The Raven

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CHOOSING A STATE BIRD

By Arthur and Edna Bevan

Why should Virginia have a State bird? If one is desirable, why choose it at this time? The matter is certainly not one of defense, of a contribution to winning the war, and of planning the State economy for the portentous postwar epoch. Or, is it?

Like many other "children of nature," birds are generally taken for granted. They have been associated with the human race since its creation. Explorers of unknown lands have always found them residing there. They will always be our companions. Students of birds and amateur ornithologists delight in them. So do persons who feed the birds. Once a constant bird feeder, always a bird lover. But do many others have any idea or appreciation of their real worth to us?

The economic value of birds is fairly well understood by many persons who raise food crops. The fund of knowledge in this field is, however, too meager and the area of real ignorance is too large. Most garden lovers and growers of either vegetables or ornamental plants know at firsthand the incessant war that must be waged against ubiquitous voracious insects. All too few appreciate fully nature's long-established check upon the parade of marauding invaders. Some have discovered that an abundance of birds in their gardens disrupts the onslaughts and lessens greatly the task of keeping the garden at the peak of its beauty and productivity. Most unfortunately, this economic axiom is still far from being universally known.

Man's only serious competitor for survival and continued growth, besides himself, is the multitude of insects. That multitude is literally enumerated by hundreds of thousands of species in all parts of the world. Each species is represented by unknown billions of hungry individuals. An entomologist of international renown once said, in essence, that if the insects should concentrate their destructive efforts upon man, with all his ingenuity he would have a poor chance of winning the contest. It is suspected that he underestimated nature's boon companion to man, the great number of birds that assist him in the daily struggle for subsistence. The facts that "food will win the war" and that much food will be needed around the world during the postwar convalescence and gradual restoration to normal racial health and a workable international economy are too vital to be lightly considered or ignored. Birds as well as man will be essential providers in the future.

Upon a higher level, birds are almost indispensable to man. They afford him much healthful recreation whether he be a gun hunter of a few game birds or a field glass and camera hunter of a myriad of birds. The aesthetic values of birds are immeasureable to youth and adult alike. But to youth, in the development of keen observation, mental alertness, and powers of accurate description, as well as an abiding appreciation of his environment, the educational values are perhaps supreme. Incidentally, some of the problems that perplex puzzled parents and teachers might be solved if every boy and girl became a bird hobbyist. Thenceforth, larger problems might fall more readily into their proper perspective.

Why choose a State Bird? To focus the attentive appreciation of public and pupils upon it. To bring the true worth of all birds more sharply into the forefront of our apprehension. And not least by any means, in the words of the State Chairman of birds of the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, "to create genuine enthusiasm for bird study and to develop a lasting interest in the out of doors". No doubt it might hasten the accomplishment of a great desideratum, a network of junior Audubon clubs over the State. Essential nature study--a study of pupil environment--could otherwise scarcely be so well grounded or pupil interest so readily developed and maintained throughout school years and often far beyond.

The value of this approach to the increasingly grave problems of the conservation of our natural and human resources is evident. Those problems confront every thoughtful citizen today. They may confound many of the citizens of tomorrow. Bird study, stimulated through the medium of a well-known representative State bird, will give direct first aid to the conservation of our song and other birds. It will also help to develop a point of view and perspective that will be most useful to the boys and girls who are growing into the responsible leaders of tomorrow.

What should be the characteristics of a State bird? That is a question not easily answered to the satisfaction of all students and lovers of birds throughout the Old Diminion. Numerous points of view are involved. It seems obvious that our State bird should have at least these characteristics: attractiveness, State-wide distribution, permanent residence, be generally known, and have high educational value. This value embraces ease of study and identification by boys and girls as well as being sufficiently common to be observed throughout much of the school year. It also includes those traits that may, for convenience, be termed "personality".

Attractiveness would probably be rated first by many persons. We may include in the general term such features as color, bearing, song and call, habits, "manner", and being homey. The last characteristic may be debatable, as certain birds that never frequent feeding trays or nest in the lawn shrubbery may well have a strong claim for our consideration. Yet, as this is personal opinion, it seems that being homey should be an attribute of our State bird.

Other factors that may be considered in making our choice include the need of public protection and conservation, having been named in Virginia, and economic value. It would also be well if our State bird should uniquely have that position, that is, not having been selected as the official bird of some other State. That may be impracticable or without corresponding value at this late date. How excellent it would be if our proposed State bird could comprise high aesthetic, educational, and economic values.

In a quick attempt to make an impartial "nomination" of one or more birds for further consideration as worthy State birds, the birds commonly seen in Virginia were canvassed. Of these, eighteen birds were selected as being eligible to the "semi-finals". This choice was based chiefly on beauty, song or call, and "personality". Those birds are; bluebird, bobwhite, brown thrasher, cardinal, cedar waxwing, chickadee, humming bird, kingbird, mocking bird, white-breasted nuthatch, Baltimore oriole, robin, white-throated sparrow, scarlet tanager, red-eyed towhee, wild turkey, certain warblers (grouped as a unit), and the wood thrush. Obviously, no other bird lovers would make up an idential list of birds. It is doubtful, however, if any list would be made without including some of these birds. Hence it is suggested that the V. S. O. members and others make up individual lists, that the birds be given point values (in the spirit of the times) according to their ranking in each list, and thus a consensus of opinion be reached by all bird enthusiasts as to the choice of a State bird.

In order to limit the number of "nominees" in our list, dominant characteristics were given unit point values and these values totaled for each bird. The point values, on which there may be a wide range of opinion, are as follows: Wide distribution, well known, permanent resident, easily observed, attractiveness (color, bearing, song or call, habits, manners) $2\frac{1}{2}$ points, being homey, economic value as insect destroyers, educational value, and conservation needed ($\frac{1}{2}$ point); a total of ten points. The tentative generalized ratings thus obtained are: Cardinal, 9 points; bluebird and bobwhite 8; chickadee, 7; nuthatch and robin, $5\frac{1}{2}$; white-throated sparrow and turkey, 5; humming bird, mocking bird, towhee, and warblers, $4\frac{1}{2}$; Baltimore oriole and brown thrasher, $4\frac{1}{2}$ wood thrush, $3\frac{1}{2}$; scarlet tanager, 3; cedar waxwing, $2\frac{1}{2}$; and kingbird, 2. That such a list is nothing more than a sign to point the way is evident from the low rating of the scarlet tanager. As such ratings depend somewhat upon the mood of the moment, it is probable that these birds would receive slightly different ratings at another time.

In spite of the writers' preference for the bluebird, the cardinal heads the list, as it probably would most lists. Both the male and the female have the qualifications of opera stars. The male at times shows a lack of good manners at the feeding tray, even dispossessing his mate as well as most other birds. He usually eats in solitary splendor, unless feeding on the ground. On the other hand, the spring feeding of his mate is a pretty tableau. The rating in economic value is also low, so far as insects are concerned. Perhaps economic value should not be so narrowly restricted. Seven brilliant male cardinals eating amid the falling snow as this is written make a strong appeal for our votes. Possibly, as a State bird he would become less attractive "game" to boys with air rifles. He would no less attract the neighborhood predatory cats. The cardinal, however, is the official bird of several other States, including North Carolina.

Why do we prefer the bluebird? he is not as showy as the cardinal, but the fluffy ball of bright blue on a nearby wire or on the tip of a shrub is a never-to-be-forgotten sight. This is particularly true when he seems to be talking to himself, as the restrained, cheery but refined, warble pours forth. Those melodious notes attract immediate attention as he wings his way with others across the wintry sky. His skyward flights in spring exemplify gracefulness attuned to music. Nesting in boxes near the house, where the family life can be readily observed, is a point in his favor. His attitude of studied nochalance as he sits atop a lawn shrub changes instantly into a flashes of brightest blue as he darts upon some lawn in-

sect. He is found not only around city homes by far up in the mountains. He is so modest and endowed with many other graces. Those attributes make it desirable to give him closer attention in order to avoid slow extinction by hawks, wrens, cats and air rifles. Painted in a light tint of the official colors he would make a State bird as royal as the cardinal. One needs only to recall Professor Allen's color photograph of a bluebird perched atop a rose-colored hollyhock to envision the educational possibilities. In combination with the State flower, the white dogwood, the bluebird would have a wide and deep appeal to children and adults throughout the State.

The eastern bobwhite is a favorite of many persons. His hearty and cheery whistle on a spring morning is most welcome. He is not stingy with it through the following months. To have the male sit in a pine tree near the house and call every morning, "Get, Get up", may be a bit exasperating in the days of late war dawns, but nonetheless it is a cheerful way to begin the day. Some grain and a sly retreat soon bring him to the ground. To watch him warily guide a large convoy of youngsters down the hill to the feeding plot near the house and then to stand guard as he picks at the grain is one of the never-to-be- forgotten sights of home bird study. One watches eagerly for their return as the hunting season waxes and wanes. The prominent head markings coupled with his proud bearing sets the bobwhite apart as a regal native bird. Even the name, Colinus Virginianus Virginianus, given by Linnaeus, makes a bid for our vote.

The chickadee is a blithe sprite. No more apt characterization can be given than that of Marion Doyle (Sat. Eve. Post, 1-8-1944):

"How still the woods, save for that clown,
The chickadee, hung upside down":

His beady bright eyes seemingly sparkle with mischief in anticipation of his next antics. Tryly, May describes him as "A bird masterpiece beyond all praise". No matter where one goes in the State, at almost any season he will find the Chickadee to welcome him with a vibrant call. He, too, is a homey bird--choosing a nesting box not far from the feeding tray and the bath.

Of the other birds listed above, only the nuthatch, white-throated sparrow, turkey, and mocking bird are permanent or semi-permanent residents. All have some other claims to be considered as candidates for our State bird, but they are outrivalled by any of the four birds just described. The "yank, yank" of the white-breasted nuthatch gives one pause as he walks the tree-bordered city streets or among the woodland sycamores. His fearlessness at the suet tray makes him a faithful visitor. He even brings his brood when nesting days are over. The white-throated sparrow is one of the most personable and sociable of our dull-colored birds. His bold white markings and yellow eye stripes give him a certain distinction. One watches for him and also awaits his incisive whistle. The wild turkey is a noble bird, well worthy of a hunter's prowess. His close resemblance to the domestic fowl detracts from his consideration. He lacks other characteristics to qualify as a State bird. By song alone, the mocking bird would probably win the majority of votes. Yet, he has competitors whose songs have a purer quality if not t range or variety. He is not coloreful and is inclined to be domineering.

Something could be said in favor of all the other birds mentioned above. The humming bird is truly a "Winged jewel". In many places he is as rarely seen as

precious jewels. Sipping nectar, he is a joy to behold, but otherwise he is seldom available for study. He has at times an ill-natured habit of attacking other birds and harming them with that rapier-like beak. The robin is a "chummy" bird. He is in most of the State, however, only part of the year. His color is not especially attractive, and he has a habit of monopolizing the bird bath and leaving it unattractive, to other birds. The friendliness of the towhee is beguiling. His color appeals. Several of the warblers are among the most beautiful of all animals. The male scarlet tanager cannot be seen too often. To have him nest nearby is a rare treat. The cedar waxwing is one of the loveliest birds, but we see him only during migration. By voice alone, the wood thrush would probably receive scarcely less votes than the best of the other songsters. Once heard in a deep thicket, that flutelike call can never be forgotten. Graciously, he nests on our city lots and pours forth his melody on every drizzly day. His stay with us, however, is all too brief.

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DOES VIRGINIA HAVE A STATE BIRD?

Contrary to a very wide-spread impression, Virginia does not seem to have ever adopted any bird as the official State bird. In that connection the following article from the Richmond Times-Dispatch (December 2, 1943), and Editorial (December 3, 1943) from the same paper are of interest:

"Colorful Robin Never Made Official Bird of Virginia"

The impression that the robin is the official bird of Virginia yesterday was "given the bird," in a nice sort of way, by Colonel E. Griffith Dodson, clerk of the Virginia House of Delegates.

Inquiries as to the red-breasted harbingers official relations with the Commonwealth prompted Colonel Dodson to investigate and try to resolve, once and for all, the disputed belief that Mr. Robin is this State's No. 1 feathered friend.

Colonel Dodson, an impartial and thorough factfinder, pursued his quest through the statute books, checked with the State Department of Education and consulted the State Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries. His conclusion: the robin, however, popular and attractive he may be otherwise, has no more claim to being Virginia's official bird than the lowliest snipe, chickadee or titmouse.

Exploded by Records

The theory that the robin had been chosen official State bird by vote of Virginia school children was exploded by the records of the State Board of Education. The minutes of the board for April, 1911, do record the fact that May 4, birthday of John James Audubon, was designated for celebration as "Bird Day," but no particular bird was singled out for distinction.

A pamphlet on "Virginia State Name, Flag, Seal, Song, Bird, Flower, and Other

Symbols" written by George Earlie Shankle, Ph. D., and published in 1933 by H. W. Wilson Company, of New York, may have contributed to the robin myth. This booklet carries a glowing colored picture of the robin, on the same page with the official flower and seal. But the text subsequently points out that Virginia officially has never adopted a State bird. Then it adds that the 1912 General Assembly passed an act specially to protect the robin.

Act as Afterthought

It appears, however, that the 1912 rbin protective act was in the nature of an afterthought, because the same legislative body had earlier adopted a law to protect wild turkeys, pheasants, grouse, quail, partridges and other winged creatures.

So when the robin comes bobbin', greet him with all due warmth and affection, but he demands no special obeisance as offcial harbinger of the Commonwealth. He sings just for himself, without benefit of sponsor.

"Our Unofficial State Bird"

As a result of Colonel E. Griffith Dodson's findings on the question of whether Virginia ever designated the robin as the State bird, it ought to be much easier hereafter to convice people that actually the Legislature has never formally indorsed this songster, and that Merula migratoria's association with the Old Diminion, while pleasant, indeed, is quite unofficial.

Every now and then, The Times-Dispateh Questions and Answers Department receives the query, "What is our State bird?" and it is hard put to make the questioner believe that the robin holds its perch only through a kind of gentleman's agreement. Dolonel Dodon, Clerk of the House of Delegates, after having searched the State records thoroughly, has declared that the robin has no claim whatsoever to the title of official bird. So that's that.

It is reasonable to assume that the matter will not end here, and that shortly there will be a movement afoot to give the robin official standing. There is, however, a small but earnest group of citizens who would like to see the cardinal chosen as the State bird. Sooner or later, the General Assembly will get around to the bird question and when it does, the backers of birds of all kinds doubtless will be fluttering through the Capitol's halls, extolling the virtues of their favorite feathered friends. There is no reason why Virginia should not adopt an official State bird, and there is no particular reason other than its long association with Virginia why the robin should be chosen.

It would be desirable if the bird selected were one not already favored by another state, but this is hardly possible unless some relatively unsung member of the clan is considered. Michigan and Wisconsin also lay claim to the robin. The cardinal is associated with Delaware, Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky. The mockingbird would be alikely candidate, but he already has been spoken for by five other States. Colonel Dodson's report is in effect a declaration of an open season on a State bird. Have our readers any suggestions?

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WHISTLING SWANS OF BACK BAY

By Mrs. A. C. Reed

In the morning the whistling swans flying above
the loblolly pines are pricked against the sky
as white as giant magnolia blossoms,
And their bills and feed are ebony.

At noon the wild swan feeding between the marshy
islands are scarcely distinguishable afar from
the piles of white spume tangled by the waves
against the yellow rushes.
Nearer, they become birds of legendary poetry and
music for now they are swans of water-reflecting
beauty, snowy plumage, and stately rhythm.

When mists or snow blow in from the ocean
swans emerge fleetingly from the shroud.
Now they are pale-bodied birds white rimmed,
or evasive ghost shapes dissolving quickly.

When swans arise from the bay the upward sweep
of their flight comes with the rush and break
of a tidal wave on a shore,
Still more, the pounding of their feet matches the
thundering hoofs of horses when cavalry charge forward.

At sunset the wild swans become quick-silver birds,
frostily-trimmed or even rose-tinted.
And the rare etherialness of their slow wing beats
is music printed upon a mertensia-flowering sky.

At twilight they are again pale-bodied birds,
violet-purple margined, glinting and flowing
as the waves of the sea,
While the 'sob-sob' of their voices fades with
an unforgetable far-away sadness.

At night, beneath crowding stars, the clamor from
thousands of swans on the water is the tumult
of an invisible white host,
Now trumpeting both its exaltation and its fear.

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BEGINNING BIRD STUDY

By Charles O. Handley, Jr.

Would you like to take up bird study as a hobby? Of course you already know a robin or a blue jay when you see one, but have you ever wondered about the identity of the multitude of other birds that have passed and are passing everyday, unnamed, before you? Certainly you have, and so have the thousands of other people in every part of the world who now find bird study a fascinating and constructive pastime. They have experienced this same natural curiosity to know and identify the "everyday birds" all about them, and just as they have found bird study a pleasurable occupation, so can you if you are willing to try.

