duck	3	
Dec. 30, 1938.		
Lesser Scaup	3--1 male, 2 female.	
Jan. 3, 1939.		
No water birds seen		
Jan. 6, 1939.		
No water birds seen.		
Jan. 17, 1939.		
Black Duck	6	
Wood Duck	6	
Unidentified Ducks	24-- One flock, probably mallards.	
Jan. 31, 1939.		
Horned Grebe	2	
Kingfisher	1	
Feb. 13, 1939.		
Lesser Scaup	1--Males, very tame, probably crippled.	
Kingfisher	1	
March 3, 1939.		
Wood Duck	6	
Lesser Scaup	10	
Unidentified Ducks	10--Very wild.	
Kingfisher	1	
March 9, 1939.		
Blue-Winged Teal	4--Two pairs.	

April 7, 1939.

Lesser Scaup	14--Mostly in pairs.
Mallard	10--Two flocks.
Wood Duck	1--Male.
Pied-Billed Grebe	1--
Horned Grebe	2
Kingfisher	1

April 14, 1939.

Lesser Scaup	8--Very wild.
Wood Duck	4--2 pairs.
Pied-Billed Grebe	3

April 20, 1939.

Lesser Scaup	6--Two pairs, 2 males together.
Wood Duck; Adult	4
Wood Duck, young	5--A female had 5 small chicks.

May 9, 1939.

Wood Duck, adult	1
Wood Duck, young	10

When rounding a bend in the pond bank on May 6, 1939, a female Wood Duck was seen headed for the marshy shallows on the north side, followed by ten half grown young. This train was swimming in a straight line at equal distances of about a foot from tail to bill. They disappeared among the lilly pads and cat-tails of the shallows.

May 5th., Laughing Gulls were seen at rest on the water near the center of Jones Lake, (The pond feeds the old Giles Mill, on the extreme north side of Amelia county). They did not rise from the water, but the color markings were quite apparent at about 120 yards with 6 X glasses. Rev. Charles Kernan, of Amelia, who is also a bird student saw these gulls the same day. This is the first record for Amelia county. On the same day and at the same place an Osprey was seen, the second record for the County.

--Amelia, Virginia.

-----00000000-----

Some Pleistocene Mammals From Warren County, Virginia.

Mr. T. M. Mussaeus, president of the Limeton Lime Company at Limeton, about six miles south of Front Royal, Warren County, Virginia, informed us

that in recent quarrying operations a fissure filled with red clay containing bones had been opened up. Unfortunately most of the material had been discarded before he learned of the find, but he secured a few teeth, which were brought to Washington and identified by Mr. Charles W. Gilmore. The animals represented were a lion (*Felix atrox*), a tapir (*Tapirus*, sp.) and a bear (*Euartos*, sp.). In view of the very few notices of Pleistocene mammals from the caves of Virginia this occurrence seems worth recording.

--Austin H. Clark.

U. S. National Museum
(From Science; Vol. 88, No. 2273,
July 22, 1938.)

-----00000000-----

A Proposed Trip to Cobb's Island.

Mrs. A. C. Reed, with the assistance of other members in the Norfolk Section, has arranged for a field trip to Cobb's Island on June 10, 1939, and her plans are as follows:

"The group will leave Norfolk from Little Creek on the 7:00 A.M. ferry to Cape Charles. Crossing on ferry takes about 2 hours; cost 50¢ per person each way. Park cars at the ferry on the Norfolk side. Ferries run only every two hours.

Mr. Doughty, Warden, will provide transportation for the group by truck or cars from the ferry to Oyster, and by boat to the Island, with return to Cape Charles, for \$1.50 per person. The Island is about 12 miles out. A trip through the marshes in boat will be included if desired. The group will leave the island in the afternoon for return at about 3 o'clock. The earliest ferry which can be taken for return to Norfolk will be 5:45, which reaches Little Creek at about 7:30 P.M.

There is no shade whatsoever on the island and members should be prepared for heat.

A simply home cooked dinner may be obtained at Cape Charles if desired, or on the return ferry.

The date June 10, 1939 has been selected because of the following information previously sent from Mr. Lester L. Walsh (then of the National

Association of Audubon Societies.) "About the middle of June, that is, the week of the 7th. to 12th. or so, would be about the best time normally for a trip to Cobb's Island. One ought to find everything with eggs and young in the nest at that time, with the possible exception of Oyster-catchers, which usually nest quite early. Gull-billed terns, Least, Royal, Common and Forster's Terns, as well as Laughing Gulls, Wilson's Plover, Willets, Black Skimmers, and Oyster-catchers, are the Principal breeders."

Notice from those planning to take the trip should be sent to Mrs. A. C. Reed, 1519 Morris Ave., Norfolk, by June 3rd. This is important as arrangements have to be made for transportation.

--M. G. Lewis, President.

-----0000000000-----

Field Notes.

Virginia Notes:

KING RAIL (Rallus elegans). A fine adult, recently killed; on the road at the bridge over Little Licking Hole Creek at East Leake, Goochland County, April 24.

HUMMINGBIRD (Archilochus colubris). Farmville, April 23, (Mrs. George W. Jeffries).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW (Zonotrichia albicollis). Singing at Durham, N. C., South Boston, Chase City, and Framville, April 23 and 24.

GREAT BLUE HERON (Ardea herodias). Clarksville, April 23.

--Austin H. Clark,
United States National Museum,
Washington, D. C.

-----0000000000-----

VIRGINIA NOTES.

Amherst County. Snowden: April 1; Bufflehead, 2 males and a female; Lesser Scaup, 3 males and 4 females. April 17; Lesser Scaup, 5 males and 4 females; 5 Red-breasted Mergansers.

Powhatan County. April 13: One male and 3 female Blue-winged Teals on a small pond at the side of Route 60, one mile from Powhatan C. H.

Augusta County. April 15: Pair of Blue-winged Teals on small pool at the side of Route 11, near Burketown.

Rockbridge County. April 17: James River at Balcony Falls, 71 Lesser Scaup; 4 Black Ducks; 9 Ring-billed Gulls; 1 Bonaparte's Gull.

Henry County. April 18: Smith River, near Martinsville; one Merganser, probably Red-Breasted.

Luray. May 5: 10 Black Vultures.

--J. J. Murray.

-----000000-----

Charlottesville, Va.

On April 7 I collected a male Pine Siskin from a flock of Goldfinches. On the previous day I had noticed three or four birds which I took to be Siskins. Dr. I. F. Lewis had also seen some in his yard. On April 2 I saw a Horned Grebe and a Pied-billed Grebe on the city reservoir.

--Jack Calhoun.

-----000000-----

Lexington, Virginia.

While on one of my morning field trips, April 4, 1939, I noticed a pair of Red-breasted Mergansers on North River in the stretch

just before the Washington & Lee boat house. They were in full spring plumage and presented a beautiful sight swimming on the river. I saw 3 of these ducks or Sheldrakes as they are commonly called on this same river during the winter of 1938. These birds dived frequently and seemed to be feeding on small fish from near the bottom.

According to the literature, the Red-breasted Merganser is more typically a marine bird, but may wander inland on occasions. This pair was gone the next morning.

--J. Southgate Y. Hoyt.

-----000000-----

(Mr. Hoyt, who in his work at Cornell is specializing in a study of the life history of the Pileated Woodpecker, will be glad to have information from any Virginia points on distribution or life history facts on this species. Ed.).

-----000000-----

Blacksburg, Virginia:

There have been several interesting specimens added to the V. P. I. collection recently, which you may think worthwhile for "The Raven". On March 24, I collected a male pine warbler near Ironto, about twenty miles from Blacksburg. Dr. Smyth records this as being very rare in this section and only as a fall visitor. There appeared to be at least three, although I collected only one.

I have also had the interesting experience of collecting and putting up three albino or partial albino birds. One is a song sparrow, which is pure white with the exception of a few brown streaks on the breast and upper wing coverts, six brown secondaries in each wing, and about six brown feathers in the tail. All the rest including the bill and feet are pure white. I could easily tell it was a song sparrow by its actions before I shot it. This was collected February 16. The second, collected on March 8, is an almost pure white robin. The breast is slightly tinted with pink, and the tail and head dusky, but the rest of the bird is of an off-white. The bill and feet are those of a normal robin. Another

robin, collected on February 27, is almost a normal robin except for a pure white breast with a smattering of chestnut.

The purple finches have been exceedingly abundant during the past winter in many sections about Blacksturg.

--Edward Addy.

-----00000000-----



The Raven

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

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

Vol. X

June-July, 1939

Nos. 6 & 7

A VISIT TO COBB'S ISLAND

By William B. McIlwaine, Jr.

The Argonauts were never more filled with the spirit of adventure than we were. Nor was their goal one whit more alluring. The goddess Athena sprang fully armed from the head of Zeus. This trip, conceived in genius, sprang from the brain of Mrs. A. C. Reed, and by her was carried into happy execution. And here we were, at seven in the morning, gathering on the Cape Charles Ferry at its dock on Little Creek.

The prospect of birds was a bit disappointing. Around the boat circled Laughing Gulls--a few; on the shore were one of two Great Blue Herons; here and there darted several Barn Swallows; over our heads soared a Turkey Vulture; and far off yonder, in a dead tree, sat a lone Bald Eagle. That was all.

As we got under way the Laughing Gulls increased. We saw many of them almost everywhere. One of the party, given to unscientific exaggeration, said, "We stopped counting after a million." Chesapeake Bay contributed only a few species. My notes give, in addition to the above, one American Scoter (female), one or two White-winged Scoters; possibly twenty or more Wilson's Petrels, a Royal Tern or two, Ospreys, and Crows.

We must not forget an incident that started off the morning with a happy laugh. From one of our more advanced students this: "You know, I have always been struck with the arrogant, supercilious quality of the call of the Laughing Gull. Listen to it." Then to those who did not know this call: "There it is. There! Right at us! Listen!" Just then a little girl removed the top from a shoe box in which holes had been cut; and out on deck stepped the producer of those "arrogant, supercilious" sounds. But there was a truly striking similarity between the calls of the gull and the mewling of that diminutive kitten. And the tones of our human response were somewhat akin.

At the Cape Charles dock we were met by Mr. Doughty, the game warden, and his son. These gentlemen took us by automobile to the village of Oyster, six or eight miles away. Before reaching that metropolis we had added other species: Chimney Swift, English Sparrow, Starling, Robin Song Sparrow, Prairie Warbler, Hummingbird, Purple Martin, Boat-tailed Grackle, Purple Grackle, Maryland Yellowthroat, Meadowlark, Mockingbird, Flicker, Brown Thrasher, Tree Swallow, and several White Heron.

Awaiting us at Oyster was our argosy. (Its name was a combination of numerals and letters, scarcely romantic.) Awaiting us too, was Mr. W. N. Cobb, Audubon warden, and courteous informant about the birds and other things on the island. With him was an unnamed supernumerary who did any necessary policing, and who regularly addressed the writer as "sweetheart". The birds were becoming more interesting to the inlanders. A Green Heron or two, and many Semi-palmated Sandpipers (old friends, both), the Common Tern, and one or two Black Skimmers.

And now we were off for the hour's ride to Cobb's Island. We passed between green marshes, in a channel narrow and winding, but ever widening. And the sun beat down from a cloudless sky. Happy passengers we were, and fascinated by everything. (A coil of rope becomes harder and more penetrating toward the close of an hour's sitting.) A Barn Swallow has its nest in that box-like marker. "Look at that gull diving entirely under water." (This latter before we had seen the "first million".) On another of those box-shaped affairs we saw the only Loon of the day. It lay there resting, almost flat.

Close to Cobb's Island the birds were increasing. But a word of warning came from the crew: "eat your lunch before going ashore, because if you open a can of beans on the island, you will find it full of sand." So on board we ate our lunch. And then to the shore.

We were not there for sea shell, or conk eggs, or Chinamen's shoes--but for birds. And we saw them. There were Oyster Catchers--a few of them. We found only two nests of this species, each with two eggs. These eggs are larger and darker than those of the more numerous Black Skimmers. We saw one baby Oyster Catcher, a little black and white fellow "running around loose". The nests of the Black Skimmers are most casual depressions in the sand, with eggs ranging from one to five. The watching birds were loud in their protests. But possibly more protesting still were a flock of Least Terns, fairy-like birds up there in the air, but screaming as we passed across their breeding grounds. Each nest (just a depression) had its two small spotted eggs. Occasionally a Wilson's Plover would flutter on ahead with dragging wing; and several nests we found with eggs. But these were all the nests we found. Our territory was limited almost entirely to the beach, and its environs.

Once we overheard a different note. Looking up we saw terns with stout, black bills; and several called in chorus, "The Gull-billed Tern!" On the beach were Semi-palmated Sandpipers, and a few Sanderlings. Out beyond the breakers were a pair of American Scoters and one or two Surf Scoters.