There may be many reasons why you haven't taken up bird study before. Possibly you felt that there are so many kinds of birds that confusion would prevent you from ever learning them, or maybe you thought that there were not enough birds in your locality to make a study worthwhile. Maybe you were not willing to do the walking that is required of a good observer, or possibly you were not financially able to secure the necessary equipment. Though these difficulties may have stopped you once before, they are not nearly as important as you may have thought they were.

The seemingly great number of different kinds of birds which you will encounter when you first open a bird book may be just the thing to frighten you permanently away from bird study, but it need not, for when the total is broken down you find the maximum number of common birds for any given locality to be only about 125 species, while the total for any one season probably will not exceed 85. Certainly you can master that many.

If you haven't seen many birds in your neighborhood, chances are you haven't looked, for birds occur in almost every imaginable place. If you live in the heart of a city, you will find birds in abundance in a nearby park, or if you live in the suburbs, any vacant lot that has grown up to bushes is a likely place for birds. Here too, you are within easy walking distance of a park or the less settled country outside the city. If you are a student, you will frequently find your college campus an excellent place to observe birds, and if you live in the country you have nothing to worry about, for every orchard, brushy fence, row, and woodsborder has its complement of birds. So you see, now no matter where you live, all you have to do to see birds is to look.

Being unable to do much walking should not discourage you from bird study, for remarkably large bird lists can be built up with very little walking required of the student. Some of the best observers do little walking. This, however, should not be taken to mean that you should walk as little as possible, for laziness is never to be recommended. Too, walking is one of the great assets of bird study, for there is nothing like it to build up your constitution. You will find that you have many less colds when you take two or three good walks each week.

Bird study need not be an expensive hobby. Primary necessities are your eyes, ears, and feet, and a good bird book. Just any bird book will not do, for theymoney you save by buying a dime store book will be many times lost through the discouraging confusion and misidentifications which will invariably result. Since

a bird book is the only really necessary expense for beginning bird study, you should get a good one while you are about it. Advised for birds students of the Eastern States are the following books, both published by Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, Massachusetts; Forbush & May's "Natural History of the Birds of Eastern and Central North America," price, $4.95; and Peterson's "Field Guide to the Birds," price $2.75. Either of these books alone is good, but used together, the "Field Guide" for field reference and the "Natural History" for colored plates and home references, they are even better. The expense is small compared to the use you will get from these volumes, and they should last a lifetime.

Secondary necessities are a pair of field glasses and a field companion who is already familiar with birds. Both of these quantities you can do without, and indeed the average beginner will have access to neither, but if they are available, their value cannot be overestimated. Even a cheap field glass is better than none.

Now that you have the materials you need, you are ready to begin bird study. First of all, even before you look at a single bird out of doors, you should make yourself thoroughly familiar with your bird book. Learn the characteristics and the position in the book of the main families of birds; that is, the sparrows, thrushes, sandpipers, etc. This preliminary study may seem needless to you at first, but you can't imagine how much it will actually help you later.

At this point, as you are about to begin actual field observations, it would be well to say something about seasons. Avoid, if you possibly can, beginning bird study in the fall of the year, for at this season, from August to October, birds in general are harder to observe and present a greater complexity of confusing plumages than at any other time during the year. By far the best season for beginning is winter, with summer and spring following in that order. We find winter best, because there are at that season, few enough birds around so that you can easily learn to identify every kind in the neighborhood. With this knowledge as a foundation, the more numerous spring migrants are then added easily and naturally, step by step, as they arrive from the south, without confronting you with a great number of unfamiliar kinds at any one time.

Finally, armed with a notebook and "Peterson's Guide" (or some other bird book), and a pair of binoculars and an ornithological friend if you have them, you take to the field. In winter, the warmest part of the day, and at other seasons, the coolest parts of the day, are the best time for observations. Having already learned the characteristics of the families of birds through preliminary study, you have little trouble in assigning them to their respective families, the wrens, the larks, the blackbirds, and all the other birds that you see. Knowing this, it becomes an easy matter to determine the species of each bird through a simple process of elimination. Suppose, for instance, you have seen a sparrow. Suppose that it had an unstreaked breast, and no prominent head, throat, or breast marks. After making these mental notes you turn to the section on sparrows in your bird book, at once, you eliminate from the realm of possibility six species of sparrows with streaked breasts, then three more that have prominent black and white head markings. This leaves by three possibilities: The tree, swamp, and field sparrows. It can't be a tree sparrow because it has no spot in the middle of its breast, nor can it be a swamp sparrow because it lacks a white throat. Therefore, by elimination, it must be a field sparrow. If you have a friend who knows birds, he can now check your

identification, and you should check it yourself against the description of the field sparrow in the book.

You will not have to take many walks before you begin to notice the "field marks" (field recognition points) of each bird and will lose less and less time with eliminations. You should always make careful field notes, which should include a record of the characteristics which you used in identifying each bird. Upon return from your walk, you should read over the notes you have made on each species and should study pictures of each in the bird book. It is here that Forbush & May's "Natural History" will be invaluable, for its ninety-seven plates, picturing all the Eastern birds in beautiful natural colors, are the finest of their kind in America today. Having seen the bird in the field, made first hand recognition notes of it, and examined colored pictures of it, you should be able to identify it without hesitation the next time you see it. Thus, you have begun to weld a firm foundation for your studies in ornithology.

There are many ways to increase the pleasures you gain from bird study. You can make it a sort of game by keeping and comparing arrival and departure dates of migrants from year to year, by taking one day each season to try to make the largest possible list of different kinds of birds, by attempting to find more kinds of nests each summer than the summer before, and by keeping a "life list" of all the kinds of birds you see. These are only a few of the innumerable possibilities which you will discover.

For you who are new in bird study, this essay has been inteded to stimulate your interest and to prove to you that there is no physical reason why you shouldn't become an ornithologist; and for those of you who are old hands at ornithology, it is hoped that you may find some little bit of whrthwhile information to pass on to your students.

Bird study is an interesting hobby; it is a whrthwhile and constructive hobby; it is a hobby which can be mastered by almost anyone if he so desires.

Blacksburg, Virginia.

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ARCTICA AND TROPICANA MEET

By Charles O. Handley, Jr.

In the mountains of Virginia, the Florida Gallinule is a rarely occurring bird, and its appearance anywhere west of Richmond causes no little excitement. Dr. Murray has observed it only infrequently (3 records) near Lexington; Prof. Freer lists but one occurrence in the Lynchburg Region, and at Blacksburg we have seen it on but two occasions. The Snow Bunting is of accidental occurrence in Virginia, having been recorded previously only from Chesterfield, Northampton, Princess Anne and Arlington Counties. To have found these two birds together in the Virginia mountains seems incredible, yet on December 16 and 17, 1943 at Blacksburg, a Florida Gallinule was to be seen on the V. P. I. Campus pond, while barely a hundred yards

away on the drill field was a Snow Bunting.

The Gallinule had first appeared a month previously, on cold, windy, November 17, following a week of snow flurries and freezing temperatures. From this date until December 17, it was on the pond constantly. At first it spent most of its time on the islands in the pond, and as it wandered along their rocky shores picking up aquatic insects, it seemed much more like a giant sandpiper than a rail. I did not see it swimming with the large flock of Coots on the pond until sometime later, when the shores of the islands had become enveloped with ice. On the water it was much warier than the Coots, and was not seen to imitate them in diving, apparently getting all its food at the surface. It revealed its rail-like character only on December 12, when it was startled from the shore of the pond. It had been resting there, sheltered from the wind, and when startled it hydroplaned to the nearer island, and disappeared a second later as it dashed into the safety of the brush. Though the first ice appeared on the ponds on November 14, it was not until December 7 that the permanent winter freeze began to set in. By December 14, the ponds were frozen up to the edge of the running water. The flock of Coots which had numbered 37 individuals on November 14, began to diminish in size with the first appearance of ice, and by December 16, all but three had gone. These left that night, when the temperature reached a low of 5° F. On December 17, the temperature stood at 8° F., and the next day the Gallinule was gone. December 17 is a very late date for the Florida Gallinule at this latitude.

The Snow Bunting was discovered quite by accident as I was crossing the drill field just before retreat, December 16. The boldly patterned black and white bird that flew up with a flock of Horned Larks in my path could not possibly have been missed by anyone. I returned at dusk with my binoculars, but the bird was gone. Since there was the possibility that it might be a partially albino Horned Lark, I visited the drill field again the next morning and though the Horned Larks were found, there was no black and white bird among them. That afternoon, I searched the nearby fields and at length found and positively identified an adult female Snow Bunting in a large flock of Horned Larks about a half mile from the drill field near historic old Smithfield. Though the bird usually stayed with the larks, it did not always take flight with them, and after being flushed several times, it left the flock and flew away toward the drill field. There it was found later in the afternoon, alone in the center of the field. Since there were no Horned Larks to frighten it away, I was able to approach within 30 feet and stood watching it with my 8 x 40 binoculars for some three or four minutes before it took flight. In the soft afternoon sunlight, colors showed up perfectly. Most conspicuous were its large size, larger than a Horned Lark, its yellow bill, and its white primaries contrasted by black secondaries. Several different notes that it gave were all unlike those of any bird native to this region. Though my father and I searched for the bunting on several succeeding days, it was not seen again. On the two days that we saw this bird, the ground was completely clear of snow, though there had been a light fall on the fourteenth. With the addition of the Snow Bunting, the Montgomery County bird list now stands at 245 species and subspecies.

Blacksburg, Virginia.

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"FERNWOOD" SANCTUARY

By A. O. English

The feathered tribe on its return from the South this spring will find a sanctuary in Roanoke County. In sympathy with the conservation program, Mr. & Mrs. J. D. Turner, are making a bird sanctuary of their summer place. It was named "Fernwood" because of the variety of wild ferns found there. It is situated in Mason Cove, twenty miles from the City of Roanoke, at the headwaters of Bradshaw Creek and Mason Creek. Here at an elevation of over 1,800 feet one may observe that the two creeks begin their courses in opposite directions. Mason Creek runs through the place for a mile or more. On the south it is bound by Ft. Lewis Mountain and State game preserve. Catawba Mountain guards it on the north and similar properties adjoin it on either end. Being flanked by mountains and a game preserve, the site is unique for a sanctuary.

For several years this sparsely settled valley has changed but little. Many of the small sites which may have once been cultivated have been abandoned and are now partly covered by woods.

Seven years ago the present owners acquired "Fernwood" and two years later built a summer home. The eighty-seven or more acres for the most are covered by wood common to Virginia mountains, some dead chestnut, rhododendron thickets and mountain laurel. The dead chestnut trees have been left standing to insure nesting sites for woodpeckers. Briar and wild berry thickets have been left for coverage and roosting places. Plans are going forward to plant shrubs that produce berries and fruit to insure winter food. Additional feeding stations will be located and boxes erected for hole nesting species. Trails will be improved and marked.

"Fernwood" already enjoys a unique reputation. On the night of June 6 last year, the Turner family was treated to an unusual display of St. Elmo's fire, a first cousin to lightning. Their description of this phenomenon has been compared with a similar example which has been reported as once seen in an Austrian mountainside forest. It has also been seen on the summit of Pike's Peak in Colorado from Colorado Springs.

There is a legend that the spring on "Fernwood" was a favorite resting place for Indians passing through the valley. Here again one my rest and enjoy a bit of woodland being dedicated to wildlife and nature.

508 Westover Avenue
Roanoke, Va.

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PINE SISKINS AND RED-BREASTED NUTHATCHES AT SEASHORE STATE PARK, VIRGINIA

On July 5, 1941 a large flock of noisy birds fluttering and "tweeting" was seen in the scrub pines, at the foot of the hill, near the road to the Lodge.

My young companion - a Boy Scout - quite a bird student and I didn't recog-

nize them so we consulted "Peterson" and our other bird books and identified these small restless birds as Pine Siskins.

I then phoned some of my friends who are experienced in identifying birds. They seemed to think it impossible for Pine Siskins to be here. I studied every thing that I could find about Pine Siskins. This was not their territory, but if these birds were not Pine Siskins - what were they?

No more Pine Siskins were seen when I was with anyone who could identify them - until late in the summer of 1942. On August 7, 1942, Charles Thornton, a member of our Junior Bird Club, another person, and I heard quite a commotion in the tall pines near The Old Main Motor Trail. We discovered a large number of birds fluttering from branch to branch and from tree to tree. After carefully checking we identified these birds as Pine Siskins.

On September 18, 1943 in the late afternoon (between five and five-thirty p. m.) a strange nasal call was heard in the yard south of our lodge. I ran into the yard to investigate. The sound "yank, yank" was coming from the pine trees.

There I saw busily searching in the crevices of the bark what appeared to be a nuthatch. It was larger than our little visitors, the Brown-headed Nuthatches, and moved deliberately. It was a new visitor! I cautiously crept closer - withint about three feet of the bird, but it was not the least bit disturbed. It went busily about its job - then flew to another pine and another, carefully exploring the crevices. Then with a "yank, yank" flew away - towards the woods.

Quite excited over what seemed to be my first Red-breasted Nuthatch I hurried back to the Lodge and consulted "Roger Peterson" also "The Green Book of Birds of America" to verify my identification. It proved to be a Red-breasted Nuthatch, the first I had everyseen.

For days I watched and listened for its return. On October 5, "yank, yank" announced its return. This time with another busy Red-breasted Nuthatch - perhaps its mate. On October 27, they were seen in the loblolly pines back of our lodge - for the last time.

Mrs. Florence F. Marshall
Cape Henry, Virginia

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NOTES FROM SEWARD FOREST

The Pine Warbler is quite common all through southeastern Virginia, and I have always considered it as almost a permanent resident. Not until recently, however, did I have records of its occurence in the month of January. In the January just passed I have seen it three times, so I would now place it in the permanent resident group without farther hesitation.

On January 4, 1944, I collected a specimen of the Red-breasted Nuthatch, Sitta conadensis, in the border of a pine forest near our home in Seward forest. This is my first record of it for Brunswick county, though I had three records in Amelia County.

I find the White-breasted Nuthatch quite rare in southeastern Brunswick County, though it was fairly common near Lawrenceville in the center of the county, and in Amelia County. The Brown-headed Nuthatch is the most common nuthatch in the Seward Forest area.

John B. Lewis.

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FURTHER NOTES ON THE WHISTLING SWAN IN SOUTHWEST IN VIRGINIA

To the casual occurrence of the Whistling Swan in Southwestern Virginia I would add the following records. Mr. J. H. Flanagan of Blacksburg has informed me that during the winter of 1942-'43, a hired man on his farm on Reed Creek near Wytheville, Wythe County, Virginia, shot a large and unusual-looking bird as it rested on a small pond several hundred feet from Reed Creek. It was described as being duck-like in appearance, with pure white plumage, webbed feet, a duck-like bill, and a wingspread of about six feet. This description fits the Whistling Swan nicely. It has been reported authentically from another part of Wythe County (Raven, Vol. VIII, No. 1, p.6, January 1937) and from Giles County (Raven, Vol. XII, No. 1, p.5, January 1941) by my father, and I have an unauthenticated record for Montgomery County. This last mentioned record is of three birds seen in March, 1940, on New River several miles below Radford by a local resident whom I consider to be reliable. He gave a description strikingly similar to the one cited above, but said that the birds, swimming in the middle of the river, were quite wary and flew as soon as they were approached. It is possible that one of the migration routes of the swan passes over the mountains at this point (Giles County swans were flying in a southeasterly direction), and it may be that the swan is not as rare in this region as is generall supposed.

C. O. Handley, Jr.

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IN MEMORIAM: FRANCES ELIZABETH JAMES

Frances Elizabeth Laughlin was born March 19, 1902, at Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, and died Sept. 6, 1943, at Chatham, Virginia. When Frances was two years old her family moved to a country place near Chatham. It was there that she developed her interest in birds at an early age, searching for nests and learning to identify them.

From 1923 to 1926 the family spent the winters in Florida where the water birds were an added incentive to further study and where she met Dr. Hiram Byrd, then president of the Florida Audubon Society. Both he and Mrs. Byrd were great bird lovers. They seemed glad to have Frances join them and took her on numerous bird trips to different parts of the State. During this period she was an active member of the Florida Audubon Society. She made a number of observation on the burrowing owl, photographing the young.

After her marriage to Dr. O. O. James at Chatham in 1926, Frances went to live in Richmond, Virginia, where she attended the first annual meeting of the Vir-

ginia Society of Ornithology. She became a member at this time and attended the annual meetings for several years, until failing health and family demands prevented further attendance. During her residence in Richmond she made many observations on her own grounds and in company with others on local trips.

Mrs. Frederick W. Shaw
2313 Stuart Avenue, Richmond, Va.

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During the past year, we have had in Norfolk, or in camps in this area, service boys interested in birds from other states. Here they are: Dr. Wendell Whittimore, surgeon, from Tennessee and now somewhere in the South Pacific. Sgt. Audrey H. Claugus from Ohio, instructor at Langley Field. He has 20 years of bird study and 6 years of research work to his credit. Sammy M. Ray, who for several months was pharmacist's mate at the Norfolk Naval Hospital and who is now at Camp Lejeune, N. C. He is a graduate of the Biology Department, University of Louisiana and was fortunate to have been selected for a field trip to Mexico under George Sutton. Candidate Kenneth Higby from Wisconsin, who has been at Fort Monroe. He has already served his eighteen months with the armed forces in the Aleutian Islands and had many interesting things to tell us. Malcohm Andrews from White Plains, N. Y., an experienced bird student of several years. Lt. Commander Lock MacKenzie, also from New York and who knows well all the staff of the Audubon Society. He has been to Florida twice this winter on inspection tours for the government and has been able to combine this work with field trips with Alexander Sprunt.

Mr. Jack Perkins, the new manager of the Fish and Wildlife Service Refuge, was a member of the last expedition taken by Admiral Byrd to the South Pole. He has been most cooperative in field trips and will surely be very valuable in helping us in future work. Mrs. Perkins too has joined us in the field trips and most kindly has permitted us to make hot soup and coffee and eat our lunch in her kitchen. That has been a great luxury and one affording a lively time for all.

Again this year we had bad weather for the Christmas census. A few days before December 19, a freeze set in covering most of the fresh water bays and coves with ice and sending the waterfowl south. As always happens, however, such cold weather brought more ducks here. Even allowing for the freeze, the outstanding thing about the census was the comparative absence of pintails and baldpates. Where were they? It would not seem that the mild weather generally prevailing all through the fall, up to the freeze, could account for the exceedingly small numbers of these species, which we are accustomed to see in thousands.

Mrs. A. C. Reed.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

In view of the present conditions, the Executive Committee has decided that there will be no annual meeting of the Virginia Society of Ornithology in 1944.

The Raven

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

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

Vol. XV March, 1944 No. 3

A History of the Virginia Society of Ornithology

By Ruskin S. Freer

(This paper was prepared at the request of the President, Mr. A. O. English. The writer would greatly appreciate if errors or omissions might be called to his or the Editor's attention.)

The Virginia Society of Ornithology was founded on December 7, 1929, at Lynchburg College in the city of Lynchburg. The organization meeting was called by Dr. J. J. Murray, the late Merriam G. Lewis, both then of Lexington, and myself, at the urging of Mrs. Mary D. Dise of Charleston, South Carolina, formerly of Amherst County, Virginia, and the late Miss Katharine Stuart of Alexandria.

Because of apprehension that this organization would, like previous ones, not survive very long, it was agreed that we would attempt to secure its permanence by three means: 1 - annual meetings and field trips; 2 - a monthly bulletin; and 3 - local chapters to be affiliated with the State organization. With the Society now in its fifteenth year, with a slow but steady increase in membership, with the three original objectives achieved and maintained, and some additional projects being successfully carried on, it would seem that the optimism and determination of the founders and charter members were amply justified.

The most important and satisfactory achievement of the Society has doubtless been the continuous publication of its monthly bulletin, The Raven. Under the most capable and faithful guidance of Dr. J. J. Murray, who has been its Editor from its inception, it has interested new people in the work of the Society, afforded a means of exchange of information, and has provided an avenue of publication of many papers of more than state-wide interest. We have a feeling that it has been the inspiration of a number of other state organizations and publications.

As stated in an early issue, the name, The Raven, suggested by Chas. O. Handley, Sr., was selected because "the raven is a bird of wisdom--as canny as the crow--yet it has not flourished under the advance of the white man into its nesting grounds. It is a bird of the crags and remote places and carries with it a

a breath of the wilderness... it gives to our bulletin the name of a bird that once was common in our State from the coast to the mountains.....and serves as a memorial to a bird which in our section is fast being driven out of existence by the advance of civilization."

The First issue of The Raven appeared in January, 1930.

The beginnings of the Society were small. A Committee on Constitution, consisting of Merriam G. Lewis, Ralph M. Brown, Librarian at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, and Dr. Florence S. Hague of Sweet Briar College, got busy in the first months. By April of 1930 we had 42 Charter members, whose names are in the Appendix at the end of this paper. The Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries of Virginia generously allotted fifty dollars toward getting The Raven started and toward organizational expense. This aid was greatly appreciated and did much toward putting the young Society on a good financial basis.

Any sincere and honest evaluation of the achievements of our Society through these years must begin and end with the contributions of Dr. J. J. Murray to Virginia ornithology. His consistently hard work, his high regard for scientific accuracy, and particularly his good judgment in developing a comprehensive and well-rounded program of work needing to be done in Virginia ornithological research, have been an inspiration to all of us.

In addition to or in connection with his work as Editor of The Raven, Dr. Murray has initiated and carried on several projects. He has indexed The Raven, he has reviewed new books on birds, and compiled annual surveys of Virginia contributions and records in periodical journals of ornithology. He has published many papers in The Raven on his own research, particularly his summer field trips. Beginning with peaks in the Blue Ridge of his County, Rockbridge, he has greatly extended the range of his summer work to more distant sections of the State. Middle Mountain in Highland County, White Top Mt. and Mt. Rogers in southwest Virginia, Cobb's Island off the Eastern Shore, Burke's Garden in Tazewell County and Fairy Stone State Park, are some of the areas studied. Carefully prepared papers on this work have appeared in The Raven.

Dr. Murray also published a very interesting series of four papers in The Raven on birds of England and Scotland following a visit in 1934. One of these dealt with the birds of the ocean. Again in 1939, following another trip abroad, he told of the birds of the Island of Texel off the coast of the Netherlands.

Another contribution from Dr. Murray was a series of papers on the early history of Virginia ornithology, with biographical sketches of Mark Catesby, Percy Evans Freke, Harry Balch Bailey, William Palmer and Wirt Robinson. The first of these papers, " A Brief History of Virginia Ornithology", appeared in The Raven for March, 1933 (IV:3. pp. 2-11). The biographical sketches appeared in The Raven in 1936.

Dr. Murray's most important contribution to Virginia Ornithology has been a series of papers beginning with "Additions to the Virginia Avifauna since

1890", appearing in The Auk (L:2. pp. 190-200. Apr. 1933). This paper brought up to date the annotated list of Virginia birds published by Rives (A Catalogue of the Birds of the Virginias, Document VII, Proceedings of the Newport Natural History Soc iety. Newport, Rhode Island, 1890). This was followed by "Further additions to the Virginia Avifauna" in The Rave for July 1934 (V:7 pp. 1-2).

This work was continue in further papers : "Recent Records and New Problems in Virginia Ornithology", given at the Lexington meeting in 1938 (Raven IX:6 pp. 39-43. June, 1938); and "A List of Virginia Birds" (Raven IX:10. pp. 85-93. Oct. 1938). The latter paper listed the names of the 369 species and subspecies accredited to Virginia by that date.

Another and almost equally important aspect of Dr. Murray's work has been his "blue-printing", as it were, the needs for future work on Virginia birds. In tow papers he has evaluated past work in the State and suggested where our future efforts should be concentrated. These papers provide intelligent direction for our endeavors in the years immediately ahead. They are: "Recent Records and New Problems in Virginia Ornithology", cited above, and "A Topographic Survey of Virginia Ornithology", given at the Harrisonburg meeting in 1940 (Raven XI: 5 & 6. pp. 27-30. May-June, 1940).

The Society by official action has undertaken a number of projects. The first of these was "A Consolidated List of The Birds of Nine Local Regions of Virginia", which appeared in The Raven (II:2. Supplement, pp. 1-16. Feb. 1931). This marked the first step, followed later by Dr. Murray's papers on the Virginia avifauna, toward the accomplishment of one of the major objectives agreed upon at the founding of the Society, viz., the eventual publication of a book on the birds of Virginia.

From the beginning of our organization members have participated in another project, the taking of the annual Christmas bird census or count. These reports have appeared in The Raven each year.

Another undertaking by the Society as a whole was the financing of the publication in The Auk of Dr. Murray's paper, "Additions to the Virginia Avifauna since 1890", already mentioned. For this purpose we raised something over fifty dollars. We were assited by a grant from the Research Committee of the Virginia Academy of Science.

Another project for which there was an obvious need was the study of the birds of various regions of the State, and numerous papers have appeared, chiefly in The Raven, giving the results of this work. Perhaps the most complete studies of this sort are: 1, the work in Montgomery County, begun before the days of the VSO, by Dr. E. A. Smyth, Jr. (The Auk, October, 1912, and January, 1927), and ably continued and considerably expanded by Chas. O. Handley, Sr., Chas. O. Handley, Jr. and Ralph M. Brown, in papers published in The Raven (VIII:1 pp.1-5, January. 1937 and XI:3&4, pp. 13-15, March-April, 1940); 2, the birds of Rockbridge County, by Dr. Murray ("Water Birds of A Virginia Mountain County", The Wilson Bulletin XLVII:1 pp. 59-67. Mar. 1935; "Further Notes on the Water Birds of Rockbridge, County, Virginia", the Wilson Bulletin; XLIX:1 pp. 48-49, March, 1937; "The Land

Birds of Rockbridge County, Virginia", The Oölogist, LIII:3, pp. 26-35. March, 1936; "Further Notes on the Land Birds of Rockbridge County, Virginia ", The Oologist, L:2, pp. 17-18, 1937; "Additional Notes on the Land Birds of Rockbridge County, Virginia", The Oölogist, LVII:9, pp. 101-103, Sept. 1940); 3, "Annotated List of Birds Observed in Amelia and Brunswick Counties", by John B. Lewis (Raven IX:9. pp. 66-84. Sept. 1938); 4, "The Birds of Lynchburg, Virginia, and vicinity", by Ruskin S. Freer (Bulletin of Lynchburg College, VII:1. pp. 1-27. Jan. 1939).

Other regional studies, less inclusive, or covering shorter periods of time, or not summarized in single publications, are listed in Dr. Murray's paper, "A Topographic Survey of Virginia Ornithology" (Raven XI:5 & 6. pp. 27-30. May-June, 1940). There are twelve of these. In addition James R. Sydnor has been working in the region around Camp Rapidan in Madison County, and Mrs. A. C. Reed, John H. Grey, and others have contributed many notes on the Norfolk, Virginia Beach and Back Bay Area.

About 1940 the Society began to sponsor a promotional program for Junior Audubon Clubs and was fortunate in securing the interest and services of Mrs. J. Frank Key of Buena Vista, long active in State Garden club work. Mrs. Key has done an excellent piece of work. She has not merely accomplished a considerable growth in number of Junior Audubon Clubs amongst school children, but has immeasurably increased interest in birds amongst members of Virginia garden clubs. Her work may have significant and surprising results in future years. The Society has supported her work financially.

Several local groups or chapters have been organized by members. Examples are the Roanoke Bird Club, the Avian Society of Eastern Mennonite School at Harrisonburg, and the Lynchburg Chapter of the VSO. There are other effective groups which are not organized in a formal way, such as that at Norfolk.

A more recent project of the Society which was only getting a fair start when interrupted by war conditions was the organizing of regional field trips, in addition to the annual field trips. These regional trips are participated in by members of certain localities only. The Norfolk group has conducted a number of such trips. The Lynchburg Chapter has for several years conducted a field trip during warbler migration and has also conducted the annual Christmas bird count, under the leadership of Mrs. James W. Wiltshire, Jrs., the Chapter President.

Five members of the Society have done their thesis work for advanced degrees on Virginia birds. For his doctor's degree at the University of Virginia Dr. D. Ralph Hostetter of the Eastern Mennonite School at Harrisonburg worked out the life history of the Carolina junco at the Biological Station at Mountain Lake. His thesis work was supervised for the University of Virginia by Dr. Murray.

Miss Edna Becker of the Biology Staff at Hollins College did the life history of the brown thrasher as thesis work toward the M. S. degree at Cornell University (Raven XII: 6. pp. 32-43. June, 1941);

Mrs. James W. Wiltshire, Jr., of the Biology staff at Randolph-Macon Women's College is also working toward an advanced degree at Cornell, and has done a great deal of very excellent work with kodachrome on nestlings over a period of years.

J. Southgate Y. Hoyt of Lexington has been working at Cornell on the life history of the pileated woodpecker. Ernest P. Edwards of Amherst has alson been working at Cornell on the auditory sense in birds and the physics of bird songs and calls.

The Society has been aided greatly in its whole program by the work of several men from out of the State, notably Maurice Brooks of West Virginia University, Austin H. Clark of the Smithsonian Institution, Rev. John H. Grey, Jr., of Raleigh, North Carolina, Lester L. Walsh of the National Audubon Society, New York City, and Dr. Alexander Wetmore of the National Museum. These men have contributed notes and papers frequently on their observations in Virginia to The Raven.

Our Virginia group, without wishing to steal one iota of credit from others for their enterprise, nevertheless takes pride in having assisted in the formation of the North Carolina Bird Club. Rev. John H. Grey, Jr., one of the founders of the organization, called on Dr. Murray to address the organization meeting. "The Chat", the bulletin of the Club, was patterned after The Raven.

The relations between the two groups have not been unilateral however. We have benefited by the experience of the North Carolina group in our campaigns for membership. Rev. Grey is also a member of the VSO and has contributed both to The Raven and to the programs at our Annual Meetings.

Our Society has never grown rapidly and has certainly never reached the size we hope it will some day attain. However, beginning with the 42 charter members of April, 1930, the membership numbered 110 by December, 1942. Except for a loss reported in 1934, each year seems to have shown a slight gain in numbers.

At one time or another the VSO has been affiliated with other organizations, such as the Wilson Club, the National Audubon Society, and the Virginia Wildlife Federation.

The activities of the VSO, papers and notes appearing in The Raven, and personal notes on members may now be located by means of indexes Dr. Murray has prepared. These are as follows:

Vols. I-IX, THE RAVEN, August, 1942
Vol. X, THE RAVEN, December, 1939
Vol. XI, THE RAVEN, November-December, 1940
Vol. XII, THE RAVEN, December, 1941
Vol. XIII, THE RAVEN, November-December, 1942.

In conclusion, may I say that the work of preparing this history has been enjoyable. I hope that it may evoke many pleasant memories amongst the older members, be enlightening without being too boresome to more recent members and, if they should read thus far, it is my hope that this story of the VSO may attract non-members to associate themselves with the organization, for that was one of the motives in deciding to have it done,

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APPENDIX

A. Honorary Members:

1. Dr. Wm. C. Rives, elected at organization meeting, December 7, 1929; deceased, December 18, 1938.
2. Dr. Ellison A. Smyth, Jr., elected at organization meeting, December 7, 1929; deceased, August 19, 1941.
3. Harold H. Bailey, elected at Richmond meeting, February, 1931.

B. Charter Members:

The following names, listed alphabetically, are those of paidup members as of April 1, 1930, which was agreed upon as the condition of charter membership. The addresses are of that date.

Bailey, Harold H., Miama, Fla.
Ball, Wm. Howard, Washington, D. C.
Barger, N. R., Charlottesville
Bobbitt, Mrs. R. W., Keysville
Bowman, Paul W., University
Brown, Ralph M., Blacksburg
Burgess, Mrs. C. L., Lynchburg
Carroll, Robt. P., Lexington
Caton, Wm. P. Accotink
Claytor, A. B., Lynchburg
Claytor, Katharine P., Bedford
Croonenberghs, Aristide, Sr., Lynnhaven
Daniel, Bertha, Naruna
Davidson, W. M., Silver Springs, Md.
Dise, Mrs. Joseph D., Glen Rock, Pa.
English, A. O., Norfolk,
Ferneyhough, J. Bowie, Richmond
Freer, Ruskin S., Lynchburg
Gould, Jos. E., Norfolk
Hague, Dr. Florence S., Sweet Briar
Handley, Chas. O., Sr., Ashland
Henderson, Len B., Lynchburg
Hubbard, Mrs. B. W. Williamsburg
James, Mrs. A. O., Richmond
Jeffers, Dr. Geo. W., Farmville
Kilby, Mrs. C. M., Lynchburg
Lewis, Dr. I. F., University
Le wis, J. B., Amelia
Lewis, M. G., Lexington
Micklem, H. M., Shipman
Moore, Miss E. H., Lynchburg
Moore, Mrs. N. H. W., Lynchburg
Overstreet, Mrs. R. L., Bellevue
Pearson, Dr. T. Gilbert, New York City
Percy, Mary L., Lynchburg

Plecker, Dr. W. A., Richmond
Rives, Bernice (Mrs. Bracy A. Ragsdale), New York City
Taylor, Grace H. (Mrs. Jas. W. Wiltshire, Sr.), Lynchburg
Ward, Mrs. W. E., Lynchburg
Zeimet, Carlo, Vienna

C. Officers:

President

Ruskin S. Freer, December, 1929 to April, 1935
Chas. O. Handley, Sr., April, 1935 to April, 1937
J. B. Lewis, April 1937 to April, 1938.
M. G. Lewis, April, 1938 to May, 1940
A. O. English, May, 1940 --

Vice-President

Chas. O. Handley, Sr., December, 1929 to April, 1935
J. B. Lewis, April 1935, to April, 1937
Dr. Wm. B. McIlwaine, Jr., April, 1937 --

Secretary

Miss Lena B. Henderson, December, 1929 to February, 1931
Dr. Florence S. Hague, February, 1931 --

Treasurer

Miss Lena B. Henderson, December, 1929 to February, 1931
Ralph M. Brown, February, 1931 to February 1932
J. B. Lewis, February, 1932 to April, 1935
A. O. English, April, 1935 to May, 1940
T. L. Engleby, May, 1940 --

Members-at-large of Executive Committee

M. G. Lewis, December, 1929 to April, 1938
A. O. English, February, 1931 to April, 1935
Ruskin S. Freer, April, 1935 to May, 1941
Chas. O. Handley, Sr., February, 1939 --
Miss Edna Becker, May, 1941 --
Col. R. P. Carroll, May, 1941 --
Mrs. A. C. Reed, May, 1941--
Dr. D. Ralph Hostetter, May, 1941 --
Mrs. Colgate Darden, May, 1941

Editor of THE RAVEN

Dr. J. J. Murray, December, 1929 --

D. Annual Meetings

1931--Richmond, February, 13, 14
1932 --Charlottesville, February 13
1933--Norfolk, January 20, 21
1934--Alexandria, March 9,10
1935--Roanoke, April 26,27
1936--Lynchburg, February 21, 22
1937--Richmond, April 23,24
1938--Lexington, April 29,30
1939--Norfolk, February 17
1940--Harrisonburg, May 10,11
1941--Roanoke, May 9,10

E. Field Trips

The temptation to include trips other than those connected with the annual meetings is hard to resist. Some of the early trips taken by small groups were historic, at least to those participating, but there have been so many in this category, that the list would be too long and some would certainly be unintentionally omitted.