In the middle of the island, near the Coast Guard Station, is a little marsh. We paid a visit to that, a few of us, with rich return. For there only did we see Willets,--not many, but noisy. There too were the Boat-tailed Grackle and the Red-winged Blackbird. And there, too, Mrs. Colgate Darden and the writer identified positively a pair of Seaside Sparrows. Identification was made by the yellow spot before the eye. But alas! there is always something to take the joy out of life. Over us flew round and round a flock of birds with long bills and general appearance of gray, much larger than the sparrows, much smaller than the Willets; but we failed to make identification. Reported also were the Barn Swallow, the Semi-palmated Plover, the Black-bellied Plover, and the Greater Yellowlegs.

A group of us tarried too long on the beach, so none got to the marshes. We had to head back for Cape Charles and the ferry.

Undoubtedly the high light of the trip was "Old Sol", who was getting in his work silently, but too well. As next we nominate our young biologist, Mr. Edwards, six feet, four, as he waded in the surf. We will agree that the one who went deepest into the situation was Mr. Wallace White, who reached the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean, clothes, camera, field glasses, watch, and all. But he took it like a sport. We do not know Mr. White sufficiently well to say whether or not he indulged any pious reflections on this experience; but we feel reasonably sure that if he did, he came to the conclusion that he was the Jonah of the party.

It is "hats off, and three cheers!" for Mr. and Mrs. Reed, hosts for the trip to Cobb's Island.

"Who's Who" of the Party:

Dr. John Wendell Bailey, Biologist, University of Richmond; Mr. Grover Pitts, Graduate Student, University of Richmond; Dr. Florence Hague, Biologist, Sweet Brier College; Miss Martha Clark, Biologist, Sweet Brier College; Mr. Ernest P. Edwards, Student in Biology, University of Virginia; Mr. and Mrs. James R. Snyder, Union Theological Seminary, Richmond; Mr. Harry A. Bailey, Biological Survey Refuge, Back Bay; Mrs. Colgate W. Darden, Algonquin Park, Norfolk; Mr. J. Thomas Stewart, Biologist, Portsmouth High School (Norfolk); Miss Faye Savage, Biologist, Norfolk High School, (Portsmouth); Miss Nell Phipps, Biologist, Norfolk High School (Norfolk);

Mrs. Lewis R. Lester, Boy Scouts, Norfolk; Miss Muriel White, Nature Instructor, Girl Scouts, Norfolk; Mr. Wallace White, Norfolk Academy; Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Reed, Norfolk Navy Yard; Wm. B. McIlwaine, Jr., Alexandria.

---Alexandria, Virginia.

-----0000000000-----

SOME REFLECTIONS ON WILDLIFE

By Jacob H. Hostetter

Wildlife, and what it has meant to me, and what I hope it will mean to you. I have always loved nature in all its beauty and calm. My hobby has ever been wildlife.

I was taken when still a lad back into the North Mountain range, to what is now known as "The Meadow Grounds", and there I was raised. We moved to this place on April 20, 1884, and I was eleven years old on May 2, following. So I have all my life been in the mountains, and have spent many of my days in the woods on the mountainsides.

After attending the Rockbridge Wildlife Federation meeting held recently; and hearing the fine talks on restocking wildlife in Rockbridge county, it has made me stop and think of by-gone days; days when we had all kinds of game in abundance in our mountains.

It is particularly of this I am writing now. When I was a boy, I would go with my father, to watch the deer-licks. We sometimes would watch the licks all night; the gnats and the mosquitoes would feast on me--and most of the times we would get nothing. We would have a blind built with a seat up in a tree, and my father would generally tie a rope around me and around the tree, so that if I should go to sleep I would not fall out. But the gnats did not let me sleep.

I could hear all sorts of things, as if animals were pushing their way through the brush, and they seemed very huge to me. One special place I remember so well was at the "Pond Lick" on Piney Mountain. This was the best place for deer I have ever seen. I have sat up in a pine tree there at this pond and watched deer around the pond and the mountain top. I have seen my father kill several deer at this place, and also I

have seen him miss some that were feeding around, and would not be within good range.

I remember one evening we were at this lick and someone's hound brought a very large buck past us. My father shot at him with both barrels, but he went on around the top of the mountain. We climbed down to the ground and went to the spot where the deer had been when he shot; my father had neglected to lead his gun again, and the deer came back right by us, within close range. My father threw up his gun and it snapped, and in a moment the deer was gone. I wish to mention the things you would hear and see at this place. It seemed to be alive with all kinds of birds--towhee or chewink, the brown thrasher and wood thrush, black and white warbler, and the oven bird in the distance, giving its song "teacher, teacher, teacher," and many others too numerous to mention. As the sun would set the whippoorwills would make the mountains ring; and this would be kept up all night. We could hear the night-hawk giving his terrible honk, which is described as a loud nasal grunt, also the indigo bunting sing his night song. We could hear the great owl, and the screech owl; the pheasant "drumming" any hour in the night, the fox barking, and many other things in wildlife.

And now I hope to see wildlife restocked and protected; so that the young folks of this day and time in our land may see these things and hear the multitudinous sounds in the forest and mountains, in the daytime and in the night; and that they may learn to draw from their knowledge of nature much joy and satisfaction. I have had my day, and I hope to see you have yours.

I have seen wild turkeys in great numbers--I saw one occasion forty turkeys in one bunch; and it was nothing unusual to see fifteen, or twenty or twenty-five together at one time. Let us get together and cooperate with our county authorities and game wardens, and do all we can to protect wildlife. Do not kill the birds--those kinds that sing and nest about your door, for they are your friends.

(This sketch taken from the Lexington Gazette was written by the old gentlemen from Rockbridge County, whose talk about Ravens so interested the members of the V. S. O. at the 1938 meeting. Ed.)

-----00000000-----

NORFOLK NOTES

March 9 Wilson snipe migrating; 2 by road, 2 in marsh, Pungo. Also at

Pungo, 2 bitterns, 19 blue-winged teal, 1 redhead. Some sort of temporary alliance seemed to exist between one little teal and the red-head. During the half-hour I watched, they swam about so close together as to appear touching; if one turned aside to investigate something, the other immediately followed. Together they disappeared around a bend.

March 28 Biological Survey Refuge. 130 red-breasted mergansers, 14 cormorants, 1 gannet, 2 laughing gulls, 2 laughing gulls, 2 ring-billed gulls, 5 gadwall, 2 males and 3 females, last date for ring-necked ducks, 1 male, 3 females.

April 4 Suffolk, migrant shrike on telephone wire.

April 5 B. S. Refuge. Along coast, 21 piping plovers, 25 boat-tailed grackles. Found dead as result of oil, 1 common loon, 1 red-throated loon, 1 red-breasted merganser. Another red-throated loon in surf partly affected, 1 common loon taken to camp and sponged; this did not survive; 1 red-throated loon was not affected by oil, but one foot was almost bitten off and terribly mangled, and the loon was dragging it on sand. Mr. Bailey amputated foot, and loon was freed in marsh by CCC camp, where it quickly revived and swam about looking for a meal. This loon later continued migration. On Long Island, which is within the refuge, were 3 purple finches, 1 male and 1 white-crowned sparrow. These are not common here. Yellow-throated warblers and many blue-gray gnatcatchers were singing. Also, there were 10 black-crowned herons; in marsh, 1 little blue heron, 7 black ducks.

April 13 Pungo. Blue-winged teal now increased to 41. Osprey performing his spectacular courtship, mounting, hovering and calling, and nose-diving eleven without stopping. Sometimes this courtship is performed above female as she sits on her nest.

April 15 Eighty-one girlscoouts with some mothers and fathers were taken to B. S. Refuge. Forty-one species observed. Along beach were surf scoters, about 30, and Bonaparte's gulls in winter, changing, and summer plumages. First dates for caspian terns, least terns, Am. egret. Twelve Hudsonian curlews (Mrs. Barefield and Mr. Bailey). In a march a sora rail called; one child asked, "What is that bird which sounds like a siren running down?"

April 19 Wildflower Sanctuary. Hooded warbler, summer tanager, rough-winged swallow (this nests regularly in bank on opposite shore.)

April 22 Seashore St. Park. First date for yellow-throated vireo,

- prarie, parula and prothonotary warblers, Louisiana water-thrush. Pileated woodpecker, undisturbed by our presence drummed on tree. I can understand the report from CCC men working in park that the Pileated did not mind their being there.
- April 26 First date for yellow-breasted chats, yellow-crowned night heron, clapper rail.
- April 27 A Baltimore oriole singing in cherry tree by my house, remained one-half hour, then migrated. This is uncommon here.
- April 30 Flock of 60 bobolinks. At Life Saving Station No. 3, 4 short billed marsh wrens, 3 singing. First record of this specie that I have for Princess Anne Co. Long-billed wrens abundant in all marshes. Three hundred American scoters off shore.
- May 4 When in a pilgrimage procession of 22 cars to raise money for the Wildflower Sanctuary, a broad-winged hawk--beautiful--flew between my car and the preceding one.
- May 6 Pungo. First date I have for orchard oriole, king rail, Florida gallinule, least bittern, and Savannah sparrows. Eleven purple finches in swamp eating tender growth of cypress trees, all young males or females, one singing nicely. Also there, yellow-throated warbler and Veery.
- May 9 Pungo. Along coast, black skimmers, royal terns, common terns, semipalmated sandpipers, least sandpipers, spotted sandpipers. One boat-tailed grackle assailed and pursued a pigeon hawk as it flew over sand dunes. Finally hawk turned on boat-tail, which fled. Hawk seemed to give it a fright and then as if to say, "Now will you do it again?"; turned and proceeded down the beach. Two Henslow's sparrows, one each side of road. The Princess Anne colony is gone this year, due to the fact land is all used for cultivation. However, I have found this sparrow in 3 places between Virginia Beach and Pungo. Two Florida gallinules (different marsh from May 6 record) Three wood ducks, males, sitting on a log. At Lynnhaven Bridge 10 Canada geese flew overhead, honking and making a great to-do. Some geese have lingered long at B. S. Refuge; doubtless these were ten--at least on their way.
- May 11 Seashore St. Park. Yellow-billed cuckoos abundant. Three black-throated blue warblers, my first Norfolk record for Chestnut-sided warbler, parula pulling at hanging moss trying to arrange it into pocket shape, Kentucky warbler, which as

usual gave us a chase before identification, Pileated woodpecker, 6 olive-backed thrushes. I have seen more of this specie than any other thrush migrating thru here this spring; perhaps some gray-checked; on this I would like to do more studying another year.

- May 14 Suffolk. Blue jay, I have never seen this in Norfolk. Two oven-birds, these likewise uncommon in Norfolk, tho very common all the way from Suffolk to Williamsburg. Does the large part of the migration of land birds sweep up the shore side of Chesapeake Bay? If so, where does it cross the Chesapeake? Why do we not have the spectacular flights to Cape Henry---Cape Charles which they have, Delaware--Cape May?
- May 19 B. S. Refuge. Three dowitchers; 4 red-backed sandpipers, 5 greater yellow-legs; 2 willetts, 60 knots, and black-bellied plovers, turnstones, sanderlings so abundant as to be "in droves". One gannet was found dead with a fishhook in its gullet. The hook was probably part of some fishing net, and the gannet in its struggles to become free must have torn net.
- May 20 Scarlet tanager at Mrs. Barefield's. This tanager we believe had received a bullet wound on the neck, perhaps a year ago. It had healed, but the feathers had been pushed upwards and formed a growth, an extraordinary scarlet-yellow pompon, standing out slightly on one side of the nape. The bird acted sluggish, flew only short distances, and in appearance looked fat like an unhealthy canary. Along its sides, the brilliant scarlet had turned to a sort of orange hue. Yet it was still attempting to reach its destination. The next day it was gone. How long will it escape a cooper's hawk in its northern forests, provided it ever reaches there this year? Such is the needless suffering mankind inflicts on the beautiful wild things;
- May 24 Red-headed woodpecker, black-billed cuckoo.

---Mrs. A. C. Reed.

-----000000000-----

NOTES FROM MIDDLE MOUNTAIN

Highland County, Virginia.

Dr. Alexander Wetmore and Mr. John E. Graf, both of the United States National Museum, and I visited Middle Mountain during the week of June 12-17. I was only able to be there for the first three days, but the others stayed through the week. Mr. Graf made a very representative collection of the insects of that high region, while Dr. Wetmore secured a collection of birds which included practically all the forms needed for a study of sub-specific distribution. He also collected some birds at the foot of Lantz Mountain in the western edge of Crabbottom valley. These will be reported on later after the sub-specific identifications have been made.