1931--Curle's Neck Farm, February, Richmond meeting
1932--With Virginia Academy of Science Botanical Foray, Southside, Virginia, May.
1933--Back Bay, January, Norfolk meeting
1934--along Potomac, March, Alexandria meeting
1935--Bent and Poor Mts., April, Roanoke meeting
1936--Timber Lake, February, Lynchburg meeting
1937--Curles Neck Farm, April, Richmond meeting
1938--Big Spring and Raven's Nest in mountain, April, Lexington meeting.
1939--Back Bay, February, Norfolk meeting
1940--Mossy Creek Dam, Staunton Reservoir, Reddish Knob, May, Harrisonburg meeting.
1941--Bent Mt. and Poor Mt. Blue Ridge Parkway, Bennett Springs, May, Roanoke, meeting.

Lynchburg College
Lynchburg, Va.

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NORFOLK BREEDING NOTES, 1943

By Mrs. A. C. Reed

During April and May I made a breeding bird census at the Norfolk and Princess Anne Garden Clubs' Wildflower Sanctuary. I was there two days a week,

sometimes three, spending four or five hours each day at the sanctuary. I was able to do this on my one and a half gallons of gas. Then the ban on pleasure driving went into effect for the second time and I had to stop. I was disappointed in this, for nesting was late this year and a number of species were just beginning to nest. However, as I was there during migration I recorded about 80 species of birds for the sanctuary and lake. I was doing well with the nesting and was sorry to have to give it up. There were 5 pairs of Prothonotary warblers in the sanctuary, 4 nests of which i located, - 3 were in posts, each some distance from water. There was one nesting pair of yellow-throated vireos and one nesting pair of the yellow-throated warbler. I was pleased with both of these because I did not have a summer record of either. The oven-birds did not stay to nest. The grouping of the nests,- which were most numerous about the entrance to the sanctuary and along the road running through the middle of it and few in number on the finger-like peninsulas extending into the lake--was very interesting.

I had three unusual records. A broadwinged hawk attracted my attention one morning the instant I pulled into the sanctuary by its high descending whistle. It was in a pine tree close to the gate. As it perched on a limb its tail appeared very short. I walked all around it before it flew. When it flew the sun shone down through the tail which appeared beautifully banded with a broad white band and a broad dark band. That is the way I noticed it. It was a small hawk. I have two other records the Broad-winged which I feel quite certain of; May 4, 1939, and April 23, 1940. A pair of red-shouldered hawks soared and screamed regularly above the sanctuary. Then there was a male Cape May Warbler which sang a song, similar in character to the way Aretas Saunders gives it, except that it was on a distinct ascending scale. I have never heard the Cape May give a song like that before. It was more of a song than the way we heard it in Maine. Then I recorded one warbling vireo. It had an indistinct white line over the eye, not a strongly defined white stripe and there was no black line above the white stripe. I could not make it out anything else. It was not singing. Red-eyed vireos were numerous of course.

It was not until after I had started the census that I realized the Audubon Society did not care to have reports on tracts of land less than 15 acres in size, the sanctuary being about 11. So I did not send in my report to them. Also they state they do not wish one to submit a census unless one can be pretty certain of repeating it, and I cannot be sure of that. However, I shall do so if possible, for the sanctuary is easy terrain for me to cover, and it is practically unmolested, for few people ever go there.

1519 Morrise Avenue, Norfolk, Va.

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AN INVITATION TO V.S.O. MEMBERSHIP.

This copy of THE RAVEN is an invitation to all who are interested in birds or in nature in birds or in nature in general to become members of the Virginia Society of Ornithology. Membership dues are $1.00 per year for Active Membership, which covers the subscription to THE RAVEN. Sustaining members, who wish to make some larger contribution to the work of the Society pay $2.50 per year.

Applications for membership should be sent, with dues, to Mr. T. L. Engleby, Treasurer, 1002 Patterson Avenue, Roanoke, Va.

The Raven

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DR. J. J. MURRAY, EDITOR
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BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY AS A HOBBY

By Mrs. Colgate W. Darden

Photographing birds with a moving picture camera cannot be recommended as an economical hobby, although it pays good dividends in joy if pursued over a period of years. My camera, a gift of ten years ago, is a model K, Cine-Kodak which carries a 16mm film, either fifty or a hundred feet in length. Many sizes of lens are available for this model, but it has no means of taking slow motion or of measuring distances. The latter causes my greatest pitfall for one must measure distance fairly accurately when photographing an object under twenty-five feet away with a telephoto lens. I started with a six inch lens which represents about six power magnification, but the results were so poor that I traded it in for a four inch lens which proved much better. The four inch lens lets in considerably more light and it can be used in the hand without a tripod with some success.

Enough light is the chief factor in color photography, therefore, one is limited in opportunity by the time of day and the time of year. Living near the shore, as I did, is a great advantage for the beaches and marshes give maximum light, the birds are larger in size on an average, and they are wakeful throughout the day.

The shots I have had time to take have rarely been planned. Only once did I set out to find a particular bird and complete my errand as one would go out to buy a loaf of bread. One morning I placed my equipment in a row-boat at our wharf and set forth to find the yellow-crowned night heron which frequents the water around Norfolk. In about ten minutes I saw an adult bird getting his breakfast of mudcrabs. The sun was properly at my back and I photographed him and returned, all within the half hour.

If one starts to hunt with a camera, one soon wants to go beyond the immediate neighborhood for subjects. The question of a partner for the trip should be carefully considered for the average bird observer cannot be expected to wax enthusiastic over your hobby when he discovers how much longer shots frequently take than identifying some species of bird. A way which has proved agreeable and practical when going with an observation party is to carry the equipment in a water-proof bag on my back. The tripod presents more of a burden, but I find a unipod in the shape of a walking stick serves very well when much walking is

expected. Since I am often pressed for time to devote to photography, this plan enables me to increase my field of activity without taxing my companions' patience or temper. Indeed I am deeply indebted to Mrs. A. C. Reed of Norfolk, and Dr. John Grey of Raleigh, North Carolina for their kind consideration and encouragement which has made possible many of my best shots.

My original interest in color photography came from a desire to bring home to my children some of the delights of seeing birds in their native habitat. I had not thought of showing these pictures to the public, nor realized that many people would be interested in them, but after one request to show them to a garden club, other organizations asked to see them. My pictures have been a pleasure to the family and the means of introducing me to a host of friends who love and appreciate birds.

Executive Mansion
Richmond, Va.

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FOREST FIRE PREVENTION THROUGH BIRD LORE

By Charles C. Steirly
District Forester, Virginia Forest Service
(at present in the U.S. Army)

One of the many duties of a District Forester, in his efforts to protect, improve and develop the forest resources of Virginia, is the dissemination of forest fire prevention information. This phase of the job load of a District Forester is perhaps one of the most important, as all forestry development work is based on the attainment of adequate fire control standards. Since ninety per cent of Virginia's forest fires are man caused, and therefore preventable, the prevention activity becomes a real job in itself. Owing to the pressure of other administrative work such as timberland examination, law enforcement, maintenace of fire control improvement, fire fighting, organization of fire crews, etc., every hour allotted to fire prevention work must be made to count, especially when most of it must be done within a short period of time prior to the spring fire season in order to be fully effective.

Most District Foresters as well as the Headquarters Staff of the Virginia Forest Service have found that the Rural school contact is one of the best means of selling the forest fire prevention idea. It is here that the contact makes the best impression and achieves the desired results. Two broad objectives are attained as a result of the District Forester's visit to the average rural school. First the children take the message home to their parents who may be just the careless folk whom it is desired to educate regarding the care with fire, and secondly the children who will constitute the next generation are impressed with the need for forest protection. All of this has been found to be most effective in the negro schools. It is among the negros that most of our careless fires originate as the records show that they are prone to burn over broom sedge fields before plowing, burn piles of brush with complete disregard to the fire hazard and seem, as a general rule, to burn without any thought for forest values. To the colored school child the visit of a white man to the school is something of an event in ordinary school routine

and the children are certain to go home and tell their parents about it.

In order to make the fire prevention talks effective, a definite appeal to the children must be made. A discussion of the value of forests and forest economics means but little to a young school child. On my district I have worked on the bird and animal interests of school children. As an amateur Ornithologist, I have been able to inject a considerable amount of bird lore into my talks to find that as a result I have made their minds much more receptive to what I had to say regarding my major objective. Most of the children are interested to some extent in birds and wild animals and in reply to my questions I have found that few of them ever gave the effects of fire on such creatures a thought. After creating this interest in the woods, I can then easily swing the discussion around to ways in which they can help prevent this waste of animal and bird life as well as of timber. Near the end of the talk I am also able to casually mention the state forest fire laws, which is perhaps the main objective.

Thus, by throwing in a little nature lore I have been able to stimulate an interest in fire prevention that ordinarily would have been difficult to obtain with just a plain talk on timber and forest values, which probably would soon be forgotten by young children. Bird and animal pictures along with the pictures of forest devastation have done much to increase the interest of the children in going home and telling their parents to be careful with fire. The forest fire law portion must also be sent home since once the people realize that there are fire laws they will naturally try to avoid trouble and perhaps cease brush burning in hazardous weather. In speaking to school children about the law, care must be taken not to use the law as a threat so I prefer to let the interest in birds, rabbits, and squirrels take the law home where it is most needed -- in the average rural colored home.

An analysis of forest fire reports and records has indicated a decrease in fires in certain areas where such talks have been given. It is to be hoped that much more of this work can be done and that a genuine appreciation of the forests and its wildlife can be created throughout the state.

One of the State's fire prevention publications "Keep Fire Out of Virginia Forests" has an excellent picture of a quail nest burning up. This picture does much to create a sympathetic feeling toward bird and animal life. At the time of each contact a number of these publications are given to the school teacher.

In my case, as devoted student of Ornithology, I accomplish two things in my prevention contact work; not only do I satisfy the requirements of my professional work in forestry, but I am able at the same time to put in a "Plug" for the conservation and interest in bird life.

In dealing with prevention talks before hunt clubs, the interest in animal and bird life is already there, although it makes an excellent starting point in putting across the idea of eliminating the man caused fire. In my work with such groups, I usually manage to get a few words in on one of my personal interests -- the protection of birds of prey from indiscriminate shotting. This is indeed a difficult topic to introduce among such groups where preconceived notions must be overcome very tactfully.

After the war I plan to obtain some of the Audubon bird slides to use in "spicing" up my set of fire prevention and forestry slides for use in schools, civic groups, hunt clubs, etc.

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RICHARDSON'S GOOSE (Branta canadensis hutchinsi) at BACK BAY, VIRGINIA

Mrs. Floy Barefield and Dr. Locke Mackenzie

On November 25, 1943, a trip was made to the Back Bay Federal Wildlife Refuge. The weather was moderately cold, but there was no snow on the ground. The sky was overcast, with a moderate easterly breeze.

About two miles south of the lookout tower we began to walk over the wash flats in order to approach the open water where large numbers of Canada Geese, ducks, and Whistling Swans were feeding. From time to time small flocks of Canada Geese would flush up from the flats where they were feeding.

We noted four feeding geese up wind from us, and, by careful stalking, approached to within 20 feet of them before they noted our presence. Two were definitely Canada Geese, while the other two were scarcely one half the size of the larger birds. For a few feet they waddled off together, and the difference in size was most apparent. All four birds flew together, and, here again, the marked variation in wing spread was noted.

According to Kortright, in his excellent book, "The Ducks, Geese, and Swans of North America", this little goose has been known as Hutchins' Goose, and is so designated in the 1931 edition of the A. O. U. Check List. But, as it was originally discovered by Sir John Richardson (who named it for Mr. Hutchins of the Hudson Bay Company), ans as Hutchins' Goose has been the name erroneously applied to the bird now known as the Lesser Canada Goose, it seems best to Kortright to call hutchinsi Richardson's Goose. As this reasoning bids fair to be accepted by the next revision of the A. O. U. Check List, this name has been used in this report.

Although the bird was not secured, the other small varieties of the Canada Goose are all typically western in their winter habitat.

Norfolk, Virginia

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THE EUROPEAN WIDGEON (Mareca penelope) AT LYNHAVEN INLET.

Dr. Locke MacKenzie.

On January 30, 1944, a large flock of Baldpates were noted just north of Lynnhaven Inlet. In all there were about 250 ducks of both sexes. The tide was flooding strongly, and the raft of ducks was being carried in toward the bridge rapidly every few minutes. When they came within fifty yards of the bridge, they would take flight, and fly out to sea a few hundred yards, when they would settle down, and gradually drift in again.

Upon studying them, one adult male European Widgeon was seen among them. The bright red head was most striking, but it was interesting to see just how difficult it was to find this bird among the others. Often I swept the flock time and time again, evidently passing over it, before I again found it. When in flight, its markings, except for the head, were almost indistinguishable from the Baldpates. At the distance at which I was observing the flock, I am unable to say whether or not any female European Widgeon were present.

Last winter (1942-43) the European Widgeon was observed commonly in the Narragansett Bay Area, but this is the first time I have seen it around Tidewater, Virginia. Off the Rhode Island Coast almost every flock of a hundred or more Baldpates contained one or two of the European species. I have recently talked with a hunter who tells me that he shot a "red-headed Widgeon" at Back Bay about two years ago.

U.S.A.F., Amphibious Training Com.
U. S.N. Nansemond, Norfolk 11, Va.

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GANNETS IN CHESAPEAKE BAY

Dr. Locke Mackenzie

Early in the morning of the third of April, 1944, a flight of Gannets took place well inside Chesapeake Bay. This flight was observed from the Beach at Ocean View, Virginia, near Willoughby Spit.

First noted at about 7:30 in the morning, for an hour the birds passed by, going in a westerly direction. I have rarely seen Gannets so close to the shore. In some instances they actually flew over the sand beach. All the birds observed were adults, in very bright plumage. There were not feeding, and spent very little time in their characteristic wheeling flight; rather they seemed intent in flying west.

In all, there must have been several hundred birds. I watched the water off and on for about an hour, and counted seven, six, and ten birds per minute at various periods during this time, after which I was unable to watch any longer. Later in the day I saw no more of them.

The day before was very hot, and I saw a number of Gannets far off shore along the Beach at Back Bay. That evening, (April 2) the weather suddenly changed, and a hard squall made up from the north. The wind blew strongly all night, and the morning of the flight was rainy and cold. This combination of weather may have blown the birds into the Bay.

Norfolk, Virginia

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GOLDEN EAGLE NEAR NORFOLK

Dr. Locke Mackenzie

On May 11, near Camp Bradford, I saw a young Golden Eagle. I am more than

well aware that this should have been a young Bald Eagle, but it just wasn't! I had an unusually fine chance to study it, both at rest and in flight, all in all for about a half hour. The bird showed all the distinguishing characteristics, and, if Peterson is accurate, could not have been a young Blad Eage. In particular the upper side of the tail was mostly white, with a well defined black terminal band about one ince in width. The white markings behind the primaries were very noticeable in flight. Fortunately a young Bald Eagle was seen within a few minutes, and the former bird was notbeably larger with wider wings. It was constantly attacked by the Fish Crows, but paid them no attention except for a casual flirt of an enormous wing. The Bald Eagles, on the other hand, seem to be bothered by the Crows, and they flap their wings a great deal more. This other just "keeps sailing along". I am quite familiar with the Golden Eagle from the western states, and recognized this one.

Norfolk, Virginia

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APRIL DATES IN THE NORFOLK AREA

Dr. Locke Mackenzie

April 1 - Parula Warbler; Black-throated Green Warbler; Olive-backed Thrush; Blue-grey Gnatcatcher.

April 5 - Great Black-backed Gull; Greater Yellowlegs; American Bittern.

April 8 - Yellow Palm Warbler; Ovenbird.

April 9 - White-crowned Sparrow; Yellow-throated Warbler.

April 13. - Chimney Swift; Caspian Tern; Crested Flycatcher (Mrs. Marshall)

April 14 - Roseate Tern (close views and call); Royal Tern; Prairie Warbler; Black Skimmer; Horned Grebe (breeding plumage); Pigeon Hawk.

April 15 - White-eyed Vireo; Hooded Warbler; Black and White Warbler; Yellow Warbler.

April 16 - Barn Swallow; Long-billed Marsh Wren; Rough-winged Swallow; Redstart; Kingbird; Red-eyed Vireo.

April 18. (Mrs. Barefield) Prothonatory Warbler; Summer Tanager; Tress Swallow.

April 23. - Red-breasted Nuthatch; Barn Swallow; Wood Duck; Chuck-Will's Widow. (Has been heard for 10 days - Mrs. Marshall).

April 25 - Spotted Sandpiper; Horned Grebes still here; Bonaparte's Gull. Last time seen.

April 26 - Ruby-throated Hummingbird; Little Green Heron; Least Tern; Yellow-throated Vireo; Bob White; Red-headed woodpecker (has been here all winter).

April 27. - Alder Flycatcher; Red-breasted Nuthatch; White-throated Sparrows.

April 29. - Wood Peewee; Bobolink (Mrs. Barefield); Scarlet Tanager (Mrs. Barefield); Blue Jay (In Princess Anne County. Exceedingly rare).

April 30. - Nighthawk.

Norfolk, Virginia.

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1943 BREEDING BIRD CENSUS OF THE WILDFLOWER SANCTUARY OF THE PRINCESS ANNE AND NORFOLK GARDEN CLUBS

Made in Memory of Mrs. Henry L. Little
(Originator of the Sanctuary)

By Mrs. A. C. Reed

(Note: because of the ban on pleasure driving, this breeding bird census in 1943 had to be abandoned just when the nesting of birds was getting well under way. It was hoped that a more complete census could be made in 1944. However, this year, because of the increased pressure of things due to war conditions, there is little time to give to making a census. Therefore, I have written up the census as I made it in 1943.C.R.)

This sanctuary is a mixed woodland of deciduous and evergreen trees, the kind of woodlands which are typical of the coastal plain. The tallest trees, I should think, range from 65 - 85 feet high. They are the most part loblolly pine (Pinus taeda), short-leaf pine, (Pinus echinata), white oak (Quercus alba), southern red oak (Quercus rubra), tulip tree (Liriodendron tulipifera), sweet gum (Liquidambar styraciflua), and red maple (Acer rubrum). Cypress trees (Taxodium distichum) grown in coves of the sanctuary. The lower tree growth consists of American holly (Ilex opaca), flowering dogwood (Cornus florida), redbud (Cercis canadensis), both forms of shadbush (Amelanchier canadensis and Amerlanchier laevis), and small sourwood trees (Oxydendrum arboreum). The predominating shrub growth is that of mountain laurel (Kalmia latifolia). Other attractive shrubs are pink azalea (Azalea nudiflora), chokeberry, (Aronia arbutifolia), and strawberry bush (Evonymus americana). Of course there are thickets and seedlings of the same species as the trees. Along the banks are myrtle bushes (Myrica cerifera), and red bay (Persea Palustris). Growing in the water are buttonbushes (Cephalanthus occidentalis) and small cypress saplings. Since it is a wildflower sanctuary, I would metion the native wildflowers which I think grow the loveliest there. They are bloodroots (Sanguinaria canadensis), trailing arbutus (Epigaea repens), wild columbine (Aquilegia canadensis), mayapple (Podophyllum peltatum), Jack-in-the-pulpit (Arisaema triphyllum), atamasco lilly (Zephyranthes atamasco), galax (Galax aphylla), and the flowering vies of coral honey-suckle (Lonicera sempervirens) and yellow jasmine (Gelsemium sempervirens).

Size: After having the colored caretaker, Jesse, pace off the sanctuary grounds, I estimated it to be roughly about 15 acres.

Location: On the City waterworks highway, 5 miles beyond city limits of Norfolk.

Topography: The sanctuary is somewhat in the shape of a spread fan, the outer rim of which is most irregular and indented by lake coves. A dirt road runs through it, to the right of center, and where this leaves the outer rim of the sanctuary it forms a causeway between Lake Lawson on the right and Lake Smith on the left. There is a large cove, a part of Lake Smith on the far left side of the sanctuary, and two lovely coves, each a part of Lake Lawson, on the right hand side, and also two tiny coves, or indentations, one each side of the causeway. Between these various coves, the land extends out into the lakes in irregular fingerlike projections. The peninsular projections on the left hand side are more open and x sparce in tree and shrub growth than the rest of the sanctuary. The banks of the sanctuary in most places are about 6 feet high. There is one nice group of loblolly pines on the left side of the dirt road, locally called "the pine hill".

Edge: The entire outer rim of the sanctuary is bound by the two lakes, Lake Lawson and Lake Smith. The base of the "fan" on the R hand side is bound by the highway, and on the L, by a colored settlement. The entrance to the Sanctuary is where the dirt road begins and here there is an open area for parking cars.

Weather: Cold and windy in April. Temperature that month remaining much of the time around 50°- 55°. Spring late, leafing of trees and shrubs retarded.

Coverage: March 18, 25; April 1, 10, 17, 20, 22, 26; May 1, 6, 11, 18, and 20. Hours spent usually from 7:30 - 11:30 A. M.

Census: Mourning dove, 1P; yellow-billed cuckoo, 1P; flicker, 1N; downy woodpecker, 1P; crested flycatcher, 1P; acadian flycatcher, 2P, 1N; wood pewee, 1N; Carolina Chickadee, 2P, 4Y; tufted titmice, 1P; Carolina wren, 2P, eY; catbird, 7N; brown thrasher, 4P, 5N, 3Y; robin, 1N; wood thrush, 3N; bluebird, 1N; bluegrey gnatcatcher, 5N, 4Y; white-eyed vireo, 2P; yellow-throated vireo, 1P; red-eyed vireo, 2P; prothonotary warbler, 5P, 4N; parulla warbler, 1P; pine warbler, 3P, 2N; Kentucky warbler, 1UM; Maryland yellowthroat, 2P, 1N; hooded warbler, 2P; yellow-throated warbler, 1P, 1UM; purple grackle, 1N; cardinal, 4P, 3N; summer tanager, 1P; chipping sparrow, 2P; song sparrow, 1P. Total: 31 species, 62 pairs, 126 adult individuals. Approximately 4 pairs per acre.

Pairs nesting outside sanctuary, but using it regularly for feeding or perching; kingfisher, 1P; bald eagle, 1P; red-shouldered hawk, 1P; cooper's hawk, 1P; osprey, 1P; mockingbird, 1P; summer tanager, 1P; bobwhite.

Observations on the use of wild silk in nest building: On April 1 a female pine warbler was watched gathering white gauze from a cocoon hidden under a broad strip of bark of the loblolly pine. In reaching for the gauze her head was completely under the bark. Each time she came out, a white bunch of gauze stuck out from her bill. With this she flew high up to the top of a tall pine tree. While being watched, she made five trips. On April 22, another female pine warbler was seen reaching for gauze from a cocoon hidden in a hole in the gnarled knot of an oak tree. She fluttered on her wings beneath the hole, pulling at the cocoon. She also carried the gauze to a nesthigh up in a pine tree. The remarkable thing about this nest was that only the foundation showed and itappeared made entirely of silky white strands so that the nest, completely shaped, glistened like a silver cup among the

pine needles. While working, the warbler could be seen within t e silky white mesh.

On May 18, a red-eyed vireo was observed working over a tree. Suddenly she spied a caterpillar web stretched 5 or 6 inches broad between two branches. She grabbed the web in the middle and flew away with white strands streaming from her bill. On May 20, a red-eyed vireo was noticed going round and round the rough bark of a loblolly pine searching beneath the bark. Finally she too found a cocoon and carried away some of the gauze. The use of wold silk was more completely observed in the case of bluegray gnatcatchers. On April 17, a gnatcatcher was noticed going to a tent caterpillar nest. She snatched a beakful of white silk threads and with this flew to a small sapling and smeared the sticky material on a branch. The same day still another gnatcatcher was watched smearing glistening white threads on a branch until a tiny saddle of this glue-like white substance appeared to have been made. By April 20 these white threads had been covered up and the base of the nest proper was beginning to show. I do not know what was the main nesting material used, but bits of lichen collected from trunks of cypress trees were tucked into the outside of the nest, even tho its construction up from the base had barely begun. On April 22, this same gnatcatcher was observed to go 12 times for gauze. Once she took part of a cobweb, wrenching it free from a branch. Sitting in her nest, she smeared the cobwebby stuff all over the outside of the nest and its bits of lichen. In doing this, she bent over the outside, reaching down sometimes to the very base (the nest was now about an inch and a half high). She stroked the outside of the nestwith her bill, smoothing the material into place by pulling up with her bill from the bottom to the top. Repeatedly she swiped her bill around the outside of the nest. The male came offering a bit of brown material to which she paid no attention, so he worked it in himself.

Once I watched an acadian flycatcher using white silk in the construction of her nest. (In Seashore State Park, May 18, 1942). I saw her bring two separate bunches of tillandsia moss. She bound part of the moss to one twig and part to another, binding it in place with some kind of wild silk. The nest seemed to be composed largely of moss. I watched her bring several beakfuls of white silk. This she bound round and round the rim of the nest, by first putting her bill outside the rim, then apparently drawing the strands under the rim from the inside of the nest. The silk held in her bill was so fine I could not see it even with field glasses, but as she worked I saw the rim becoming swathed with glistening white silk. The nest seemed to be of too frail a fabrication to hold her. Yet she worked inside the nest and I think used her tail as a support to brace somehow, for the tail was widely and stiffly spread and appeared to touch a twig.

In A. C. Bent we read that the Acadian flycatcher uses silk from caterpillar nests "in such quantity as to form a web. It spreads this upon the nest rim and in it the frail and loose vegetable fibers are enmeshed".

I wonder if this does not give an explanation of the pine warbler's nest which I saw. Could not the silk foundation of the nest have been a web into which the nesting material was to be "enmeshed"? In "Birds of North Carolina", theBrimleys state that the pine warbler decorates the outside of the nest with cobwebs. In this case the nest proper had not yet been constructed at all. What interests me is the following statement in Bent. "It would be an interesting matter of inquiry what the value of wild silk as nest building material may be to such birds as

the wood pewee, the hummingbirds, the gnatcatcher, and the vireos". I think of tent caterpillars, and those caterpillars which make cocoons under bark of trees, as being injurious to tree life. Yet in the close ecology of plant, insect, and bird life, it would seem to the ordinary observer that caterpillar nests are essential nest building material for these birds.

Protonotaria citrea nesting in fence posts: There were 5 pairs of prothonotary warblers in the sanctuary. Four nests were found, and of these 3 were in posts of the fence surrounding the sanctuary. So great was the contest for nesting sites, that one day a fight occurred between two of these lovely warblers over one post. They pecked each other fearfully, flying at each other as cocks do, and finally rolled over and over each other down a slope. None of the nests in posts were directly by water, one being 140 yards from water. Away from their nests, the warblers were most commonly seen along the shores of the coves. One fact noticed about the pairs of prothonotary warblers was that they repeatedly called to each other when feeding, one calling and the other seeming to answer. The voice of the female is similar to the male but softer.

Because of the need for nesting hollows, I thought perhaps these warblers would nest in boxes, especially if they were fastened to trees near the water. With this in mind, I examined the nests in the posts at the end of the summer, in order to get an idea as to what sort of hollows were used by them and the following measurements were taken.

Nest	entrance hole	Height from ground	depth down inside from lower rim of entrance hole	Cavity inside
No. 1	2" wide x $3\frac{1}{2}$" deep	52"	$4\frac{1}{2}$"	$3\frac{1}{2}$" wide and as deep
No. 2	1 3/4" wide x $2\frac{1}{2}$ " deep	56"	5"	4" wide
No. 3	2" wide x 1 3/4" deep	52"	very shallow	3" inside

Nest No. 3 was so shallow that as the warbler sat on her eggs, she seemed to be on a level with the lower rim of the entrance hole. This little female had been seen gathering yellow stems for the nest. On May 20 there were 4 eggs, which were white spotted purplish-brown. Nest No. 2 was examined and the materials of which it was composed were fine dried rootlets, dried stems with may fine branched rootlets attached, dried grasses, bits of leaves, bits of wood, and dried sphagnum moss.

Compsothlypis americana americana: A pair of parula warblers was seen up to the last day of observation, May 20, in the "pine hill" area and by the east cove. So far as I could see there was none of the hanging moss (tillandsia usneoides) in the sanctuary. Whether this pair were nesting, I could not determine. The breast markings of the male were not pronounced and I thought the pair to be of the southern race rather than that of Compsothlypis americana pusilla.

Cluster of nests around edging: At the entrance of the sanctuary is a small open grassy plot 49 x 19 yds. About this was an attractive clustering of nests. Beginning with the corner on the R. hand side beneath vines completely covering a small tulip tree, was a brown thrasher's nest; in a tall dogwood, a catbird's nest; in thickets at end of plot, a nest of the Maryland yellowthroat; in vines in fence beyond, a cardinal's nest. Crossing over to the opposite side of the plot, bluebirds were nesting in the fence post; a wood pewee's nest was in a tall pine by L gate, a blue-gray gnatcatcher's nest was in an oak tree, a prothonotary warbler's nest in a fence post, summer tanagers were nesting somewhere in dense tree growth in corner, (they always used the same dead limb to alight on when approaching the spot, but nest was not located), robin's nest in tall oak.

Migration Observations: As the census was carried on during the spring migration, a record was kept of migrating species. Of these there were 3 unusual records. Buteo platypterus platypterus: On April 17, the first note I heard as I parked the car was a peculiar descending whistle coming from a tall pine and repeated 3 or 4 times. On looking, I saw a hawk perched in the pine. It sat there all the while I walked around the tree. When it flew, it crossed the open area and the sunlight shone down through the fan shaped tail. I noticed particularly the broad dark band and a white band equally broad. There did not seem to be more than two or three bands. Like a large moth, it wafted unhurriedly up and over the topes of the trees. Vireo gilvus gilvus: On May 11, a vireo with no wing bars, and an indistinct white line over the eye with no black edge showing whatever, (eye was not red) was noted. Dendroica tigrina: Also on May 11, a handsome Cape May warbler, with a remarkably loud and ascending song, was observed.

In the fall I visited the sanctuary again. From Oct. 15 - 20, I studied a group of 14 migrating olive-backed thrushes. With them, I thought, were at least two gray-cheeked thrushes. I noted carefully the buffy eye-ring, and buffy line from eye to bill of the olive backed thrush when the bird's cheek was turned upwards toward the light. In a similar position I studied what I thought was the gray-cheeked. There was no buffy color on the side of the face, and about the eye it seemed horn-colored or whitish. Also I noted a call note similar to that which Aaron Bagg describes in "Birds of the Connecticut Valley" and which he attributes to the gray-cheeked thrush. He says the alarm call of the gray-cheeked is diagnostic once learned. He describes it as a "Squawk, which might be spelt ffee-ook, with a harsh, rasping stress on the first syllable". This loud squawk is inescapable and startling. One hears constantly a softly uttered "pink-pink" from the olive-backed thrushes.

Total list of birds seen at the sanctuary during the census dates of observation is as follows: pied-billed grebe, great blue heron, black-crowned night heron, ruddy duck, red-breasted merganser, turkey vulture, black vulture, sharp-shinned hawk, Cooper's hawk, red-shouldered hawk, broad-winged hawk, bald eagle, osprey, bob-white, spotted sandpiper, herring gull, Caspian tern, mourning dove, yellow-billed cuckoo, chimney swift, ruby-throated hummingbird, kingfisher, flicker, red-bellied woodpecker, yellow-bellied sapsucker, downy woodpecker, kingbird, crested flycatcher, phoebe, Acadian flycatcher, wood pewee, tree swallow, barn swallow, purple martin, crow, fish crow, Carolina Chickadee, tufted titmouse, brown creeper, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, catbird, brown thrasher, robin, wood thrush, hermit thrush, veery, bluebird, blue-gray gnatcatcher, golden-crowned kinglet, ruby-crowned kinglet, white eyed vireo, yellow-throated vireo, red-eyed vireo, warbling vireo, black and white warbler, prothonotary warbler, parula warbler, yellow-throated warbler, Cape May

warbler, black-throated blue warbler, myrtle warbler, black-throated green warbler, black-poll, ovenbird, Louisiana water-thrush, Kentucky warbler, Maryland yellow-throat, hooded warbler, redstart, red-wing, purple grackle, cowbird, summer tanager, cardinal, goldfinch, red-eyed towhee, chipping sparrow, field sparrow, white-throated sparrow, song sparrow.