Since the birds found on the mountain were reported on so fully last summer ("summer Birds of Middle Mountain, Highland County, Virginia," The Raven, August, 1938) I shall only mention a few on which we have some additional data:

1. Ruffed Grouse. Dr. Wetmore saw several females. All had small young, even though our visit was nearly two weeks later than the trip last year.
2. Woodcock. Mr. Graf saw three on the 13th along a small branch of Laurel Fork.
3. Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Cuckoos heard last summer were reported as probably the Black-billed. This year two cuckoos were definitely identified as the Yellow-billed. No Black-billed birds were seen, although other cuckoos heard might have been either form.
4. Chimney Swift. One pair again seen on the mountain, as last year. They seemed to be using the chimney of the cottage. This year an additional bird was seen on Laurel Fork.
5. Pileated Woodpecker. One heard by Dr. Wetmore on the 14th.
6. Hairy Woodpecker. Not listed last year. This year a pair had a noisy young in a nest in a sugar maple tree near the cottage.
7. Prairie Horned Lark. Where last year there was one pair on Sapling Ridge, we saw this year a flock of ten, two pairs of adults with some immature birds.
8. Raven. A pair seen over Sapling Ridge on the 13th.

9. Veery. Again very scarce. Only one bird seen, by Dr. Wetmore, on Stump Ridge, on the 15th.

10. Mountain Vireo. Not listed last summer. This year a few were seen, while the Red-eyed Vireo was again common everywhere.

11. Yellow-breasted Chat. On the 17th. Dr. Wetmore saw one near the bridge on Laurel Fork, where I had found one last summer, and another at 4,000 feet in an old field at the top of the Alleghany Mountain.

12. Vesper Sparrow. Even more common on Sapling Ridge than last year.

On Laurel Fork on the 13th. we saw a Red Squirrel (Sciurus hudsonicus) and a Jumping Mouse (Zapus hudsonius). I saw another Red Squirrel on Lantz Mountain on the 14th.

Lantz Mountain, by the way, was incorrectly spelled as "Lance" Mountain in the former paper.

--J. J. Murray.

-----0000000000-----

NOTES FROM NORTHWESTERN VIRGINIA

Mrs. Clark and I spent Sunday, Monday, and part of Tuesday in Frederick County, Virginia, and Hampshire County, West Virginia, and noted, in Virginia, the following birds.

UPLAND PLOVER. Junction of Hogue Creek road (681) and Brown road (687), 1.6 miles northeast of Gainsboro, Frederick County, May 9.

We have noted the upland plover several times at this season in this region, and we believe that it breeds here, though we have no evidence.

CLIFF SWALLOWS. Near Berryville, May 9.

ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOWS. About a rock out at the side of the road, Virginia route 7) on the border of Clark and Frederick Counties, May 6.

NIGHTHAWKS. Winchester, May 6-9.

WOOD DUCK. One male, Shenandoah River at Castleman's Ferry, route 7, Clark County.

On May 30, we saw two upland plover a few miles south of Trapp, in western Loudoun County. They flew up from a field to the upper cross bar on a telephone pole. One immediately flew over the field, but the other stayed and watched us as we drove by.

We also noticed a Baltimore oriole near Delaplane. From its actions we suspected that it had a nest in a large tree by the side of the road, but we could not find it.

---Austin H. Clark, Curator,
Division of Echinoderms,
U. S. National Museum,
Washington, D. C.

-----0000000000-----

BLACKSBURG NOTES

We obtained a specimen of the Little Black Rail here on May 27--a new bird for the Montgomery County List. Charles Jr. saw the bird earlier that morning. Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Bailey, Mr. C. E. Addy and I returned to the marsh with him after breakfast and were fortunate enough to find the bird within a few hundred feet of where it was first flushed. As it had done earlier in the morning, it flushed from the narrow strip of marsh vegetation and alighted nearby in the pasture in plain view.

The bird, a male with sexual organs well developed, was collected by Mr. Addy and prepared for the V. P. I. collection.

While out on May 27 we also found a nest and nine eggs of the Virginia Rail and flushed three adult birds. This is the third nest of this species found this year. Both of the others were destroyed by cattle. Other nests found were a number of the Red-winged Blackbird--many empty,

others with one to three eggs and one with newly hatched young; one nest of the Mockingbird containing three eggs and two newly hatched young; and a nest of the Brown Thrasher, being incubated. A brood of young Brown Thrashers too young to fly well and a Song Sparrow feeding young were also seen. A non-breeding male Savannah Sparrow was flushed from the marsh grass and collected for a late record.

Miss Katy Friel Sanders of Max Meadows writes as of May 25, "The Cliff Swallows have returned to build under the granary. There are 78 completed nests and 4 under construction. Two pairs built under the eaves, of which one nest was taken by English Sparrows."

---C. O. Handley, Leader
Virginia Cooperative
Wildlife Research Unit

-----00000000-----

NARUNA, VIRGINIA.

On June 7, 1939, I found a pair of Scarlet Tanagers in a pine-hemlock forest bluff along Falling River about $3\frac{1}{2}$ or 4 miles south of Naruna. After watching them for half an hour they were seen feeding their young, which were out of their nest in a tall pine. I know now that they have been nesting there for three years.

---Bertha Daniel.

-----00000000-----

BATH COUNTY, VIRGINIA.

On June 14, 1939, I saw a Black Vulture with a flock of Turkey Vultures along Route 220, four miles south of Bolar Springs, in Bath County.

---J. J. Murray.

-----000000000000-----

AUGUSTA COUNTY, VIRGINIA.

On June 9, I saw a pair of Upland Plovers in a field near Stuart's Draft, Augusta County, Va. Their actions undoubtedly showed that there was a nest nearby.

-----J. J. Murray.

-----0000000000-----

NOTES AT MOUNTAIN LAKE

At Mountain Lake on the afternoon of June 22, the following notes of interest were made: Two pairs of Cedar Waxwings were seen frequently. One of the pairs seemed to be courting. For a few minutes during observation at this time they showed much affection by pressing their bills together and chasing each other occasionally from tree to tree.

About one-half mile north of the University summer school of Biology, a female yellow-bellied Sapsucker was seen at close range. Special effort was made to locate the nesting tree but without definite success.

Other birds much in evidence in the woods at thirty-eight hundred to four thousand feet elevation were: Canadian Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Black-throated Blue (Cairn) Warbler, and Junco. Further north and slightly down the mountain side Towhees and Indigo Buntings became abundant. A pair of Hairy Woodpeckers and Blue-headed Vireos were seen at about thirty-seven hundred feet elevation.

-----M. G. Lewis

-----0000000000-----



The Raven

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

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

Vol. LX *X*

August - September, 1939

Nos. 8 & 9

RAVENS AND DUCKLAWS

By Jacob H. Hostetter

It has been my custom for some years to look after the Raven, and to study his habits at nesting time. I found the first nest on April 17, 1938, and since then I have been watching the Ravens from almost every standpoint. I have watched them through February and March, and I could see them going to the mountain, but they would never go toward the cliff, where the nest proved to be. I find that when the mother Raven is looking for food, she will never make any noise, but will float through the air like the cuckoo. So on April 9, 1939, I went to the mountain to look about the Raven nest, and to watch this bird. Mr. S. Y. Hoyt came to my house, and told me the Ravens were not nesting in the old nest, - the one I found last year, - but that they were on the same ridge in another cliff, and as it was late in the evening he could not then investigate. So I went up to within six hundred yards of the cliff, and got in an open place where I could get a good view. I had a good set of glasses; I looked all the rocks over on that ridge, and could see no Ravens. Then I took a view of the cliff on another ridge to the right; and while looking at this cliff one Raven dropped in to the nest, to feed her young. I watched her a few moments, and she went around the mountain. So I started to the nest, up a steep and very rocky hollow, which led straight to the nest; the Ravens spied me, and all the antics possible they cut through the air! They would sail out over me, very high; they would stand for a few minutes; then they would drop down to the tree-tops, making all sorts of queer sounds as I got up to within two hundred yards of the nest.

I saw a Duck-Hawk come out, and try to drive them away. He would go high above them, and then dart at them like a shot. But the Raven would just tilt over, and stick his feet up, and the hawk would never hit him. I watched them for some time to see if it would hurt them, but he never touched them. I was watching them through my glasses, and I feel sure when the Raven would tilt over, and stick up his strong feet and legs, the hawk seemed to avoid hitting him, or trying to break through his strong defence. The hawk finally gave it up. I would say the hawk made as many as twenty-five darts at the Ravens, and never touched them once.

I have never seen anything like the Raven on wings; their tilting and dropping is wonderful. I got better views of the Raven on this trip than I have ever gotten before.

As I got closer to the nest the old birds disappeared. The nest was probably twenty-five feet from the ground, and had two or three young in it.

Now as for the duck-hawk: I believe he is the enemy of the Ravens. I do not believe he can kill the old Ravens, but will kill the young if he gets a chance. I have an article from northern Pennsylvania which states; "The Raven is not only smart, but he is courageous. When we disturbed the Duck-Hawks they would vent their anger on the poor Ravens. Instead of turning tail, as most birds do when a Duck-Hawk swoops, the Raven would wait until the Hawk was about to strike, then turn over on its back and stick its feet straight up into the face of the speeding Hawk. It is hard to say whether the Hawk was afraid to hit the Raven, or merely wished to frighten it off. At all events, we never saw the hawk strike while the Ravens were in the air".

I went back to the nest on April 23rd, with Dr. R. P. Carroll and four others from the Virginia Military Institute (biology class), and we got some very good pictures of the young birds.

On May 1st, Dr. J. J. Murray came to my place, and we went to the Raven nest. When we got to where we could see the nest, one of the young was standing on the rock that partly hid the nest. We got a good view of him, then he slipped down into the nest. They would peep around the rock at us, and their eyes would shine like new money. We tried every way we could to get to them, Dr. Murray finally climbed an oak tree, and got within twenty-five feet of the nest, and got five pictures of them. I had tied two poles together and used this to scare them up on the rock where he could get a good view of them. We could see three, but thought there were four in the nest. They were just about ready to leave the nest, and they looked larger than the old birds. We fixed up a ladder on the east side of them, and got three more views of them. They would open their big red mouths as they looked at us. We also watched the Duck-Hawk trying to frighten them away from the mountain. This has been a wonderful experience to me. I have watched these young Ravens since they left the nest -- I have seen as many as five on a dead limb, but could not tell whether 3 young and 2 old, or 4 young and 1 old bird.

Lexington, Virginia

-----000000000-----

A DAY AT TEXEL

J. J. Murray

The primary purpose of a trip to Europe this past summer was to attend the World Conference of Christian Youth at Amsterdam, but as the plans progressed it was inevitable that time should be allowed for some bird trips. Of these trips the one for which I was most eager was a visit to the Island of Texel (pronounced Tessel in Dutch) on the northwest coast of Holland between the North Sea and the Zuider Zee.

On reaching Amsterdam where we were to spend ten days at the Conference I presented to Dr. Peter G. Van Tienhoven, a Dutch ornithologist, my letter of introduction from Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson. Dr. Van Tienhoven is one of the

leading man in the Nederlandsche Vereeniging Tot Bescherming van Vogels, which is a Dutch counterpart of our Audubon Society, and which is affiliated with the American Society through the International Committee for Bird Preservation. He turned out to be a very gracious and charming gentleman, inviting Mrs. Murray and me to dinner at his beautiful old home, the windows of which look out on the canal that flows along the street called the Heerengracht. The offices of the Dutch Bird Society are in his home. He and Mr. Drijver, Secretary of the Society, when they learned that I was interested in visiting Texel, did everything possible to make my trip there a pleasant and profitable one.

Since Texel is an island and since time was limited, I decided to make the trip by airplane. We took off from the Schiphol at Amsterdam in a big blue Fokker machine, carrying about thirty passengers. Flying directly over the city and then striking northwest over Zaandam and the old cheese market town of Alkmaar, we looked down on the neat pattern of Dutch countryside, with its canals, large and small, and its checker-board of tiny farms. When we reached the North Sea coast we flew out over the breakers, in order, I suppose that we might land on the strip of beach in case of trouble. It took us only thirty-five minutes to cover the ninety miles to Texel. The trip was rather bumpy, and ~~air~~ sick children aboard were soon using the little paper bags that are provided in all seats. That afternoon I had a much smoother trip back in a smaller, aluminum-covered Douglas Plane, flown by an American pilot from Salt Lake City. While we were waiting to take off from the Texel airfield he told me a lot about the efficiency of K. L. M. the Dutch air transport organization.

A royal reception awaited me at the Texel landing field. My Amsterdam friends had written ahead. At the Airport building a trim young official greeted me by name and told me that they were pleased to have an American visit their island and their birds. Bird sanctuaries form much of the attraction of this thinly settled little island, which is a holiday resort of the simpler type. They know what some sections of our country have yet to discover, that a display of wild life will attract many tourists, and tourists of the better class. The sanctuary warden, Mr. J. Brouwere who was to be my chaperone for the day was also there, with an extra bicycle for me. In a few minutes we were wheeling away toward the mudflats and the birds. I wondered how we would get along for the day. Beyond a few bird names, my guide had no English, and my Dutch went scarcely beyond an order for ham and eggs. But a friendly smile goes a long way anywhere; a finger can point the same direction in any language; and Mr. Brouwere did know the birds, which was the main thing I was after. I had a book of colored plates of European birds to which I could point and so got from him a nod or the shake of a head. With a mixture of his little English and my little Dutch, with a few (a very few) German words thrown in, and with a lot of pointing we got along wonderfully.