To this list may be added a few species seen at other times, or during other years, at the sanctuary: double-crested cormorant, blue-winged teal, wood duck, redhead, ring-necked duck, lesser sacup, ring-billed gull, Bonaparte's gull (injured), barn owl, red-headed woodpecker, hairy woodpecker, bank swallow, rough-winged swallow, olive-backed thrush, gray-cheeked thrush, cedar waxwing, orchard oriole, prairie warbler, yellow warbler, yellow palm warbler, junco. Final total of species to date for the sanctuary by this observer, 102 species.

1519 Morris Avenue, Norfolk 5, Va.

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EGRETS IN PRINCESS ANNE COUNTY

On March 26, on a trip into Princess Anne County, 13 white egrets were seen feeding in a marsh at Sand Bridge. Appearing at this early date, it is thought they must be preparing to nest in the neighborhood. Feeding with them were about 25 coots and an egret perched up in a tree, with grayish coloring, which was listed as a Louisiana heron.

Helen T. Thompson,
Norfolk.

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TURKEY VULTURE NESTING AT CAMP LEE, VIRGINIA

On May 27, 1941, in swampy woods at Camp Lee, near Petersburg, Virginia, the writer discovered the nest of a pair of turkey vultures (Cathartes aura septentrionalis). The nesting site was inside the hollow base of a large sour gum tree which towered over the other trees in the area. Two days before this cavity had appeared empty, but the creaking wings of the fleeing parent birds revealed their nesting place. Actually, there was nothing resembling a nest, and the two almost fully grown young were standing on the rotten wood that covered the bottom of the cavity. Clothed in soft, light brown down, their black primaries were sprouting. The naked skin of their heads was black.

They spread their wings and hissed loudly, occasionally jumping at the intruder, and snapping their beaks. After vailiantly resisting capture, one youngster promptly ejected its last evil-smelling meal. All this time, the parents watched from nearby treetops.

Returning on June 29, 1941, the sour gum hollow as found to be empty. However, two young vultures were found perching on a fallen tree just fifty feet away. They were fully clad in black feathers, to which still clung a few wisps of brown fluff. There heads were black. One bird flew awkwardly to a limb fifty feet

above the ground. The other fluttered a few feet, and stupidly stood watching the intruder. Circling behind it, a third young vulture was noted as it ran through the undergrowth. This bird finally took shelter in the nest cavity.

During this visit, the parent birds were not in evidence. Although an unusual occurrence, three young have been previously recorded for the turkey vulture. Where the third young bird was during the first visit still remains a mystery.

Frederick A. Ulmer, Jr.
6119 Christian Street
Philadelphia, Pa.

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BLACK VULTURE NEST AT SEWARD FOREST

On April 20 a botanizing trip took me through a set of old farm buildings that have not been occupied for many years. As I approaced an old chicken house, size about ten by fourteen feet, two Black Vultures arose from the weeds that surround the open door. On looking into the building I saw a single vulture's agg on the earth floor in a corner near the door. Two days later there were two eggs in this corner. On visiting this "nest" again on May 1 I found that both eggs were gone and the buzzards were no where to be seen. This is my first experience with buzzards of either species nesting in a building.

John B. Lewis,
Triplett, Virginia.

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HORNED GREBE IN BRUNSWICK COUNTY, VA.

On the morning of April 28 a living horned grebe, Colymbs auritus L. was found on the highway about 12 miles south of Lawrenceville, and later, given to me. A little later accompanied by three other persons, I released it on a small pond near the Seward Forest headquarters. To my surprise it showed no signs of fear, but at once dipped up several mouth fulls of water and swalloed it, and then dived, coming up with a small crawfish, which it beat to pieces and swallowed

I expected it to leave for the north during the night, but it remained on the pond until sunset on May 4, or through five days. On going to the pond at sunset, I found it sitting on the bank at the waters edge. It made no attempt to resist when I picked it up. It was taken to the house and put in a good sized box. The next morning it was dead. On making it up as a skin I found that the whole xontents of the body cavity were badly conjested, probably due to strking the hard surface of the road forcibly. I have no previous record of the species for Brunswick county, but have four records for Amelia county.

John B. Lewis
Triplett, Va.

THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY

State of Treasure, covering receipts and disbursements from January 1, 1943 to December 31, 1943.

December 31, 1942 - Balance on hand as per last report ..... $ 192.39

RECEIPTS - 1943

Membership Dues.....	110.50
TOTAL.....	302.89

DISBURSEMENTS:

Voucher No. 37 - February 4, 1943 - Mrs. Elsie Garst Postage for Raven	$ 2.63	
" " 38 - April 29,1943 - Cash - 100 stamps and envelopes.....	3.23	
" " 39 - May 1, 1943 - Mrs. Elsie Garst - January and February "Raven".....	5.00	
" " 40 - June 1, 1943 - Mrs. Elsie Garst - March and April "Raven".....	5.00	
" " 41 - June 3, 1943 - Salem Publishing Company 2000 heading for "Raven".....	8.50	
" " 42 - June 29, 1943 - Mrs. Elsie Garst - May and June "Raven".....	5.00	
" " 43 - July 14, 1943 - Mrs. Elsie Garst - Postage for "Raven".....	12.17	
" " 44 - September 24, '43- Mrs. Elsie Garst - July and August "Raven", 1942 Index.....	10.00	
" " 45 - November 6,1943 - Cash - 100 stamps and envelopes.....	3.23	
" " 46- November 8, 1943 - Mrs. Elsie Garst - September and October "Raven".....	5.00	
" " 47 - December 2, 1943 - Mrs. Elsie Garst - November and December "Raven".....	5.00	
" " 48 - December 29,1943 - Mrs. Elsie W. Garst - Stamps and Statements.....	10.86	
TOTAL.....		$ 82.65
Balance on hand December 31, 1943 as per bank Statement.....		220.24
TOTAL.....		$ 302.89

Respectfully submitted,

T. L. Engleby, Treasurer.

The Raven

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

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

Vol. XV June, 1944 No. 6

SPRING CENSUS, 1944

By C.O. Handley, Jr.

Once every year, we find several pages of The Raven devoted to Christmas censuses, but never, never, do we find any spring, summer, or fall censuses listed. When we hear the Christmas census being championed on the grounds that it furnishes a wealth of ornithological information that could not be obtained in such volume by any other method, we begin to wonder why the other seasons have been so neglected. Wouldn't a spring or fall census yield information of equal value? Eventually a book will be written on the birds of Virginia, and a series of seasonal censuses would be of inestimable value to the enterprising writer, for a group of censuses can show what a county list does not--comparative abundance.

Admittedly censuses at other times are harder to make than at Christmas, since there are many more birds to look for, and a census that does not include the majority of the birds present in the region does not give a true picture of the distribution and is of little value. Nevertheless, every Virginia observer should consider taking these seasonal censuses, which would be either published in The Raven or placed in the V. S. O. files at Lexington.

Here at Blacksburg we have been taking a spring census each year since 1939 and have recently begun taking them at other seasons as well. The regular Christmas census rules have been followed except for date. The spring and fall censuses have been taken at times when maximum numbers of migrants and summer and winter residents were present, while the summer census is taken when it is unlikely that any but breeding birds will be present. At Blacksburg these dates are May 10, June 15, and September 15. The totals for five Blacksburg spring censuses are: 1939, 94; 1940, 97; 1942, 104; 1943, 102; 1944, 108. Total for all five, 140 species. Our 1944 spring census follows:

Blacksburg (Montgomery Co.), Va. (V. P. I. Campus, western part of college farm, and adjacent parts of Prices Mountain). May 9, 1944: 6:30 to 9:30 A. M. and 11:30 A. M. to 7:30 P. M. Partly cloudy with slight wind; temp. 45° min., 75° max. One observer working alone. Total hours, 11; total miles, 15. Green heron, 4; mallard, 100; black duck, 1; baldpate, 2; pintail, 1; blue-winged teal, 5; lesser

scaup duck, 1; turkey vulture, 8; sparrow hawk, 3; bob-white, 7; ring-necked pheasant, 1; Virginia rail, 3; sora, 1; coot, 2; killdeer, 12; Wilson's snipe, 5; upland plover, 8; spotted sandpiper, 7; solitary sandpiper, 23; greater yellow-legs, 1; pectoral sandpiper, 1; least sandpiper, 3; rock dove, 5; mourning dove, 13; yellow-billed cuckoo, 1; black-billed cuckoo, 2; screech owl, 1; great horned owl, 1; chimney swift, 300; belted kingfisher, 1; flicker, 16; red-bellied woodpecker, 2; red-headed woodpecker, 22; hairy woodpecker, 2; downy woodpecker, 8; kingbird, 14; crested flycatcher, 8; phoebe, 3; wood pewee, 8; rough-winged swallow, 2; barn swallow, 28; blue jay, 9; crow, 38; Carolina chickadee, 6; tufted titmouse, 9; white-breasted nuthatch, 3; house wren, 8; Bewick's wren, 2; Carolina wren, 4; mockingbird, 1; brown thrasher, 28; catbird, 52; robin, 200; wood thrush, 19; olive-backed thrush, 4; bluebird, 3; blue-gray gnatcatcher, 17; starling, 300; white-eyed vireo, 1; yellow-throated vireo, 8; blue-headed vireo, 1; mountain vireo, 2; red-eyed vireo, 28; warbling vireo, 2; black and white warbler, 22; parula warbler, 3; yellow warbler, 11; magnolia warbler, 3; Cape May warbler, 38; black-throated blue warbler, 2; myrtle warbler, 49; black-throated green warbler, 3; blackburnian warbler, 3; chestnut-sided warbler, 3; black-poll warbler, 6; pine warbler, 5; prairie warbler, 3; western palm warbler, 1; hooded warbler, 9; Canada warbler, 2; ovenbird, 47; Louisiana water-thrush, 5; Maryland yellow-throat, 14; yellow breasted chat, 9; redstart, 4; English sparrow, 100; bobolink, 70; meadowlark, 48; red-winged blackbird, 115; orchard oriole 4; Baltimore oriole, 2; purple grackle, 200; cowbird, 17; scarlet tanager, 5; cardinal, 12; rose-breasted grosbeak, 1; indigo bunting, 14; goldfinch, 38; towhee, 21; savannah sparrow, 1; grasshopper sparrow, 4; vesper sparrow, 2; chipping sparrow, 15; field sparrow, 22; white-crowned sparrow, 14; white-throated sparrow, 12; swamp sparrow, 3; song sparrow, 100. Total, 108 species; 2443 individuals. (Other birds seen between May 1, and May 15, but missed on the census were: Pied-billed grebe, great-blue heron, black vulture, Cooper's hawk, lesser yellow-legs, ruby-throated hummingbird, pileated woodpecker, tree swallow, ruby-crowned kinglet, cedar waxwing, worm eating warbler, and Nashville warbler).

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TWO SPRING LISTS

By Ralph M.Brown

Lebanon, Virginia - May 8-13, 1944. Marsh Hawk, 1; green heron, 1; turkey vulture, 6; sparrow hawk, 1; ruffed grouse, 1; bob-white, 6; killdeer, 1; spotted sandpiper, 1; solitary sandpiper, 1; rock dove, 10; mourning dove, 3; yellow-billed cuckoo, 3; chimney swift, 8; black-billed cuckoo ?; hummingbird, 1; kingfisher, 1; flicker, 5; red-headed woodpecker, 4; downy woodpecker, 1; crested flycatcher, 5; phoebe, 10; Acadian flycatcher, 7; wood pewee, 6; barn swallow, 1; blue jay, 3; crow, 5; chickadee, 1; tufted titmouse, 4; house wren, 3; Bewick's wren, 1; Carolina wren, common; mockingbird, 3; catbird, common; brown thrasher, common; robin, common; wood thrush, 6; bluebird, com.; starling, com.; yellow-throated vireo, com.; red-eyed vireo, com.; warbling vireo, com.; black and white warbler, 1; yellow warbler, com.; magnolia warbler, 1; ovenbird, 4; northern water thrush, 2; Louisiana water-thrush, 1; Maryland yellow throat, com.; yellow-breasted chat, com.; hooded warbler, 8; Canada warbler, 1; American redstart, 3; house sparrow, com.; meadowlark, 5; red-winged blackbird, com.; orchard oriole, 5; Baltimore oriole, com.; purple grackle, com.;

scarlet tanager, 7; cardinal, com.; indigo bunting, 5; goldfinch, com.; red-eyed towhee, com.; chipping sparrow, com.; field sparrow, com; song sparrow, com.; Tota l, 66 species.

Narrows, Virginia, May 14-20, 1944. green heron, 1; turkey vulture, 20; sparrow hawk, 1; ruffed grouse, 2 hunter's reports on shooting them; bob-white, 5; killdeer, 1; spotted sandpiper, 6; solitary sandpiper, 2; rock dove, 5; mourning dove, 2; yellow-billed cuckoo, 5; black-billed cuckoo, ?; nighthawk, 1; chimney swift; hummingbird, 2; kingfisher, 1; flicker, com.; hairy woodpecker, 1; downy woodpecker, 2; kingbird, 3; crested flycatcher, 10; phoebe, 8; Acadian flycatcher, com.; wood pewee, 6; bank swallow, 4; rough-winged swallow, 5; blue jay, 3; raven, 1; crow, 5; chickadee, 1; tufted titmouse, 7; house wren; Carolina Wren, com.; catbird, com.; brown thrasher, com.; robin, com.; wood thrush, 15; bluebird, 6; starling, 10; yellow-throated vireo, com.; red-eyed vireo, com.; warbling vireo, com.; yellow warbler, com.; black-throated blue warbler, 2; chestnut-sided warbler, 10; pine warbler, 1; ovenbird, 10; Louisiana water thrush, ;- Maryland yellow-throat, com.; yellow-breasted chat, com.; hooded warbler, 10; American redstart; house sparrow common; meadowlark, Red-winged blackbird; orchard oriole; Baltimore oriole, com.; Purple Gracker, com.; scarlet tanager, 10; cardinal, com.; indigo bunting, com.; goldfinch, com.; red-eyed towhee, com.; vesper sparrow, 2; chipping sparrow, com.; spng sparrow, com.; Total, 66 species.

Blacksburg, Va.

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A MALLARD'S NEST IN PRINCESS ANNE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

By Locke L. Mackenzie

On May 13, 1944, a Mallard's nest, with fourteen eggs, was discovered in an old abandoned boathouse in Back Bay, Princess Anne County, Virginia. On a return visit on May 20, the eggs were still being incubated, none of them having hatched. At this time a picture of the nest was taken, and later sent to the Editor of The Raven.

On June 1, I went into Seashore State Park about midnight, hoping to hear some owls. Chuck-will's-widows were singing everywhere. Close at hand was one whip-poor-will, and it was most instructive to hear them both at once. It would seem that this should be a breeding bird.

Migration Notes. May 2, wood thrush, acadian flycatcher, veery. May 3, horned grebe (Norktown. May 6, blue grosbeak. May 10, bank swallow. May 13, cormorant, red-throated loon (half winter plumage), gannet. May 14, blackpoll warbler, and May 20, least bittern, Henslow's sparrow, gannet (freshly dead).

Norfolk, Virginia

(The record of the Mallard's nest is most important. Harold H. Bailey stated long ago (1913) that the recognized breeding range of this duck should be extanded southward into Virginia. He said that "it breeds sparingly in its wild state in numerous creeks emptying into the upper James River", and added that he would not be surprised if it bred also in the upper end of Back Bay. At the same time he did not record any definite place and date for a nest. Editor)

A RARE VISITOR FROM THE NORTH

By J. J. Murray

One of the interesting things about bird study is that one never knows what will turn up or where. While most birds have a fairly definite range, they are always apt to wander and sometimes are driven by storms, until they may land far out of their natural course. One great ornithologist has stated this in an exaggerated way when he said that the potential bird list of any community in the United States is the total list of birds in the country. At any rate the observer who watches closely enough and long enough will be sure to turn up rarities in any part of the country.

There have already been reported in The Raven some unexpected birds which have come to Rockbridge County from distant places. There was the Lark Bunting at Cameron's Pond, a bird of the western plains which has only been seen three or four times east of the Mississippi. There was the Gambel's sparrow found near the Lime Kiln Bridge, a bird with a very limited breeding range in northern Montana and nearby parts of Alaska and Canada and with a winter range in the far southwest. And there was the European Teal at Big Spring Pond, the birthplace of which could not have been at any place nearer than the Aleutian Islands and the wintering range of which is in southern Asia or Europe.

This spring another visitor, not quite so rare as those just mentioned but unusual enough, was seen in Lexington. This was the Evening Grosbeak, with the resounding scientific name of Hesperiphone vespertina. The first part comes from two Greek words meaning 'evening voice', and the second is the Latin form of a similar Greek word. The name is connected with the Hesperides, the Daughters of the Night, who lived on the western edge of the world where the sun went down. The bird got its name from the fact that the man who first discovered it only heard it sing around sundown, although its performances are not at all limited to that period. There were two males and four females in the flock. They first appeared on February 28.

While working in my backyard in Lexington my attention was caught by an unfamiliar chattering from a small flock of birds. Not daring to take my eyes off of them I called to Mrs. Murray to bring the field glasses. Just as she handed them to me the birds flew, but luckily they only went across the street where following them up under the back windows of wondering neighbors I was able to study them at leisure while they fed in a maple tree.

At first glance the Evening Grosbeak startles one, so definite are its colors and so different its markings from any of our local birds. It is about the size of a starling. The first thing that strikes one is the heavy bill, enormous for the size of the bird and colored a pale greenish-yellow. This, of course, gives the bird the second part of its English name. The general color is a mustard-yellow rather dull in the females but deepening to a rich brownish-yellow around the neck, and upper back of the males. The wings are black in both sexes, with large white

wing patches. The male has a black cap and a bright yellow forehead. An unusual thing about the plumage of the female is that she has a mark that is lacking in the male. The inner tips of her tail feathers are white, a very noticeable feature in flight.

The eastern variety of the Evening Grosbeak nests in Canada and in Northern Michigan, having been know to nest once in Vermont. It winters regularly as far south as New England, New York, and Pennsylvania, coming on to Ohio, Kentucky and Maryland sporadically. It has only been seen once before this in Virginia; and has been seen twice in North Carolina. Possibly the birds comes south more often than we realize, for there are so few observers in this part of the country to recognize them. Little is known of their habits in their summer home, for they usually nest in the great coniferious forests of Canada; but in winter they are not at all shy and come to feeding trays in the sections where they are common at this season. They wander about in little bands, eating fruit when they can find it but living mainly on the seeds which they crack with their heavy bills.

On Easter Sunday morning, April 9, while we were at breakfast, the flock, returned - this time to a spruce tree just outside our dining room windows, where they fed in plain view in the tree and on the ground. In between its visits to my yard the birds were seen numbers of times by Col. Robert P. Carroll and others on the Washington and Lee Campus.

Lexington, Virginia

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A HUMMINGBIRD NOTE

There is an old book in the Washington & Lee University Library which has a reference to hummingbirds seen in Lexington. The book is "A Narrative of the Visit to the American Churches by the Deputation from the Congregational Union of England and Wales", by Andrew Reed, D. D., and James Matheson, D. D., 2 vols., Harper & Bros., New York, 1835. In writing of the visit to Lexington, Vol. 1, pages 155-156, Reed says:

"The town, as a settlement, has may attractions.....Flowers and gardens are more prized here than in most places; and by consequence the hummingbird is found in larger numbers. That beautiful little creature has much the habits and appearance of the bee; and the trupet honey-suckle seems to be a favorite plant, on account of its cell being enriched with honey."

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GOLDEN EAGLE AT HARRISONBURG

Under date of May 15, 1944, Dr. Courtney Edmond of Clifton Forge, Virginia wrote to the Smithsonian Institution that he had recently seen a mounted Golden Eagle that was killed about a year previously nine miles east of Harisonburg, Virginia. It was killed while attempting to catch a turkey. The flock was frightened into such noisy confusion that the attention of the farmer owning the flock was attracted. The bird, he wrote, had a wing spread of more than seven feet. The legs were feathered.

The Raven

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

Vol. XV July, 1944 No1 7

THE BIRDS OF ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

By J. J. Murray

Rockbridge County, Virginia, owes its name to its most famous scenic feature, the Natural Bridge of Virginia. The county seat, almost exactly in the center of the county, is the historic little town of Lexington. Rockbridge is one of the central counties of the Valley of Virginia, bounded on the north by the watershed between the Shenandoah a nd James River systems, on the east by the crest of the Blue Ridge, and on the west by the outlying eastern ridges of the Allegheny Mountains. There is no natural boundary on the south. The county lies between latitudes 37.50 and 38, being about two hundred miles from the coast and the great tidal w aters of the Chesapeake Bay.

In this region the Valley is at its narrowest, the country being very rugged and beautiful. Variations in a ltitude are considerable, in one place rising in a n air line distance of seven miles from 700 feet a t the point where the county line crosses James River below Balcony Falls to 4,000 feet at the top of Thunder Hill. Lexington lies about 1,000 feet above sea level; the valley lands run from 800 to 1,500 feet; the mountains generally rise just above 3,000 feet; and the crest of the Blue Ridge reaches 4,000 feet on Rocky Mountain and on Thunder Hill, at the northeastern a nd southeastern corners of the county r espectively. The eastern part of the county is rolling hill country, w hile the western half is much rougher, with steep ridges, narrow valleys, and isolated peaks.

The county is well watered by many small streams, although there are few rivers of any size. Most of its territory is drained by North River, now often called Maury River, which flows through Goshen Pass and Southeast through the center of the county to Buena Vista, where it is joined by South River which flows from the northeastern corner of the county along the foot of the Blue Ridge. James River cuts across the southeastern corner of the county. The other more important streams

are Buffalo Creek which drains the southwestern section, Kerr's Creek in the west, a nd Calfpasture and Little Rivers and Walker's Creek in the north. Except for the James the streams are swift and rocky, with only occasional stretches of deep and quiet w ater.

There are no bodies of water of any size at all Adcox Knob Lake, the source of the Lexington water supply, is a small artificial lake of some fifteen acres, deep and surrounded by woods. Occasionally flocks of ducks stop there for brief periods during the migrations but there is no food to attract them for long. During the earlier years of this study Cameron's Pond, small and shallow, a mile north of Lexington, attracted ma ny water birds, but since the great drought of 1930 it has never held w ater for long. In its good days I have seen there more than a hundred ducks at a time, of six or eight species. Even now, if we have good rains during the migration season, ducks and other water birds visit it. The best place for water birds now is the Big Spring, a natural pond of three or four acres, fed by large springs. Its water is maintained at a rather constant level and its temperature changes little from summer to winter. The water is from two to five feet deep, grown up except in the ceter in rushes and yellow pond lillies. Ten years ago, w hen it had thick growths of cattails and Bidens, it was an even better pla ce for water birds, especially for rails, tha n at present. Since none of these ponds have mud flats of any extent our list is poor in shore birds.

The county is thinly settled, having only some 25,000 people, including the city of Buena Vis ta, in its 616 square miles. There are only two towns, Lexington and Beuna Vista City, each with about 4,000 people, a nd few villages. About fifteen per cent of the land is under cultivation, twenty-seven percent in pasture, over one half being in forests. Most of the forest is of second-growth hardwoods, there being no pine woods of any great extent. Patches of white pine are found on the lower slopes of the mountains, and hemlocks abound along the streams. The mean temperature at Lexington is 35 degrees in w inter a nd 72.6 in summer, zero weather is usually reached on only a few days each year, but the winters are long.

The avifauna of the valley floor is Carolinian, although not q uite typical. The White-eyed Vireo, for instance, is very uncommon; the Blue Grosbeak only a very rare transient; while the yellow-throate Warbler, has never been recorded, although it occurs just across the Blue Ridge. In general the line between the Carolinaian and Alleghanian Life Zones runs at a bout 1,500 feet, although as has been pointed out by the writer in other articles the boundary between these zones is often very irregular. In places like Gos hen Pass, which are very cool, certain Alleghanian birds are found as low as 1,200 feet; while on the other hand the breeding ranges of certain Carolinian birds, such as the Chat and the Prairie Warbler, extend as high up the mountains as extensive brushy clearings are found. That is only to be expected, since suitability of habitat is a limiting factor for the presence of any species as well as the factor of temperature. Even here, however, one finds oddities. At Camp Kewanzee on Apple Orchard Mountain, just

outside our city limits, the Chat is common at 3,500 feet, but the Prairie Warbler does not occur, although it is abundant on North Mountain above 3,000 feet. The answer is probably to be found in the fact that North Mountain is dryer and therefore warmer than Apple Orchard, It should be mentioned too that some of our lower ridges which have small islands of territory above 1,500 feet, such as the Brushy Hills, which reach 1,900 feet, have only a slight tinge of Alleghanian life. Special attention is given to altitudinal distribution and to zonal boundaries in the annotations in this paper.

This paper is the summary of the field work of seventeen years. On account of the scarcity of gasoline and the abundance of duties, field work has not been so extensive nor so regular during the past three years as formerly, particularly for the mountain sections. On the other hand, some spots near Lexington have been studied much more intensively. Chief among these spots is the neighborhood around the Lime Kiln Bridge on the Maury River, two miles up the river from East Lexington, where I and my family now have a cabin and eight acres of ground which we have na med 'If'. I would gratefully acknowledge records contributed by Charles O. Handley, Sr., Southgate Hoyt, and the late M. G. Lewis, each of whom did some work in this county. Handley's nesting records a re particularly valuable. Unfortunately the writer has had to be responsible for most of the data, which accounts for the meagerness of the information at many points, since no one man can properly cover a county in seventeen years.

The paper includes data on 241 species and sub-species which the writer thinks have been satisfactorily recorded in Rockbridge County. Seven of these are included on the evidence of other observers, these being: Swallow-tailed Kite, Ring-necked Pheasant, Passenger Pigeon, Snowy & Saw-whet Owls, Pine Siskin and Red-cross Bill. For the identification of sub-species I am indebted to Messrs. J. H. Riley and Ludlow Griscom, to Drs. H. C. Oberholser and Herbert Friedmann, and above all to Dr. Alexander Wetmore, who has always helped me most generously. I may add that this paper is an amplification of two papers previously published: "Water Birds of a Virginia Mountain County", (The Wilson Bulletin, Vol XLVII, 1935, pp. 59-67); and, "The Land Birds of Rockbrige County, Virginia", (The Oologist, Vol. LIII, 1936, pp. 26-35). The list follows:

Common Loon. Gavia immer immer.
Transient; rare. Handley, during his student years at Washington and Lee University at Lexington from 1919 to 1921, saw one on Maury River, May 8, 1921. One was shot on the same river about 1890. An injured bird was brought to on December 13, 1932, having been caught on Woods Creek inside the town of Lexington. It died a few days later after being liberated at Big Spring. On January 7, 1937, I saw one which had been caught the day before, a nd strangely enough, on the same small stream as the 1932 bird. Prof. Ruskin S. Freer saw on on May 8, 1937, at Snowden on James River, just outside the county. (The Red-throated Loon,, Gavia stellata, I would list as hypothetical. I have s een a mounted specimen in winter plumage which was taken near Covington, in the adjoining county of Alleghany, Richard Moses, a

young man who lives just outside Lexington gave me a good description of a bird found at a spring near his home in the spring of 1924, which seems to have been this species in breeding plumage. On April 14, 1944, Rev. John H. Grey and I watched a flight of 17 loons from from the top of Jump Mountain. While too high for specific identification they appeared small enough for this species. They were calling as they flew).

Horned Grebe. Colymbus auritus.
Transient; scarce. Handley has a record of a dead bird found on April 11, 1920. M. G. Lewis and I saw four in bright breeding plumage at Cameron's Pond, April 13, 1928. I saw one in winter plumage on Maury River, December 24, 1929; two in breeding plumage at the Lexington reservoir (just outside town), March 31, 1933; and one in gradually brightening breeding plumage at Cameron's pond, March 24 to April 13, 1933.

Pied-billed Grebe. Podilymbus podiceps podiceps.
Common transient; in spring, March 19 to May 18; in fall, September 1 to November 29; one at Big Spring, July 27, 1937. I saw 21 together at Adcox Knob Lake, September 17, 1928. Freer and I watched a pair in courtship antics at Big Spring, April 3, 1931; and the fact that one was seen there as late as May 18 makes me think they may have bred.

Double-crested Cormorant. Phalacrocorax auritus auritus.
Accidental. On April 30, 1924, one struck a chimney on the Washington and Lee Campus and fell, only slightly injured. It was kept for several days, escaped, was shot a nd brought back to the biological laboratory. It was preserved in alcohol but was later thrown away. I did not see it, but it was almost surely this species. Freer saw one at Snowden, outside our limits, on May 1, 1 936, a nd another one on May 8, 1937. I saw one several times at East Lexington, October 19-22, 1939, flying along the river.

Great Blue Heron, Ardea herodias herodias.
Summer resident; uncommon; March 2, to October 10. Seen mostly along Maury River a nd Buffalo Creek. I have no evidence of breeding. There is usually a wintering bird around Big Spring, which never completely freezes over. In 1938-39 one wintered on a little creek near Natural Bridge.

American Egret. Casmerodius albus egretta.
Summer visitor; not uncommon; June 22 to October 1; singly or in small groups of as many a s seven, mostly at Big Spring, but also at other small ponds and along streams.

Little Blue Heron. Florida caerulea caerulea.
Summer visitor; fairly common, more common than the Egret; June 29 to September 4; sometimes as many as twenty in a flock; at all ponds and along streams. I have never seen a blue bird here.

Eastern Green Heron. Butorides virescens virescens.
Summer resident; common; March 22 to October 21. Nests: May 20, 1927,

in an apple orchard a mile from the nearest stream; June 28, 1932. four eggs; other nests with young late in June.

Black-crowned Nigh Heron. Nycticorax nycticorax hoactli. Transient; rare. Five records: April 10, 1934, adult, Cameron's Pond; April 22, 1936, adult and immature, same place; April 28, 1941, adult, Warm Run, two miles east of Lexington; September 5, 1935, and September 20, 1937, immature, Big Spring.

American Bittern. Botaurus lentiginosus. Transient; uncommon in spring, eight records, April 1 to May 18; one fall record, November 4, 1937. A bird seen at Cameron's Pond on May 11, 13, 14, 1932, and one at Big Spring, May 18, 1931, suggest the possibility of breeding within our area.

Common Canada Goose. Branta canadensis canadensis. Transient; fairly common, formerly more common. Flocks are not infrequently heard passing over, and occasionally stop. Of three seen at Big Spring, March 30, 1931, one, noticeably smaller than the others, appeared small enough to be the bird called Hutchins's Goose (B.c. Hutchinsi) in the A. O. U. 'Check-List'. The caretaker at Adcox Knob reported 14 on November 19, 1931. Mrs. Hugh Wash, who lives at the Big Spring, told me that 11 flew low over the pond on November 21, 1932. A boy saw 20 at Cameron's Pond, March 19, 1934; and on the same day a flock of about 40 came down in a field near Timber Ridge. About midnight on February 27, 1939, I heard a large flock over my yard in Lexington. Hoyt saw one at Cameron's Pond, October 28, 1937. I saw one at Big Spring from March 23, to April 6, 1936, sometimes feeding in the fields; another there from December 2, 1940 to February 24, 1941; and two from March 21, to April 9, 1941. On April 1, 1941, a farmer near Big Spring saw about 500 flying over. I saw two in Maury River, near my cabin at 'If' on October 27, 1941; and on November 7, 1941, heard of a flock of about 50 passing over Big Spring.

Common Mallard. Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos. Winter visitor; common; less common in mid-winter; September 30 to April 30. Although not so common as several other ducks, this is the most generally distributed. Due to the gasoline shortage and the fact that Cameron's Pond is usually dry now, my records for ducks in general are much fewer in the past five years. A wild female Mallard mated with a domestic drake of mongrel plumage at Big Spring in 1938. The nest was in a tussock of grass on a flat rock in a water-cress bed at the southern edge of the pond, and not far from a barn. It was lined with black down; and when shown to me on April 27 had ten eggs. When the V. S. O. on the annual field trip visited the nest on April 30 the incubating female did not leave even when we pushed her aside to see the eggs. Mrs. Wash finally took the eggs, only six of which were good, and hatched them under a hen. When half-grown the young looked much like Black Ducks, but with the Mallard speculum. In late July of the same season the female made another nest and laid six eggs, only two of which hatched. Probably she had a different mate, as the young were very differently marked from the first brood. On May 15, 1939, she had another nest in the hollow base of a sycamore tree near the pon

The mate this time had a green head, possibly one of the half-wild brood of the previous year. Mrs. Wash did not let the duck incubate this time but removed the eggs, taking 30 in all.

Red-legged Black Duck. Anas rubripes rubripes.
The validity of this form may be doubtful, but it is still recognized in the 'check-list', so I am including it. The light-colored area on the wings near the back, mentioned by Peterson as a field mark makes it rather easy to distinguish adult males of this form from the typical birds. I have a number of records at Big Spring; for example, one on April 4, 1930; two on November 12, 1937; five on January 3, 1940. A male of this form came down to Big Spring and became very tame, feeding regularly in the barnyard with the domestic ducks and geese and staying there certainly from the fall of 1935 to the spring of 1941, and possibly longer. It had a nick in the bill which served to identify it readily. Each summer it mated with a domestic duck. When the female with which it had paired in the spring of 1938 was killed it paired with another bird that was mostly sooty black, except for a large white throat patch. They kept together and apart from the domestic flock, the birds of which seemed to be promiscuous in their mating habits. Of the nine young which resulted from this particular mating five or six were like the mother, the others being much like the wild drake.