I had already studied Texel from the air. The island is about fifteen miles long and half as wide. It is shaped just like a pie crust, perfectly flat everywhere except where the sand dunes raise a protecting rim around the coast. Different from most of the Dutch landscape, it has few canals and practically no streams, except for a small river on the eastern side. My guide took me along the narrow roads for six or eight miles until we came to the sand dune barrier. Then, motioning me to leave the cycle in the grass, he led the way up the dune. As we reached the top and looked out over the glittering shallow waters of the Zuider Zee, Mr. Brouwere flung a mouthful of guttural Dutch at

and poised on the edge. There were the birds that I had come to see! Birds, so many of them, so new to me! Birds in such quantity as I had never seen before! The mudflats for miles were covered with them. When something excited them they rose in great black clouds.

Some of these birds I had come especially to see, so we began to pick these out. First of all were the Spoonbills. Texel is one of the chief nesting places of this fine and uncommon bird. Soon we located a flock of some two hundred feeding at a distance but in good view through our glasses. The Spoonbill is a long-legged water bird, related to the herons. Later, as some of them flew over our heads, I got a good view of the large spoon-shaped bill from which the bird gets its name. Where our Roseate Spoonbill in Florida and Texas is flushed with pink, the European bird is pure white. The graceful plumes that stand up on the head during the breeding season were not showing now, but the bird is lovely enough at any season. Next in interest was the Avocet, another odd and lovely bird. We found flocks of these birds everywhere. Long lines of Cormorants, familiar to me from days in England but always interesting, stood on the outer flats along the edge of the water. Occasionally the wild cries of passing flocks of Curlew and Whimbrel could be heard. Queer Oyster-Catchers, their heavy red bills fashioned for working on the oyster shells, were common. The air above us was noisy all the time with the screams of Common and Sandwich Terns, the former old friends to me but the Sandwich Tern a new and welcome addition to my list. And surrounding and enveloping these larger and more interesting birds were literally swarms of the smaller and more common sandpipers and plovers. For hours, long past time for a reasonable lunch, we watched these restless, wheeling, screaming flocks. Later in the day we were to travel around the north end of the island and see some of the land birds. On earlier days I had had other bird trips in Holland and in Switzerland and Germany. But the bird memory of this trip to Europe that will always stand out in my mind is the picture of the mudflats of Texel with their countless flocks of water birds, resting for a few hours, but even then restless under the inner urge to push somewhere farther south.

Lexington, Virginia

---000000---

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

July 8, 1939

A call for an Executive Committee Meeting and an invitation from Prof. and Mrs. Freer to meet at Arden again brought Mr. M. G. Lewis, Mrs. F. W. Shaw and Elizabeth Shaw, Prof. and Mrs. Handly and John, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Reed, Mr. and Mrs. English and the Secretary of said committee and Mr. and Mrs. J. Frank Key to Timberlake on July 8. After lunch the company divided into business and social sections.

The minutes of The Executive Committee Meeting of Sept, 5, 1938 were read and approved. The minutes of the Annual Meeting of Feb. 17, and 18, 1939 were approved. The following resolution, presented by the Resolutions Committee subsequent to the Annual Meeting was adopted.

Whereas, the Virginia Society of Ornithology has been informed that the existing migratory waterfowl refuge extending along the

Potomac River from Washington to Alexandria has been largely destroyed through the construction of an airport, and

Whereas, the Society is further informed that the Secretary of Agriculture has the power to close any navigable stream to hunting, therefore, be it

Resolved: that the secretary of the Society be directed to request the Secretary of Agriculture to exercise the above power and extend the existing migratory waterfowl refuge from Alexandria to Mount Vernon.

The following membership work has been done in accordance with plans made by the Executive Committee. A brief notice about the V. S. O. was sent to the Kentucky Warbler and to the Chat (North Carolina), and a note about the Kentucky Ornithological Society appeared in the Raven. The West Virginia and Tennessee Clubs did not respond. The effort to reach the science teachers in the High Schools of the State was not carried out because there is no list of high school teachers.

The offer of the National Association of Audubon Societies to let affiliated organizations sell Audubon Elephant Folio prints at a profit was not accepted at present.

The National Association of Audubon Societies reported to Mrs. Key that the total membership in Junior Audubon Societies in Virginia is 1482 a gain of 800 in the past year. Mrs. Key suggested the possibility of cooperating with conservation committees of the D. A. R. Garden Clubs, Womens' Clubs, the Girl Scout Student Cooperative Association or any other groups interested in the organizing of Junior Audubon Clubs and in working out a program of study for the same. She has suggested to County Chairmen that they might get financial aid from their Garden Clubs. Based on the expenses for the Junior Audubon work thus far, it was voted to allow Mrs. Key \$20.00 for the continuation of her work through December 1940.

It was moved and carried to continue the \$10.00 membership in the Nat'l Association of Audubon Societies. It was moved and carried to join the Virginia Wild Life Federation. Organization membership costs \$2.50 with our present size.

With the information available the value of publishing articles in the proposed Virginia Journal Of Science rather than continuing the Raven seems of doubtful value to the V. S. O. Consequently it was moved and carried that Dr. Murray and Mr. M. G. Lewis should confer with the Va. Journal of Science Committee of the State Academy of Science or call of the latter to consider publishing in the Va. Journal of Science rather than separately in the Raven, and that they should report to the Executive Committee.

A long discussion of the wardenship of Cobb's Island and the danger of being lost as an Audubon Society Sanctuary resulted in the decision to write to the National Association concerning the situation.

It was moved and carried to have the next Annual Meeting at Harrisonburg and to have the President appoint a local committee on arrangements. April 26 and 27th were the dates named.

Mention was made of the plans of the Virginia Academy of Science to start science clubs in the high schools. These might afford another point of contact for the Junior Audubon Societies. The Va. Academy of Science is making efforts to interest the Federal Government in acquiring Dismal Swamp. It was moved and carried that we express ourselves as in sympathy with the movement.

Before adjournment there was an expression of appreciation to Prof. and Mrs. Freer for the help and pleasure which their hospitality had afforded the Executive Committee, and a quick response from Prof. Freer to the effect that the pleasure was also theirs.

Florence S. Hague
Secretary

-----000000-----

A WOODPECKER OBSERVATION
Herbert H. Beck

On July 11 as I was riding the Appalachian Trail through the Shenandoah National Park, (and the rangers told Mahlon Haines and me that we were the first horsemen to cover the entire Park Trail) I caught a glimpse of a bird the exact identification of which was made difficult by the hazardous ledge on which my companion would not allow me to stop. It was a dull black-backed woodpecker, apparently a little larger than a Hairy. In my quick view I caught a thin white stripe running down the neck or side. My first thought was Arctic Three-toed. Upon my return to our collection (in which there are most of the woodpeckers, even two sub-species of Ivory-Bill) I found that the bird I had watched for about ten seconds was more nearly like *Picoides Arcticus* than any other species. This observation was about 300 feet from the top of Hawksbill Mountain. (4049 altitude). The nearest breeding ground of this Three-Toed is in the Adirondacks at altitudes above 3000 feet. Hawksbill, as well as other mountains in the Park, has balsam fir near its top. The most common residents along the trail through the Park were Carolina Junco, Towhee and Yellow-Breasted Chat. An interesting sight was a Red-tailed Hawk carrying a snake, which appeared to be a rattler. I cannot, of course, commit myself to an observation of Arctic Three-Toed Woodpecker, but I wish some ornithologist would make a close study of the balsam fir regions of Hawksbill Mountain in effort to find and identify the impressively dark backed woodpecker I saw there.

Franklin and Marshall College.
Lancaster, Pa.

In the afternoon of July 25, while fishing from a boat near the upper end of the old Giles Mill pond on the north border of Amelia county, Rev. Charles Kernan, of Amelia, saw what seems to have been a Water Turkey, Anhinga anhinga.

The following description of the bird is based on the report of Mr. Kernan, who is an enthusiastic amateur bird student, and also on that of a young man who lives near the lake and who was present and also watched it. The bird was the size of a very large duck or small goose, but more slender. The neck was very long, and while the bird was swimming, when not alarmed, was slightly arched, with the head held high and bill pointing slightly upward. The color was brownish, without noticeable color pattern, and the long bill was yellow. It dived readily and swam long distances under water. When only slightly alarmed it swam with only the head and neck above water. By drifting toward it in a boat Mr. Kernan was at one time within about 25 yards of it.

Early in the morning of July 26, Dr. Kernan came to me to tell me of his find, and I went with him to the lake but a search of several hours failed to locate the bird. Early in the morning of July 27, I was again at the lake. Failing to locate the bird, I drove to another large pond about four miles southwest of Giles Mill Pond, and searched it, but without success. On the second pond visited, known as Barksdale Pond, I counted a flock of fourteen wood Ducks.

Amelia, Virginia.

(There seems little doubt as to the correctness of this identification. If correct it is the second record for the Anhinga in Virginia, one of the birds having been reported from Rooche's Run Sanctuary near Washington in August 1936 - Editor)

-----000000-----

A TRIP NORTH AND WEST
by
D. Ralph Hostetter

After the close of school, a short trip as far west as Kansas brought us into a territory of which the bird population includes several species not familiar to the field worker in the east. The Western Meadowlark, Dickcissel, Prairie Horned Lark, and Bobolink deserve special mention. It is my opinion that the song of the Western Meadowlark is far more beautiful than that of the eastern bird. In habits and behavior it closely resembles our Meadowlark. The Dickcissels are very abundant, singing from fence posts and from fence and telephone wires. The song, although not especially pretty, is rendered with such earnestness that one pauses to listen. The Prairie Horned Larks are more numerous than here in the east, and may frequently be seen on fence posts along the highway. Bobolinks are seen in the vicinity of Harrisonburg only during migration, so it was a treat to hear them singing as they flew over the grass fields, or from grass stem to fence post.

On the return trip we stopped at Kingsville, Ontario, Canada, to see

Jack Miner and his birds. We came upon Mr. Miner or "Jack" as he prefers to be called, seated upon a bench near his house, mending a dip net. He greeted us and at once proceeded to show us his birds, bird houses, traps, ponds and lawns. He is very sociable, full of proverbs, similies and metaphors. Throughout the tour he kept telling of the work which lies close to his heart, namely, the feeding and banding of geese and ducks. It is probably known to all that all his bands placed on wild geese bear a Scripture verse. To date he has banded 20,550 geese, 7000 ducks, and 1200 Mourning Doves. Last year he paid for the husking of 17,000 bushels of corn to feed his geese during the winter. The entire Sanctuary comprises two miles square, whereas the portion that is fenced in consists of 400 acres. We saw only a few geese and ducks; April is the best month for numbers. In a large cage he has confined several pairs of Mocking Birds which have nested and reared young. Should any V.S.O. member come near the vicinity of Kingsville, he will be well repaid by calling on Jack Miner.

Harrisonburg, Virginia

-----000000-----

PRINCESS ANNE BIRD NOTES

On July 3rd we visited Lake Teconseh, in eastern Princess Anne county. We found the best place to observe birds to be at the end of Dyer Road, (route 630). The lake here was nothing but a sea of mud and lily pads -- and herons.

There was a scattered group of half a dozen snowy herons (Egretta Thula), near which were a dozen or more little blue herons (Florida caerulea) in full dark plumage, one in mottled plumage, and three white ones.

Some distance away were between fifty and sixty egrets, and individual blue herons were scattered about.

In the marshes of eastern Virginia we have been surprised at the numbers of least bitterns (Ixobrychus exilis), which we have seen practically everywhere. At Jamestown we found one dead in the road across the marsh.

Along the causeway to Knott's Island on July 4th we saw a couple of gallinules swimming in the ditch.

Va.

Dr. Murray has mentioned that we have very few records for the King Rail except for the region about Washington and the Tidewater area.

My first experience with the King Rail was in Scott County, on the Clinch river some miles northeast of Clinchport, in 1899. My notes do not give the exact locality. The bird was near a spring on the river bank, which was well wooded. Seeing me at a distance of a few feet it walked away into the woods. That was the only one I saw. But I heard what I took to be King Rails at several places along the Clinch and Helston rivers.

This early experience created in my mind the impression that the King Rail is more or less a woodland bird.

Austin H. Clark
Washington, D. C.

AMELIA BIRD NOTES

John E. Lewis

A new station for Henslow's Sparrow was located June 10, 1939, when a pair were found in an open boggy old field about three miles north of Amelia Court House. This pair probably had a nest, or young recently out of the nest, as they were very solicitous when we entered a certain area. After we moved on the male sang a number of times. They were seen and heard at the same place on July 8.

Wilson's Snipe were rather more than usually numerous in swampy places from March 28 to April 18. They are never common with us. Killdeers were regularly present in larger numbers than usual all through the winter.

Myrtle Warblers were rare or absent through November, December, and January. More individuals began to appear on February 8. From that date until late April they were present in about their usual numbers. Last seen, May 6. Purple Finches were scarce all winter. Last seen, April 7. Fox Sparrows were not seen until February 13. From that date until about April 1, they were present in their usual numbers.

Large flocks of migrating Goldfinches appeared on April 25, and were seen frequently through May 3. In 1939 this migration occurred April 17 to 23rd.

-----00000-----

RESTORING MOUNTAIN BIRD LIFE

Merriam G. Lewis

The Fort Lewis Mountain State Game Preserve in Roanoke County provides an excellent example of the benefits derived from protection from forest fires. I was first on Fort Lewis Mountain seven years ago. At that time it had been under protection of the State Game and Fish Commission for only a few years. It was barely beginning to show the results of protection from fires. Still little more than a barren rocky waste with scattering scrub pines and oaks badly fire scarred, there was practically no undergrowth and no ground cover on the sandstone rocks and sandy soils. The dried stream beds were torrents of muddied water and debris during rains and dried up soon afterward.

It was rare indeed to find any bird life at all on this mountain at any season of the year with the exception of occasional crows and a few Mourning Doves nesting in the scrub trees near the foot of the mountain. After about ten years of protection from fires the mountain now has a dense cover of undergrowth and vegetation holding a considerable amount of decayed leaves and young timber is making rapid growth. There is a very considerable variety of bird life over the entire southern slope of the mountain. Birds observed commonly this summer on the mountain on occasional trips throughout the breeding season are as follows: Towhee, Ovenbird, Hooded Warbler, Mourning Dove, Flicker, Scarlet Tanager, Pine Warbler, Red-eyed Vireo, Whip-poorwill, Downy Woodpecker, Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Wood Thrush, Water Thrush,

Crow, Mountain Vireo, Black-throated Green Warbler, Summer Tanager, Brown Thrasher, Crested Flycatcher, Pileated Woodpecker.

Protection from forest fires is perhaps slightly more important on mountain sides than on some level lands, at least from the water supply and stream flow standpoint. The changes which have taken place on Fort Lewis Mountain are typical of those which are taking place on many mountain sides throughout the Western part of the state as a result of the work of the State and Federal Forest Service, the CCC and other agencies aiding in forest fire protection.

Salon, Virginia.

-----000000-----



The Raven

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

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

Vol. X

October-November, 1939

Nos. 10 & 11

Notes from Tangier Island
Chesapeake Bay
Virginia

By--

AUSTIN H. CLARK

Three days in September, 1939 (September 17-19), were spent on Tangier Island. This island is mainly an extensive salt marsh with a long sand spit at the southern end and limited areas of higher ground occupied by houses and cultivated land. Extensive patches of groundsel trees (*Baccharis halimifolia*) six or seven feet high are frequent and are locally called "woods." The only trees are a few ornamentals, largely poplars, along the main street, and many figs.

The following birds were noted:

SWAINSON'S WARBLER.--Two of these were seen in a *Baccharis* thicket near the southern end of the island, at the edge of the marsh. They kept near the ground, from time to time wagged the tail slowly up and down, and were very unsuspecting, so that they could be observed from a distance of four or five feet.

REDSTART.--One, in a fig-tree.

FLICKER.--Common; where this bird could nest on the island is a mystery, unless it was in sheds and unfrequented buildings.

BLACK VULTURE.--One, over the salt marsh in the center of the island.

MARSH HAWK.--One was almost always in sight over the marshes.

FISH HAWK.--Frequent, and often seen some distance from land.

PIGEON HAWK.--Very numerous; some were seen leaving the island and flying out across Chesapeake Bay.

TREE SWALLOW.--A hundred or so tree swallows were flocking over the marsh in the center of the island.

BARN SWALLOW.--Three seen.

GREEN HERON.--The only heron noticed; a few were seen in the marshes. One was observed perched on an electric light wire by the roadside.

RED WINGED BLACKBIRD.--A pair seen in some Baccharis bushes in a salt marsh.

SEASIDE SPARROW.--Frequent in the salt marshes.

A small sparrow that I did not identify was flushed from time to time in the marshes. Hawks were very common, but most of them I could not determine.

On the sand spit at the southern end of the island there were great numbers of foot prints of geese and ducks--also of shore birds and rats. Presumably the birds were Canada geese and Black Ducks, the common domestic geese and ducks of the island, that had flown over to the sand bar.

One solitary willet was the only shore bird seen.

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM,
Washington, D. C.

(This short paper is of very great interest for two reasons. In the first place, no bird notes have ever been published, so far as I know, from this quaint, isolated community. And, in the second place, or Clark's observations probably extend the known breeding range of the Swainson's warbler considerably farther north than its former limit in Warwick County, Virginia. It is to be hoped that someone can check this area again during the breeding season. Ed.)

Along The Coast

By--

MRS. A. C. REED

On June 29 a second trip to Cobb's Island was made. A strong wind blew from the sea, sweeping the sand before it. The tide was low, so that we were able to explore the marsh in the middle of the island. We found 6 nests of the Laughing Gull. These were on little 'islands' of marsh grass surrounded by mud flats and water. They were not difficult to find, being made of the bleached eelgrass, or sea wrack, which showed quite conspicuously. No nest contained more than 2 eggs, and sometimes one young. The parent birds settled on the mud, protesting with loud "yuk - yuks". The young were a soft buffy color, spotted brown.

Near the edge of the marsh, Mrs. Barefield found a nest which we think was a Clapper Rail's nest. It was deep down in the tall grass, completely concealed, and contained 9 rather medium-brown colored eggs. The prettiest nest was that of the Willet. It was placed under leafy plants growing about a foot high, forming a canopy over it, and contained 4 eggs. The Willets flew over our heads with shallow, quivering wing beats, giving their rather harsh alarm note, which is quite different from the musical 'pill-will-will'.

The young of the Wilson Plovers seemed pretty well grown. They were mostly back in the marsh rather than on the windy beach. The call of the adults is a trebled note, "weet-te-weet". Twelve Dowitchers still lingered in the marsh (seen by Mrs. Ben Coffey and Miss Smith from Tennessee); as well as six Knots.

Along the beach we counted 8 nests of the Black Skimmer, most of these were with babies newly hatched. To us it was a sorry sight the way the wind was blowing the sand over the babies, coating little bodies and eyes. In fact, it was necessary to watch every step we took, for in two cases, only a little mound of sand indicated the baby birds beneath. We walked as swiftly as possible, for in such storms, surely the parents must cover the young continually to keep them from becoming buried. I noticed one Skimmer, in attempting to distract us, bouncing down the beach, much as an airplane does when it first touches ground. On reaching the surf, it plunged through, and not until beyond the surf, did it take flight.

Crossing on the ferry, we saw 31 Wilson Petrels resting on the water like black swallows, their rumps showing like white dots. Petrels also followed the boat, crossing and recrossing the wake looking for food.

The fall migration of shore birds seemed to be early this year, the largest numbers being seen during the first two weeks of August. These notes may indicate something of the 'pattern' of the migration. Each species is listed on the day when it was counted in largest numbers.

July 19 20 Royal Terns. 40 Least Terns; these were remnants of what had formed a large colony on the B.S. Refugo.

- July 23 4 Hudsonian Curlews; the same four probably were observed regularly until Aug. 3.
- July 28 Greater Yellow-legs. About 5 Lesser Yellow-legs, and 6 Pectoral Sandpipers. Audubon's Shearwater.
- July 31 Greater Shearwater. (Reported by Dr. John H. Groy)
- Aug. 3 7 Dowitchers. Dowitchers were scarce this fall. Many Turnstones. At no time were there droves of Turnstones and Black-bellied Plovers as noted in spring. 50 Piping Plovers. 4 Western Sandpipers (Dr. Groy) Parasitic Jaeger. 2 Common Loons
- Aug. 10 3 Gull-billed Terns. These terns were noticed in small numbers from Aug. 1 to Sept. 1. The call of the Gull-billed is high and is three syllabled, sometimes four syllabled, and is distinctive from other terns.
- Aug. 17 Boat-tailed Grackles all along coast. 238 Willets counted from Sandbridge to the North Carolina line. The large numbers of Willets seen all through August has been one of the inspiring sights this fall. Height of the Black-Bellied Plover migration.
- Aug. 24 8 Forster's Terns. White-winged Scoter. The head of this bird appeared dark with no white areas; the bill was a beautiful deep rose-pink, and this was very noticeable. There was brown on the back and wing coverts; primaries appeared black. It was lightish on the abdomen. When it lifted its wings the white patch on secondaries showed, and the rest of the secondaries and tertials were edged whitish. The description by Forbush of the female white-winged scoter 'in fresh plumage' seems most to fit this bird.
- Aug. 30 This was the day after a northeast rainstorm lasting 4 days. Black Terns were first seen July 26 and increased during August. On this day 63 were seen flying low over the marsh at Dam's Neck which was flooded from the rains. Also, on the muddy road, was on little Northern Phalarope preening itself. The V-shaped white stripes on the back showed conspicuously as well as white stripes where wings and body meet. The top of the head and nape were gray, and there was a gray stripe through the eye. The wings appeared all brown, until it flew when white wing-stripe showed. The bill was quite fine. After preening itself, it flew into the marsh, turning about on the water this way and that. It took fine blades of grass - which were extending out of the water--in its bill, and then let them go. I presume it was collecting some kind of minute insect life. Along the beach, Semipalmated Plovers were flying swiftly, not stopping to rest. In a short time, I counted 8 groups, with about 30 birds to a group. Semipalmated Sandpipers were also flying past without stopping, 3 groups being noted.
- Sept. 1 8 Knots.
- Sept. 7 14 Black Skimmers. 4 Caspian Terns.

While to the casual eye the beach seems a long stretch of sandy shore, it has spots or 'oases' which are more attractive to the shore birds. There are places where stumps of sypress trees, the last remnants of an ancient forest, are revealed at low tide. The roots of these trees make little hollows in the sand, and these retain sea water and little forms of sea life. Usually there are small gatherings of shore birds here. Then also at low tide there are exposed shelves or juttings of hard clay, which are pitted into numerous pools, and the birds like to eat and bathe here. Always, each tide scallops new depressions in the beach, and in these are left stranded, parts of broken crabs, clams, seaweed, starfish, etc., a table spread with food to be inspected by the sandpiper folk. Lastly, when the fishermen bring in their seines and spread them out on the beach to be mended, the shore birds gather there to feed on the bits of fish adhering to the meshes.

NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

(The Northern Phalarope record is of particular interest, there being only three previous records for the State. In the next issue of The Raven, Dr. John H. Grey will report on some of the rarer birds mentioned in this and in the next paper. Ed.)

AUGUST 1 ON THE COAST OF VIRGINIA

By Dr. W. B. McIlwaine

"It's going to be a hot day."

"Bot your life; it's hot already."

And with these words impressed upon my mind I stepped off the Washington boat in Norfolk. It was around eight o'clock, August 1, 1939; and not a cloud in the sky. I was met at the boat by Mrs. Colgate Darden, and away we went to pick up Mrs. A. C. Reed at her home (somewhere in Norfolk; I am a stranger here, and to me Norfolk is stranger still); and then out toward Ocean View to get the Rev. John H. Grey, Jr. of Raleigh, N. C. He came along with a shovel; just in case.... Our initial tour was of every first-class mosquito hole, duck puddle, frog pond, and hog wallow in the environs of Norfolk. Then to the Cape Henry Government Preserve. You see, we were making the rounds of choice locations for birds. And very few birds were in evidence. But we must remember that this was August 1.

But the most serious part of our trip was yet ahead. We were waiting for low tide so we could get on the firm, wet sand with the automobile. And toward midday we were heading south from Virginia Beach. It was necessary to detour around an inlet; and we got back to the beach over what the rest of the party spoke of as the Sand Bridge. From then on the day was spent among Shore Birds.

But let me stop a moment to speak to the sunlight, - pervading sunlight, sunlight from above, sunlight from below, sunlight all around us; golden sunlight, fiery sunlight; sunlight that reached the skin, sunlight that pierced the skin; sunlight everywhere, a great ocean of sunlight flooding over the little shore of ourselves. I love the sunlight. There was a lot of it to love.

Just before we got to the Sand Bridge we met Mr. Harry A. Bailey of the Biological Survey Refuge at Back Bay. He told us he estimated that between the Sand Bridge and the North Carolina State Line (roughly 15 or 16 miles) there were from twelve to fourteen thousand Sanderlings. We saw most of them. Some of them twice. From time to time there were exclamations over Black-bellied Plover, or Piping Plover, or Ruddy Turnstone, or other. The Semi-palmated Sandpipers were very numerous. Occasionally we decided that here was a Least Sandpiper. And John Grey is authority for the Western Sandpipers. (Note the suggestion of skepticism)

About one-thirty our cover was spread (1) for four, (2) for shade. You see, the automobile top had been thrown back that we might enjoy the sunshine. After lunch Grey and I went on a reconnoitering expedition, to find a safe trail for the car over the higher beach, and across a sand barricade down to Back Bay. This **barriado** is being constructed by C.C.C. boys with wire fencing and brush. (The wind and the sand do the rest) Some years ago in a great storm the ocean cut its way into the bay. Now an effort is being made to form a sand dune that will keep the ocean out. Well, we got safely over, and on to the baked mud of what had been the reaches of Back Bay. In the shallow water beyond us were many interesting large terns. Were they Royal or Caspian? We wished to know. So across the mud that was dry, and across the mud that was wet, and then into the water, we went. And in that water, ankle-deep or deeper, we paddled at least an hour on that cloudless day. It was lots of fun. "Different, you know." Our subjects of study seemed to prefer a distance of approximately one-half mile. And they held all the trumps. But three birds were considerate enough to come and tell us from overhead just how they felt about our interest. These were ~~Gull~~-billed Terns. Shortly after their departure, and as we were considering our own, one of the ladies sidled up to me (there in the sunlight, the golden sunlight). I was rather expecting a word of encouragement "to pray and not to faint." Instead she whispered (audibly), "I know the name of a certain clown that you remind me of." Sweet nothing! (And the water was hot!) But I suppose I did look a little queer.

As we got back safely to the beach the Rev. Mr. Grey suggested liquid refreshments at a certain stand he knew down on the Carolina Line. So down we went. Four coco-colas. In attendance, a number of chickens, several pigs, one dog, and one boy. But we were refreshed.

On that lower beach I was impressed again with the utterly hopeless appearance of the large gulls. Most of them were Herring Gulls; some, Ring-billed. And most of them were in immature plumage. All of them were molting. They were a disreputable-looking tribe. Sometimes they seemed like fluffy young owls; sometimes one would remind me of a mounted eagle my daughter tries to wash with soap and water. She had not gone far before she realized something was wrong. And that wrong has never been righted. I suppose those same gulls will look trim enough next winter; but beside them on August 1 a Turkey Vulture would have looked like Beau Brummell himself.

As we hurried on down the beach I cried suddenly, "Stop! Stop!" And jumping out I ran back to a black and white bird lying motionless on the sand. When I had seen it first it had been struggling feebly. But now John Grey came running up, yelling with excitement. He slapped his hat down on the helpless bird. He was taking no chances. But certainly it had only a little while to live. And if anyone would question our identification of an Audubon's Shearwater, Mr. Grey has the skin.

Turning north from our "beach club" we had just time to get me comfortably to my boat for Alexandria. We were driving along comfortably, timing Sandpipers' flight up to a speed of forty-eight miles per hour. Suddenly there were further exclamations, and a stop. This time it was a large, dark bird, pursuing the Laughing Gulls and Common Terns. It seemed to be in a rather sportive mood. Now it would drop to the sand, when it appeared to be about the size of a small Red-shouldered Hawk. Or it would sit lightly on the water, where it looked, shoulders and up, like a well-trimmed game cock. It had long, slender wings, and the bill of a bird of prey. Several points we get collectively: a gold collar, a mottled breast and underparts, elongated tail feathers, and a general suffusion of golden. Of course it was a Jaeger. But which? It seemed to be the Parasitic. And so it proved to be. (Complete identification was made by a study later of skins in the National Museum at Washington.) But if you would have a choice example of casuistry, picture to yourself a dignified gentleman of the cloth, standing fully clothed out beyond the breakers of the Atlantic Ocean, in order that, being beyond the line of low tide, and therefore without the confines of the Government Bird Sanctuary, he might take a pot-shot at a rare feathered visitor to our shores. We did not collect the Jaeger.

But what about the boat? Of course that matter was secondary. But by taking such highways in the county, and such streets in the city, as had no limits to speed, we made the boat. And the day was over.

List of Birds Seen:

(In an all-day hunt of this kind many birds are recorded, and many we fail to mark down. There is always the danger, too, of counting an individual bird twice. Yet definiteness in recording is a great virtue. In giving numbers I have tried to be conservative, and definite. Some of the figures are exact. In other cases there is an approximation. For instance: When the number "8" is given, it may be we saw only seven of that species; it maybe, eleven.)

Audubon's Shearwater	-1
Great Blue Heron	-25
American Egret	-50
Snowy Egret	-4
Louisiana Heron	-4
Little Blue Heron	-4

Green Heron	-4 ad., 2 im.
Hooded Merganser	-1 female
Turkey Vulture	-25
Black Vulture	-2
Bald Eagle	-4
American Osprey	-18
Bob-White Quail	-2
Clapper Rail	-1
Piping Plover	-3, plus
Semi-palmated Plover	-a few
Killdeer	-12
Black-bellied Plover	-8
Ruddy Turnstone	-12
Spotted Sandpiper	-5
Willet	-4
Greater Yellowlegs	-2
Lesser Yellowlegs	
Least Sandpiper	-8
Eastern Dowitcher	-1
Semi-palmated Sandpiper	-many
Western Sandpiper	-3
Sanderling	-abundant along surf
Parasitic Jaeger	-1
Herring Gull	-100 (est.)
Ring-billed Gull	-20
Laughing Gull	-common over the water everywhere
Gull-billed Tern	-3
Forster's Tern	-Difficulty in distinguishing in summer
Common Tern	-plumage; but both present and common.
Least Tern	-Most common of the Terns
Royal Tern	-Fifteen or more large Terns. Two I identified
Caspian Tern	-as Caspian. The others we could not get close to.
Black Tern	-12
Black Skimmer	-2
Mourning Dove	-2
Rock Dove (Pigeons)	-a flock
Chimney Swift	-15
Belted Kingfisher	-1
Red-Headed Woodpecker	-2
Kingbird	-10
Crested Flycatcher	-2
Acadian Flycatcher	-1
Wood Pewee	-1
Tree Swallow	-100, plus (est.)
Barn Swallow	-2
Purple Martin	-a few
Crow	-15
Fish Crow	-a few

Carolina Chickadee	-2
Tufted Titmouse	-3
Brown-headed Nuthatch	
House Wren	-1
Carolina Wren	-10
Long-billed Marsh Wren	-common in certain proper places
Mockingbird	-15
Brown Thrasher	-1
Robin	-2
Bluebird	-4
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	-1
Starling	-seen, but not counted
Red-eyed Vireo	-5
Parula Warbler	-1
Prairie Warbler	-2
Maryland Yellowthroat	-5
English Sparrow	-only a few
Meadowlark	-2
Red-winged Blackbird	-very few, possibly 3 or 4.
Boat-tailed Grackle	-15
Purple Grackle	
Indigo Bunting	-8
Red-eyed Towhee	-6
Henslow's Sparrow	-4
Chipping Sparrow	-1
Field Sparrow	-6
Song Sparrow	-8
Total Number of Species-----	82

Yellow-headed Blackbird at Pamplin, Virginia

By--

MORTON MARSHALL, Jr.

On September 5, 1939, while I was watching a small group of Towhees in a weedy field near Pamplin, Virginia, three Yellowheaded Blackbirds alighted a short distance away. I identified them positively by their bright yellow heads. As I moved from behind a bush they flew away and I lost sight of them.

I wrote to Mr. Roger T. Peterson, as I had never heard of these birds in Virginia. He replied that he did not know of any such record and referred me to Dr. Murray. Dr. Murray informs me that there is one other record, of a male and female seen and the female collected by Captain W. T. Abbott at Chincoteague, Virginia, August 29, 1912, and reported in *The Auk*, January, 1913, page 113.

Pamplin, Virginia

Swainson's Warbler in Southwest Virginia.

In the issue of *The Raven* for June, 1932, some interesting nesting records made by Mr. F. M. Jones in the region around Bristol in Southwest Virginia were published. At the same time Mr. Jones had sent in a record of the nest and eggs of a Swainson's Warbler (*Limothlypis swainsoni*). The record was such a remarkable one, there having been no record of this bird anywhere near the mountain region, that I felt it must be omitted in publishing these notes until a specimen of the bird could be collected.

I am happy now to be able to say that recent discoveries in a neighboring section of Tennessee in support of Mr. Jones' report have provided evidence in the form of a specimen. A collecting party from the United States National Museum collected an adult male Swainson's Warbler in the breeding season, on June 8, at 3,000 foot elevation "in the Holston Mountains, three miles of Shady Valley, northeast, in a swampy area heavily shaded with hemlock and rhododendron." Two others were recorded five miles north of Shady Valley. "(Notes on the Birds of Tennessee, by Alexander Wetmore, proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., Vol. 86, No. 3050, Washington, 1939. p. 221)"

No more amazing example of distribution could be imagined than the occurrence of this bird of the southern swamps in such places. I am glad to make this belated acknowledgement of the correctness of Mr. Jones' report and to congratulate him on being the first to discover this strange occurrence.

J. J. Murray, Lexington, Virginia

An Old Record for the Swallow Tailed Kite at Lexington

Mr. David Barclay, formerly of Lexington and now of Washington, D. C., has recently given me an old record of the occurrence of the Swallow-tailed Kite at Lexington. As a boy he was very much interested in the study of birds. One summer, about the year 1890, two large hawks appeared in the Brushy Hill neighborhood near Lexington, staying there for some time. He knew that they were hawks; and a man who had seen such birds before told him that they were kites. They were large, white underneath, and with deeply-forked swallowlike tails. They usually flew very high, sometimes darting down with great speed. If this record, as seems likely, is correct, it adds a fourth record for this bird in Virginia.

J. J. Murray, Lexington, Virginia

New Birds for Amolia

by--

JOHN B. LEWIS

On September 19th, 1939, I found in the highway a small hawk. The head and body had been ground up by traffic until they were a shapeless mass, but the wings, tail and one foot were not seriously injured. From those scraps I guessed it to be a Pigeon Hawk, Falco c.columbarius.

The next day, September 20, I collected a wren that I could not satisfactorily identify, and made up the skin.

On going to visit my son and his family in Washington, I took the scraps of the hawk and the wren specimen with me and submitted them to Dr. Harry C. Oberholser, who said I was right as to the hawk, and that the wren is the Ohio House Wren, Troglodytes aedon baldwini.

The Pigeon Hawk is new to the Amolia list, and the wren will be unless our nesting species proves to be baldwini also. I will collect a nesting specimen and send it to Dr. Oberholser next spring in order to settle that question. I am inclined to believe that our nesting house wren is the eastern species, as I believe them to be lighter in color, and also, they are usually all gone south before the date of collection of baldwini.

Dr. Oberholser tells me that the nesting house wren at Lexington is baldwini.

Amolia, Virginia

Golden Eagle in Warren Country, Virginia

On October 8th, at Limeton, near Front Royal, Virginia, we saw a golden eagle on a limb of a dead cedar on the cliff above the Shenandoah river. In company with Dr. and Mrs. William M. Mann and Mr. and Mrs. John E. Graf we were guests of Mr. Theodor M. Mussaous, president of the Limeton Lime Company, at his cabin on the edge of the cliff. Mr. Mussaous and I were returning from a walk and, coming down the hill to the cabin, he noticed the bird, which was about fifty feet from Mrs. Clark, who was sitting on the veranda reading a book. As we approached the bird flew off up the river, giving us an excellent view of it.

AUSTIN H. CLARK

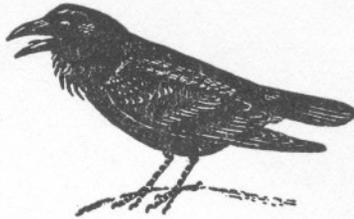
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF TENNESSEE. By Alexander Wetmore. Proc. U. S. National Museum, Vol., 86, No., 3050, pp. 175-243, Washington, 1939. Bird students interested in the distribution of birds in the Southern Appalachians and in questions of sub-species should not fail to secure this valuable paper. The United States National Museum is making representative collections of birds in the states of the Southern Appalachian country; and Dr. Wetmore is publishing papers on the state collections as they are worked up. This paper is the second, the first having dealt with the West Virginia collections. We understand that a report on Kentucky collections is soon to appear, while during the season just closed collections have been made in North Carolina. While scarcely so important to Virginia workers as the West Virginia paper already published, or the Kentucky paper soon to be published, it is of very great importance and interest. The discussions in this and in the earlier paper indicate something of the complexity of the sub-specific problems in our mountain regions and show that the only place for the amateur in that problem is the collecting of specimens to be sent for examination. In that way, however, he can be of much help.

J. J. Murray, Lexington, Virginia

The Christmas Census.

We hope that all V. S. O. members will plan to take a Christmas Census this year, and send in the reports both to Bird-Lore and to The Raven. Dates have not yet been announced, but they will certainly include the two or three days immediately preceding and following Christmas Day. Follow the plan used in the lists in the January issue of **The Raven**.



The Raven

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

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

Vol. X

December 1939

No. 12

NOTES ON SOME OF THE RARER COASTAL BIRDS OF VIRGINIA AND NORTH CAROLINA

By John H. Grey, Jr.

Audubon's Shearwater. Puffins lherminieri lherminieri. One taken alive August 1, 1939, on the beach at Back Bay Refuge by Wm. B. McIlwaine, Jr., Mrs. Colgate Darden, Mrs. A. C. Reed, and John H. Grey. Probably the same bird had been seen there on July 28, 1939, by the last three observers, who thought the bird to be injured at the time. It would fly a short distance and alight on the water with wings outspread and head submerged, paying no heed to the waves which would turn it over and over. When taken it could barely scuttle along the beach and appeared to be suffering from something similar to "limber neck" in chickens. It was much emaciated and had no food in the stomach.

North Carolina had a large influx of these birds this year, in contrast to five dates in former years. S. A. Walker found one dead at Rodanthe, July 21, 1939, and another dead at Corolla, July 28, 1939. On July 29, 1939, he observed six live birds and picked up seventeen dead birds along the Pea Island beach. None of these birds were oiled, and all were emaciated. August 17, 1939, the North Carolina Bird Club observed two at Oregon Inlet. July 23, 1939, Churchill Bragaw observed a small flock at the mouth of the Cape Fear River near Southport, and on August 20 Walker observed one bird off Bodie Island. July 27, 1938, Walker saw eight near Oregon Inlet.

Greater Shearwater. Puffinus gravis. A bird identified as this species was seen by Mrs. A. C. Reed and John H. Grey at Cape Henry, July 31, 1939. When first seen at about two hundred yards the bird was rising heavily into the wind, gained some altitude and flew out of sight down the wind. It did not follow the usual flight of flapping and sailing characteristic of shearwaters. However, the wings were sharply pointed, and the dark cap met the white under-throat parts in a clearly defined line, also the bird was as large as a Herring Gull.

S. A. Walker picked up a dead bird on Bodie Island Beach, N. C., June 26, 1939, and on June 22, 1939, he and T. Gilbert Pearson found a dead bird on Currituck Beach. Two other records for N. C.

Blue Goose. Chen caurulescens. Harry a Bailey and John H. Grey observed four birds on December 29, 1938, among the flock of Greater Snow Geese on the Back Bay Migratory Waterfowl Refuge. The birds were observed at less than one

hundred yards with 8x binoculars as they fed on the mud flats. Bailey observed them fairly regularly through March 4, 1939.

S. A. Walker has observed these geese on the Pea Island Migratory Waterfowl Refuge in North Carolina, from November 2, 1938, through February 8, 1939; flocks ranging from three birds on November 2, to thirteen seen on February 8. The earliest record for North Carolina is one bird observed by Walker, October 18, 1939, at Pea Island. In 1937-38 Walker observed these geese between November 4, 1937 to February 15, 1938, in flocks ranging from two to eight birds. In 1934 John D. Chalk observed a small flock on Currituck Sound in the early part of the hunting season, and on January 15, 1935 Clarence Cottam observed six adults and several immature birds on Pea Island, (AUK 52:439). Four other records for North Carolina.

White-fronted Goose. Anser albifrons albifrons. Harry A. Bailey observed one daily February 5-11, 1939, on the Back Bay Migratory Waterfowl Refuge. The bird was with the large flock of Greater Snow Goose which wintered there. He was able to observe it on land, and also on the Bay by drifting his boat close to the flock before they took wing. S. A. Walker observed one in North Carolina at the Sand Ridge Club on Pea Island from January 19, to March 5, 1939. This was not the same bird as seen at Back Bay for Walker observed his bird on both February 6 and 7th, at which time Bailey also saw his. Walker also records one seen January 19, 1938, at the Buxton Club near Hatteras.

Other records for N. C. are, Currituck Sound, one taken January 18, 1897 (AUK 43:252); and one taken, Currituck Sound, November 13, 1923 (AUK 41:339).

Western Willett, Catoptrophorus semipalmatus inornatus. Witmer Stone, BIRD STUDIES AT OLD CAPE MAY, p. 445, says: "Skins from New England, Long Island, and Virginia prove to be the western form and were taken in mid-August." I noticed in the list of Virginia Birds in THE RAVEN that only the Eastern Willett is listed. The western form has been taken several autumns in N. C. I took one this August 17, at Bodie Island, and Craighill took them to be fairly common there August 28. The only one I collected at Virginia Beach this summer was Eastern, and I did not then know how to distinguish them in the field, may not know now.

(I have not yet been able to locate the skins referred to by Dr. Stone. They are not in the collections of the Philadelphia Academy of Sciences. J.J.M.)

Avocet. Recurvirostra americana. One observed by Harry A. Bailey and Mr. Griffith of the Biological Survey at Sand Bridge, September 8, 1939, and by Bailey the next day. The bird, which was with two Willets, was quite tame and allowed close views.

Another bird was observed on September 8, 1939, by Francis H. Craighill and S. A. Walker on the beach at Nags Head Coast Guard Station, North Carolina. This bird was observed for sometime as it flew ahead of their car on the beach. This is the second record for North Carolina, though Walker says he saw another bird some years ago on Pea Island, but did not report it as he could not identify it.

Parasitic Jaeger. Stercorarius parasiticus. A bird, identified as this species, was seen by Wm. B. McIlwaine, Jr., Mrs. A. C. Reed, Mrs. Colgate Darden, and John H. Grey, August 1, 1939, while on the beach at Back Bay Refuge. The bird was seen at close range with 8x binoculars while chasing a Least Tern, and also while resting on the water. It appeared to be larger than a Laughing Gull, with the tail feathers divided and pointed at the tip rather than blunt and twisted. The bird had a conspicuous gold collar such as in the adult bird but also had rather heavy bars or spots on the underparts. McIlwaine later studied one specimen in the Biological Survey collection which had this unusual combination of Juvenile and adult plumage. One seen August 3, at the same place was probably the same bird.

Brunnich's Murre. Uria lomvia lomvia. A dead bird was picked up by S. A. Walker off False Cape Coast Guard Station on January 26, 1939. He identified it as this species, and saved the head and foot. W. F. Kubichek of the Biological Survey agreed with his identification when later shown the head and foot.

1719 Park Drive,
Raleigh, North Carolina.

-----000000000000-----

THE PILEATED WOODPECKER

By J. H. Hostetter

Regarding the Pileated Woodpecker and his habits, I may say that I moved into the woods with this bird in April, 1884; and so have lived with this feathered creature now for more than a half-century. This is a most wonderful bird, and we still have many specimens of them in our forests; as they are protected by our laws, - which makes it unlawful to kill at any time, imposing a fine of not less than fifty dollars, - this has helped to save this handsome species.

I have watched this bird chisel great holes in timber, in search of food. They will alight on the ground very often and hop to a stump or tree. They will turn their heads to one side, and listen for grubs, wood borers, and ants, which they always get after much labor. It has been said that the pileated woodpecker gets all his living from the woods, but he also gets food on the farm in those Virginia hills. They are very fond of cherries, strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, and any kind of small fruit. They will also eat persimmons, and white-oak mast (acorns). I have watched them pick at small dried apples left on the trees. They are very shy of hawks, and I have never known one to be killed by a hawk. I have watched the hawk get after one, and he would stop his voice, - still calling: "Pluck - Chuck"; he will land on a tree trunk, go around it so quickly, then go again, until the hawk will give up the chase.

As to their nesting, they seem to nest at any height, from 18 to 80 feet. They drill into dead timber, and go down into the tree from 12 to 20 inches, and their nest is complete. I have looked at nests in dead hickory trees twice, and once in a dead chestnut. I have never known a pair to nest the second time in an old nest. This bird has a very loud call: "Chinie, - chinie, - chury" that may be heard for two miles in still weather. They have a way of sounding on a hollow tree which has always marked pretty weather. This bird should not be killed at

any time, as he is the woodpecker king, and a blessing to wild life.

Some people call this species of woodpecker the "wood hon", others call it the "log cock", or even "wood cock", while others know it as the "lob cock". I have been listening to the voice of this bird today, April 18, and I have always taken notice that wherever you find him you are most likely to find game, while if his presence is not made known to you, it is not likely you will find any game in that vicinity. For a number of years men have been cutting "extract", that is the dead chestnut timber in the mountains, chestnut trees killed some years ago by the blight; and this fact has bothered the pileated woodpecker because he is one who loves the deep solitude of the woods. But nearly all this timber has been cut out; and not for a long time, if ever again, will there be any chestnut trees to cut for any purpose; so from now on there will be but little to disturb him in the woods, so let us hope that his numbers will increase.

Lexington, Virginia.

-----00000000000000-----

FURTHER NOTES ON SWAINSON'S WARBLER IN THE CENTRAL

APPALACHIAN REGION

By Maurice Brooks

Dr. Murray's discussion in the RAVEN for October, 1939, of the brooding of Swainson's Warbler (*Limothlypis swainsoni*) in southwestern Virginia (as recorded by Mr. F. M. Jones), together with the recent discovery of this species during the nesting season in the mountains of Tennessee, serves to direct attention anew to a puzzling West Virginia record for this bird.

On June 14, 1924, Prof. P. C. Bibbee, now of Concord State Teachers College, Athens, W. Va., collected a singing male Swainson's Warbler near Buzard's Rocks, Monongalia County, W. Va. This record was subsequently published in "Birds of West Virginia: A Check-List" (Bull. 258, W. Va. Agr. Exp. Sta.), but it has, perhaps, not received the attention it deserves.

I happen to be thoroughly conversant with the region and the circumstances of the collection. The bird was taken on a spur of the Cheat Mountains range, at about 2000 feet elevation, and only about five miles from the Pennsylvania border. Like the locality in which Dr. Wetmore found the birds in Tennessee, this is a region of hemlock and rhododendron, but unlike the swamp Tennessee situation, the West Virginia area consists of steep mountain ridges. A habitat more unlike the southern canebrake swamps which are presumed to be the chosen breeding grounds of this species could scarcely be imagined. Birds known to breed in the immediate vicinity include Chestnut-sided, Cairn's, Black-throated Green, and Canada Warblers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and Veerys.

For many years Professor Bibbee's bird (which is in the West Virginia University collection) was regarded as an accidental, but doubts of this began to arise when Dr. Wetmore secured a male from Lincoln County, W. Va., on April 28, 1936 (Observations on the Birds of West Virginia. Proceedings of the U. S. National Museum, Vol. 84, No. 3021, 1937).

Although Lincoln County is not strictly mountainous, the terrain is steep and rugged, far removed from lowland swamp conditions. These two records, when viewed in the light of Mr. Jones' Virginia notes and the recent Tennessee discoveries, strongly indicate an unexpected situation as regards this species.

It now seems entirely possible that a small portion of the Swainson's Warbler population detaches itself from the main body which breeds in southern swamps and finds a home in the south-central Appalachian Region, reaching elevations of at least 3000 feet in Tennessee, and extending northward in West Virginia almost to the Pennsylvania line. If further observations continue to bear this out, we shall have to re-orient our entire viewpoint on the habits of this interesting species.

Such a distributional puzzle as is here suggested serves to emphasize further the biological challenges offered by the Appalachian region, and particularly by those portions which lie south of the region of glaciation. Since Palaeozoic times these mountains have formed a haven of refuge for land forms of plant and animal life. Here circumstances of climate, elevation, and other factors have forced living things to adapt themselves to new conditions, or to perish. It may well be that we are in process of discovering a racial breeding habit of the Swainson's Warblers which has been persisted in by small numbers of the birds for many thousands of years. Each new piece of information of this character serves to shed a little more light on the biotic problems of this fascinating area.

Division of Forestry
West Virginia University
Morgantown, W. Va.,

-----000000000000-----

NOTES AND NEWS

By J. J. Murray

The Raven - Tenth Volume.

This month closes the first decade of the life and work of the Virginia Society of Ornithology. This issue completes the tenth volume of The Raven. The membership of our society can look back over these ten years with a great deal of pleasure and with at least some small amount of satisfaction. Many of us, especially those who were charter members of the V. S. O., feel that the chief value in our society has been the fellowship in bird study. The Annual Meetings and Field Trips, other special field trips for smaller groups, correspondence about the work of the society and about our personal problems and discoveries, the sharing in the pages of The Raven of our knowledge - these things have brought us into closer acquaintance and in many cases into deeper friendship. For a second thing, I am sure that we all feel that this cooperative work has resulted in the quickening of our individual interest in bird study. And, for a third thing, we can certainly take some pleasure in the mass of information on Virginia birds that we have collectively deposited on the pages of The Raven. Its ten volumes comprise some 800 closely printed pages. Much of this, we all know, is of secondary importance. But there is material of value here. In particular, information

as to distribution has been gathered from almost every corner of the State. Most of the phases of bird study open to an amateur have been touched on. Some of our members, with the help of professional ornithologists and by judicious collecting, have advanced our knowledge of the range of some of the sub-species which occur in Virginia. We know a good deal more about Virginia bird life than we did ten years ago, enough at least to make us realize how much is yet to be done.

We have accomplished something in the field of conservation and bird protection in the State, as well as in the field of nature education. Possibly the weakest place in our work is our failure to build up a sufficiently large group of members in Virginia to support properly the program of the society. This might well engage our attention as we enter our second decade.

John B. Lewis Honored.

At the Norfolk meeting of the V. S. O. Mr. John B. Lewis exhibited some specimens of the Golden Mouse which he had collected near Anolia and which he thought might be a new sub-species. It turns out that his judgment was correct. This race of the Golden Mouse has been described as new, and, in honor of its discoverer, has been named Peromyscus nuttalli lewisi. For over fifty years Mr. Lewis has been an active field worker in ornithology and mammalogy. The V. S. O. is proud of its member, so nature in years and in experience, so youthful in his interest and in the alertness of his mind.

A New Bird for the Virginia List.

In 'The AUK', Vol. 56, 1939, October, pages 471-472, Dr. Robert Cushman Murphy reports a Bahama Pintail, taken in Virginia. The record is of such great interest that two paragraphs of Dr. Murphy's note, the title of which is "Bahama Pintail in Virginia", will be quoted: "On December 17, 1937, Mr. Starling W. Childs shot a Bahama Pintain (Dafila bahamensis) on the property of the Horn Point Gun Club, Peter's Cove, Pungo, Virginia. The bird, which accompanied a flock of forty or fifty American Pintails, is an adult of undetermined sex. It has been mounted and presented to the American Museum of Natural History.....
.....The fourth edition of the A. O. U. 'Check-List' (1931) records only two earlier occurrences of the Bahama Pintail in continental North America, namely, one on the east coast of Florida and one in Wisconsin."

Old Bird Boxes in Virginia.

In the report for 1914 to the National Association of Audubon Societies by Miss Katharine Stuart, Field Agent for Virginia, the following interesting paragraph may be found (Bird-Lore, Vol. XVI, November-December, 1914, page 499): "That the founders of this great republic know the value of birds and loved them, is shown by the fact that one finds at Monticello, the home of Jefferson, at Stratford, the home of the Lees, at Brandon, the home of the Harrisons, and in

Williamsburg, and many other places, bird-boxes that in many instances are two hundred years old. Their shapes vary, and also their colors. I hope, in time, to get pictures and data that will reveal more of their history. It would be interesting to hear whether there are such ancient bird-boxes anywhere north or south of Virginia". It would also be interesting to know whether now, after another twenty-five years, these boxes are still in existence and still in place.

A Call for Christmas Censuses.

The dates for Bird-Lore's Annual Christmas Bird Census for 1939 are December 17-25 inclusive. Reports must be in the New York Office (Editor, Bird-Lore, 1006 Fifth Avenue) by January 2. Censuses will not be printed in Bird-Lore unless the following rules are complied with: "Censuses must be submitted in A. O. U. Check-List order (1931 edition) (the same order being followed in Chapman's 'Handbook'); the diameter of the total area censused may not exceed 15 miles; censuses to be written on one side of the paper only, and typed, double space, if possible;census must last at least six hours and not extend over more than one day. Exact hours afield and weather conditions, must be indicated. Mileages and hours in terms of single party mileages and hours, must be given. That is, if four people are together three hours, in two parties three hours, and separate three hours, the total single party time is not 9 hours but 21 hours (3 plus 6 plus 12). Birds not actually recorded in the census are not to be included in the totals. "Actual numbers are to be given. Each unusual record should be accompanied by a brief statement as to the means of identification. In writing up the report "do not submit records in columnar form, but have one record follow another, in a single paragraph; use no ditto marks; do not use parentheses around numbers." The censuses in the January, 1939, issue of The Raven may be used as samples, if attention is paid to the new method of counting hours and mileage. At the time the report is sent to New York send a copy to Dr. J. J. Murray, Lexington, Virginia, for the Raven.

Virginia in the 1939 Literature.

The Auk. In the January issue we note Dr. Ellison A. Smyth's report, "A Swallow-tailed Kite in Roanoke County, Virginia", notice of which has already been taken in The Raven. In a review of Dr. Oberholser's "Bird Life of Louisiana", page 92 of the same issue, reference is made to Dr. Oberholser's description of a new race of Forster's Tern, Sterna forsteri litoricola (page 290 of the book), the type being from Smith's Island, Virginia, the bird brooding along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts from Virginia to Texas. In the April issue Clarence Cottan and Phoebe Knappen, in an article entitled "Food of Some Uncommon North American Birds" (pages 138-169), comment on some Virginia specimens. They list four Virginia Specimens of the European Widgeon, three at Back Bay, a male on January 22, 1912, a male on February 2, 1912, and an unsexed bird on December 16, 1920; and a male at Aquia Creek, Potomac River, December 24, 1927. They report that gastropods made up 85% of the food of a Virginia specimen of the European Teal. This was the specimen collected at Lexington. On page 177, J. C. Dickinson, Jr., and John B. Calhoun report a Red Phalarope collected at a pool on the campus of the University of Virginia, September 18, 1938. In the July issue Frederick

C. Lincoln reports, on information sent him through the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, a probable instance of "Sora Rail Breeding in Virginia", at Langley Field, Hampton, Virginia, June 9, 1938. The October issue contains the Bahama Pintail record quoted above. In Bird-Lore, in the section entitled "The Season", there are always Virginia records of interest in the "Washington (D. C.) Region column", edited by Dr. Harry C. Oberholser, but these records are too detailed to copy.

"Bird-Lore's Thirty-Ninth Christmas Bird Census", supplement to the January-February issue of Bird-Lore, has only four Virginia censuses: Amelia, 36 species, 407 individuals; Blacksburg, 62 species, 4194 individuals; Lexington, 40 species, 1258 individuals; Norfolk, 47 species, 1995 individuals. The "Breeding Census", supplement to the September-October issue, has not a single Virginia census. Here is an opportunity for some good work by some of our members who are not moving about too much in the summer.

Lexington, Virginia.

-----0000000-----

ANNUAL MEETING

M. G. Lewis, President

The dates agreed on by the majority of members of the Executive Committee, for the Annual Meeting, are May 10 and 11, 1940. The meeting will be held at Harrisonburg. The local committee on arrangements will announce the meeting place and plans for the field trip in the next issue of The Raven. This committee is Dr. Ralph Hostetter, Chairman, Miss Jane Eliason and Miss Evelyn Watkins. They propose a field trip into the National Forest area, in the western part of Rockingham County, which should be one of the most interesting we have ever made. The trip will probably include a virgin forest area which is of particular interest. More detailed announcements will be made later.

Dr. J. J. Murray, Lexington, is in charge of the program for the Annual Meeting. All members of the Society are urged to contribute papers. Any observations or studies which are of interest should be reported at the Annual Meeting. Notify Dr. Murray, as soon as possible, the length of time which you will need on the program.

New Members Needed. The North Carolina Bird Club has recently set a goal of one thousand members by the end of 1940. This is a fine example for the V. S. O. We must have additional members in order to continue our work most effectively. Every member should put forth special effort, within the next month, to secure new members in 1940. Please bring this to the attention of anyone you know who is interested in bird study. We need more anatomists. The membership fee of \$1.50 should be mailed to A. O. English, Treasurer, 308 Westover Avenue, Roanoke, Virginia.

INDEX TO VOLUME TEN

(A mimeographed journal does not ordinarily go in for an index, but it seems to be very necessary, if the material in the journal is to be made available. The Editor regrets that the practice was not begun with the first volume. Even now it scarcely seems wise to try to have a species index, because of the tremendous number of lists which occur in this type of journal. This index will cover titles, people and places. Since in Volume X we have slipped back into the old method of numbering the pages of each issue separately, each reference in this index will have two numbers, an issue number and a page number, with a colon between.)

Albinistic Junco in Amelia County - 1:7
Along the Coast - 10:3
Amelia County - 1:7 - 1:9 - 4:3 - 8:7 - 8:9 - 10:10
Anhinga at Amelia - 8:7
Annual Meeting - 1:5 - 2:1 - 12:8
August 1 on the Coast of Virginia - 10:1
Augusta County - 6:13
Back Bay - 1:8 - 10:5 - 12:1 - 12:2
Bahama Pintail in Virginia - 12:6
Bath County - 6:12
Beck, H. H. - 8:6
Birds of Lynchburg (Review) - 2:14
Blacksburg - 1:10 - 4:9 - 6:11
Brooks, Maurice - 12:4
Burrowing Owl - A new Bird for Virginia - 4:2
Calhoun, John B. - 4:9
Cape Henry - 1:8
Charlottesville - 4:9
Chocopic - 2:8
Christmas Censuses - 1:7 - 12:7
Clark, Austin H. - 4:6 - 4:8 - 6:10 - 8:8 - 10:1 - 10:10
Cobb's Island - 2:17 - 4:7 - 6:1 - 10:3
Daniel, Bertha - 1:6 - 6:12
Day at Texel, A - 8:2
Duck Hawk Attacks the Raven - 4:1
Executive Committee Meeting - 8:4
Field Notes from Norfolk - 2:16
Field Guide to the Birds (Review) - 2:12
Freer, Ruskin S. - 1:11
Further Notes on Swainson's Warbler - 12:4
Golden Plover and Other Birds, The (Review) - 2:13
Grey, John H. - 1:8 - 12:1
Hague, Florence S. - 8:4
Handley, C. O. - 1:10 - 6:11
Handley, C. O. Jr. - 1:10
Hostetter, D. R. - 8:7
Hostetter, J. H. - 6:4 - 8:1 - 12:3
Hoyt, J. S. Y. - 1:10 - 4:1 - 4:9
In Memoriam: William Cabell Rives - 2:5
Key, Mrs. Evie - 2:8

Kingfisher's Song to Falling River - 1:6
Lewis, J. B. - 1:7 - 1:9 - 4:3 - 8:7 - 8:9 - 10:10 - 12:6
Lewis, M. G. - 2:18 - 4:7 - 6:13 - 8:9 - 12:8
Lexington - 1:10 - 4:1 - 4:9 - 8:1 - 10:9
Lynchburg - 1:11
Marshall, Morton, Jr. - 10:9
Mountain Lake - 6:13
Murray, J. J. - 1:1 - 1:10 - 2:5 - 2:12 - 2:13 - 2:14 - 4:2 - 4:9 - 6:9 - 6:12
6:13 - 8:2 - 10:9 10:11 - 12:5
McIlwaine, W. B. Jr. - 6:1 - 10:5
Naruna - 6:12
New Bird for the Virginia List - 12:6
New Birds for Amelia - 10:10
Norfolk - 1:7 - 2:16 - 6:5 - 10:3 - 10:5 - 12:1
Notes on the Birds of Tennessee (Review) - 10:11
Notes from Middle Mountain - 6:9
Notes from Northwestern Virginia - 6:10
Notes and News - 12:5
Notes on some of the Rarer Coastal Birds of Virginia and North Carolina - 12:1
Notes from Tangier Island - 10:1
Officers of the V. S. O. - 2:4
Old Bird Boxes in Virginia - 12:6
Old Record for the Swallow-tailed Kite at Lexington - 10:9
Pamplin - 10:9
Pileated Woodpecker, The - 12:3
Princess Anne Bird Notes - 8:8
Ravens and Duck Hawks - 8:1
Reed, Mrs. A. C. - 1:7 - 2:16 - 6:5 - 10:3
Restoring Mountain Bird Life - 8:9
Rives, William Cabell - 1:6 - 2:5
Some Characteristics of the Canadian Zone - 1:1
Some Pleistocene Mammals from Warren County, Virginia - 4:6
Some Reflections on Wild Life - 6:4
Swainson's Warbler - 10:1 - 10:9 - 12:4
Swainson's Warbler in Southwest Virginia - 10:9
Trip North and West, A - 8:7
Virginia in the 1939 Literature - 12:7
Virginia Notes - 4:8 - 4:9
Visit to Cobb's Island, A - 6:1
Warren County - 4:6 - 10:10
Water Birds on an Amelia County Lake - 4:3
Woodpecker Observation, A - 8:6
Yellow-headed Blackbird at Pamplin, Virginia - 10:12