Common Black Duck. Anas rubripes tristis.
Winter visitor; less common in mid-winter; August 28 to April 13. I have records of a crippled bird at Cameron's Pond, May 27 and 31, 1930. On July 2, 1930, I saw two standing on a rock in Buffalo Creek which showed no signs of injury and which rose rapidly and flew away at high speed when I stepped out in sight.

Gadwall. Chaulelasmus streperus.
Transient and winter visitor; rare; five records. Two males and a female were seen at Big Spring, along with three Black Ducks, on various occasions from November 25 to December 30, 1929; a female at Cameron's on October 31, 1932; a pair at the same place, November 7, 1932; two females at Big Spring, October 27, 1933; and Grey and I saw a male on James River at Glasgow, May 21, 1934.

Baldpate. Mareca americana.
Transient and winter visitor; fairly common; November 2, to April 8; More common in spring.

American Pintail. Dafila acuta tzitzihoa.
Transient; uncommon in spring, February 20 to April 6; an apparently crippled male at Cameron's, May 9, 1935; three fall records, a female on November 13, 1928, a male and two females on October 26, 1942, at Cameron's, and a pair at Big Spring on December 9, 1940.

European Teal. Nettion crecca.
Accidental. A male, in bright plumage and very fat, was collected at Big Spring, February 1, 1936. It was with a female Green-winged Teal.

I had identified the bird the day before; and possibly it was a bird that I had been seeing there since December 23, but without noticing it.

Green-winged Teal. Nettion carolinense.
Winter visitor; common, much more common than when I began work here; September 30 to April 18.

Blue-winged Teal. Querquedula discors.
Transient; common in spring, March 15 to May 1; scarce in fall, August 28 to October 26. A female at Cameron's on May 20, 1935, and another on July 6, 1936, were probably cripples. I have seen as many as 15 in a flock.

Shoveller. Spatula clypeata.
Transient; uncommon in spring, February 13 to April 22; one fall record, a male at Cmaeron's, November 12 and 14, 1932.

Wood Duck. Aix sponsa.
Resident; fairly common in summer; scarce in winter; common as a transient, late March and April, late September to early November. On September 28, 1936, I saw a flock of 30 in Maury River at 'If'. It has increased definitely since ten years ago, when it was quite scarce. The first evidence I had for its breeding in the county was on Little River near Goshen, where I was told that a 'wild duck' raised a brood of 11 ducklings in the spring of 1935. I had a similar report from Walker's Creek near Rockbridge Baths in late May, 1937. Beginning in 1938, I have regularly seen adults during the breeding season at 'If'. On August 6, 1943, I saw a flock there containing fully-grown immature birds; and on May 16, 1944, a female and 12 tiny ducklings. Emory Showalter, county game warden, saw a female with tiny young in Maury River at the mouth of Mill Creek, August 6, 1943; and has also seen young in James River near Balcony Falls.

Redhead. Nyroca americana.
Transient; rare; two records; a male, with two Ring-necks, in Maury River at East Lexington, March 20 to April 6, 1929; and a female at Cameron's, May 2, 1932.

Ring-necked Duck. Nyroca collaris.
Transient; fairly common in spring, March 5 to May 2; three fall records, a female brought to me from Buffalo Creek on November 25, 1929, a female at Cameron's on October 31, 1932, and a male on Maury River, December 12, 1932. A cripple stayed at Cameron's Pond in 1935 until June 17.

Canvas-back. Nyroca valisineria.
Transient; rare; two records at Cameron's, a female on March 24, 1933, and a male on April 3, 1935.

Lesser Scaup. Nyroca affinis.
Transient; common in spring, March 11 to May 4, our commonest duck at

that time; one fall record, a male at Cameron's, November 12 and 14, 1932. On April 3, 1935, I saw 88 Scaups along with 19 other ducks at Cameron's Pond. At Alphin's Pond, a tiny pond four miles out on the Rockbridge Baths road, I saw on April 8, 1935, 50 Scaups with 27 other ducks, and on April 10, 1935, 31 Scaups. Strangely enough, I have not seen a Scaup for the past three years. I have records of a male on June 10, 1929, and a pair on June 13, 1929, at Cameron's which were probably cripples although they flew well, and of a male at the same place on July 6, 1929, that was badly crippled. The Greater Scaup may occur, but I have never attempted to distinguish it in the field.

American Golden-eye. Glaucionetta clangula americana.
Transient; scarce. Ten records: March 18, 1929, male found dead at Cameron's; April 3, 1930, male in Maury River; December 22, 1932, January 31, 1936, and March 6, 1939, a female each time at Big Spring; March 21, 1933, male at Big Spring; april 21, 1933 and February 17, 1937, female at Cameron's; December 23, 1933, a female at East Lexington in the river; December 16, 1933, female at Reid's Pond, just outside Lexington on Route 60.

Buffle-head. Charitonetta albeola.
Transient; scarce; ten spring and two late fall records. Cameron's Pond: April 15, 1929, female; March 23, 1932, female; March 28, 1932, young male; April 1, 1935, pair in full plumage; April 6, 1935, bright female and immature female; May 9 to June 17, 1935, bright female, probably a cripple, with male Ring-neck; March 8, 1937, female; March 19, 1937, female. Alphin's Pond: April 8, 1935, three females or immatures; April 10, 1935, immature male. Furr's Mill, Maury River, November 7, 1942, pair. Glasgow, December 4, 1939, female or immature.

Old-squaw. Clangula hyemalis.
Transient; rare; twp records; April 14 and 15, 1929, a male with molt to summer plumage incomplete at Cameron's Pond; December 25, 1933, a female in winter plumage caught by two boys on Main Street in Lexington.

Ruddy Duck. Erismatura jamaicensis rubida.
Transient; scarce; two spring and eight fall records. Cameron's Pond: April 5, 1943, pair in full breeding plumage (all other records are in winter plumage); April 3, 1933; November 8, 10, 1932; November 21, 1932; October 28, 1937, three seen by Hoyt. Big Spring: November 17, 1930; October 20, 1937. Lexington Reservoir: November 11, 12, 1932; October 30, 1933. Furr's Mill: December 9, 10, 1942.

Hooded Merganser. Lophodytes cucullatus.
Transient; fairly common in spring, March 6 to April 21; uncommon, late fall and winter. Freer saw seven females or immatures at Snowden, May 8, 1937. I have the following fall and winter records, all at Big Spring: January 11 to March 30, 1936, a female or immature; November 12 to December 5, 1936, two; January 21, 1937, two; February 11 to March 8, 1937; a female; November 22, 1937 to February 25, 1938, female or immature.

American Merganser. Mergus merganser americanus.
Transient; fairly common in winter and spring, January 2 to April 24, occurring in small flocks up to a dozen; one fall record, October 21, 1937, two birds. I have the skin of an adult female brought to me by a hunter on January 14, 1930.

Red-breasted Merganser. Mergus serrator.
Winter and spring visitor; rare; five records. I saw the head of a female or young male which had been shot by John L. Johenning, Jr., on Maury River at Rockbridge Baths on December 13, 1934. He said it had several small fish in its throat. The same man showed me the head of another which he had shot on the same river, four miles north of Lexington, December 15, 1937. I saw a female at Cameron's on April 3, 1935; another at Big Spring on May 23, 1938; and Hoyt saw four female or immature Mergansers at Furr's Mill in December, 1937, which he identified as this species.

Turkey Vulture. Cathartes aura septentrionalis.
Permanent resident; abundant. Nests: April 18, 1920, fresh eggs in a cave on House Mountain, Handley; undated, two eggs in cave in cliff on Maury River at the Lime Kiln Bridge, Handley; July, 1933, grown young still in nest in cliff on Hogback Mountain, Jacob Hostetter; April 17, 1938, two eggs, in cliff at Lime Kiln Bridge, Hoyt; May 1, 1939, two well incubated eggs in hole at base of cliff near top of White Rock Mountain; April 12, 1943, one egg in small cave in cliff across the river from our cabin at 'If', found by my son, Jimmy.

Black Vulture. Coragyps atratus atratus.
Permanent resident; common; not so common as the Turkey Vulture. It associates in flocks with the other bird, this species occasionally largely predominating in the flock. Handley says they were common here as early as 1920. Nests: May 4, 1919, two chicks at least a week old in boulders at the top of House Mountain, Handley; April 18, 1920, two eggs, one almost fresh, same place, Handley; April 3, 1920, two well-incubated eggs, cliff near Lime Kiln Bridge, Handley; May 15, 1921, eggs, in cliff at north end of House Mountain, Handley; May 23, 1929, large young, in boulders at the top of House Mountain, a nest at an elevation of over 3,000 feet which has been occupied for a good many years and which seems to be the highest nest of the species on record in the country; April 7, 1931, two eggs, in cliff at Lime Kiln Bridge; April 10, 1944, one egg, well-incubated, in small cave in cliff across the river from If, found by my son, Jimmy. We had watched this last pair in courtship activities in late February, being attracted by the very loud noises they made, louder than anything I had ever heard from a vulture. It was a loud hissing, much like the sound of a whetstone on a scythe. Four birds were perched in a tree on the cliff. Two were making this noise as they postured before the others, standing with wings half open and raising the shoulders up and down rapidly. The charge that the Black Vulture attacks and kills new born lambs and pigs, and occasionally even pigs of some size, I have found to be justified. A good field mark for this species which I have never seen mentioned anywhere is the whitish color of the legs and feet as seen in flight.

Swallow-tailed Kite. Elanoides forficatus forficatus. Accidental. David Barclay, who was reared in Lexington and how lives in Washington, tells me that he saw two of these birds in the Brushy Hills neighborhood, three miles west of Lexington, in the summer, about the year 1900. His description was quite accurate. The birds stayed here for some weeks.

Sharp-shinned Hawk. Accipiter velox velox. Resident; fairly common. I have seen both this and the next species in my yard in Lexington, where they had come to prey on small birds. Handley found a nest with young in a pine grove on Brushy Hills, May 11, 1920. Col. Robert P. Carroll found a nest with young in a pine tree on the Rockbridge Alum Springs property, May 24, 1941. The young had left the nest when I went there on June 9.

Cooper's Hawk. Accipiter cooperi. Resident; fairly common; more common in winter. Handley found a nest in a tall tree on the cliff at Maury River at East Lexington about 1920. The pair nested there for several years. My wife found a sick or crippled bird on our front steps, March 1, 1940.

Eastern Red-tailed Hawk. Buteo borealis borealis. Resident; common; more common in winter. In 1930 Jacob Hostetter told me that a pair had nested for several years in a big red-oak on the lower slope of White Rock Mountain. On April 17, 1941, I found a nest with three heavily incubated eggs about 60 feet up in a white pine on a hillside on Kerr's Creek, six miles west of Lexington. On May 29 I banded the two young then in the nest.

Northern Red-shouldered Hawk. Buteo lineatus lineatus. Transient and winter visitor; uncommon; September 4, to April 20.

Broad-winged Hawk. Buteo platypterus platypterus. Transient; scarce in spring from April 8; fairly common in fall; August 27 to November 2; summer resident, rare. No nesting records, but have seen pairs in several places in late April which acted as if breeding.

Golden Eagle. Aquila chryseatos canadensis. Accidental. On January 10, 1934, Elmer F. Hamilton of Lexington shot a Golden Eagle at Copper's Bottom, on Maury River, six miles north of Lexington. It was an adult but not in very high plumage. He had the bird mounted, and it is now in Tolley's Clothing Store in Lexington. On April 2, 1934, near the top of Jump Mountain, a large bird, which I think was an immature Golden Eagle, jumped up from the trail and disappeared almost at once in the trees. In 1929 I saw a mounted specimen, not dated, at Lowman's Market, Hot Springs, Virginia, which had been killed at Nimrod Hall, near Millboro, in Bath County, five or six miles outside our limits.

Southern Bald Eagle. Haliaeetus leucocephalus leucocephalus. Rare visitor; eight records. I saw an adult on January 4, 1929, high in the air over Maury River, three miles north of Lexington. I handle d

an immature bird which had been shot on North Mountain, near Collierstown, on September 13, 1929; another immature bird, which had been wounded at Brownsburg, was brought to me alive on September 23, 1935. It did not seem badly hurt, but died that night. Its weight, probably after considerable loss, was 6 3/4 pounds, and its wing spread 79 inches Southgate Hoyt saw one perched in a dead tree near the top of Brushy Hills, September 21, 1937. A mountaineer showed me an adult which he had shot at the foot of House Mountain on August 10, 1938; and a crippled bird, shot at the same mountain, was brought to Col. Carroll on September 7, 1940. He then had a live bird which had been crippled at the same place in the fall of 1939. An adult bird is said to have been killed at Alone Mills, seven miles north of Lexington, many years ago.

Marsh Hawk. Circus hudsonius.
Uncommon fall, winter and spring visitor; August 11 to May 9.

Osprey. Pandion haliaetus carolinensis.
Fairly common in spring, April 1, to May 8. Four fall records: September 18, 1931, Goshen Pass; October 7, 1937, Hoyt; September 24, 1933, Big Spring; September 13, 1943, If. One summer record, June 19, 1935, Maury Rive , one mile below East Lexington.

Duck Hawk. Falco peregrinus anatum.
Resident; permanent, I think; scarce, although the few birds which we have are often seen. A pair have nested on one of our western mountains for several years. I have heard young squealing from the cliff in April, but have not been able to reach the nest. I have several times seen this pair chasing ducks. Another pair, often seen fighting Ravens on another mountain, are probably nesting birds. It has been suggested to me that our winter birds are different from our nesting birds, but I do not think this is the case, as I see the birds in the same places at all seasons. I have, however, seen other birds in April and September which I thought were transients.

Pigeon Hawk. Falco columbarius columbarius.
Transient; rare; three records; April 13, 1933, Cameron's Pond; April 14, 1933, female, Jump Mountain; September 22, 1941, heavily streaked female or immature at Cameron's.

Eastern Sparrow Hawk. Falco sparverius sparverius.
Resident; common. A few years ago the numbers of this beautiful little hawk were much diminished because they were being brought in for bounty payments; but since the bounties have been discontinued it is again our most common hawk. Nests: April 23, 1934, first egg, Cameron's Pond, five eggs on May 7, and hatching on May 26; May 22, 1934, young, near Natural Bridge; April 26, 1937, incubating, at Warm Run; May 13, 1940, apparently young, near Newtown, two miles south of Lexington; May 11, 1941, apparently young, same place; May 13, 1940, apparently young, one mile south of Lexington. Pair feeding young on the wing, June 19, 1933, near East Lexington.

Ruffed Grouse. Bonasa umbellus sub-sp.
Permanent resident; fairly common in the rougher sections, occurring

even away from the mountains. The question of the race of the Ruffed Grouse in western Virginia is still under discussion; it is almost certainly not umbellus, and is either togata, or more probably monticola, the race recently described by Todd. On May 8, 1933, Jacob Hostetter showed me a nest with 11 eggs, apparently about ready to hatch, in the meadowground, a high valley west of Dale Mountain. I saw a female with six tiny young, May 28, 1941, at Parker's Gap, just over the line in Botetourt County; and another with about six tiny young, June 12, 1944, near the top of Apple Orchard, just outside our limits.

Eastern Bob-white. Colinus virginianus virginianus.
Permanent resident; common. Mrs. Murray found a nest in 1930, with one egg on May 27 and four on May 31. I saw a pair with tiny young on August 29, 1935; and a flock with about a dozen half-grown birds on October 14, 1935. (The Texas Bob-white, Colinus virginianus texanus, was introduced in small numbers in 1927, 1928, and 1930. In December, 1933 Col. S. M. Heflin shot three on one afternoon and one on another afternoon along South River. They have probably been extirpated or absorbed into our native stock; and should not be counted on our list.)

Ring-necked Pheasant. Phasianus colchicus torquatus.
Introduced; scarce. Some were introduced into the county about fifteen years ago; and I think some still survive, although I have had no recent reports, nor have I ever come across one myself. The places where they are usually seen are the neighborhood of Timber Ridge Station; Wolf Hollow, on the road to Rockbridge Baths; and near the foot of North Mountain, on Route 60. In the last place Sanford Knick ran over a nest with four eggs while cutting hay on July 10, 1933. He took the eggs to his home where they hatched the following day.

Eastern Turkey. Meleagris gallopavo silvestris.
Permanent resident; uncommon, formerly much more common. I have heard and seen them on Dale and White Rock Mountains; and have had reports from Goshen, Goshen Pass and upper Kerr's Creek.

King Rail. Rallus elegans elegans.
Visitor; rare. I saw one that had been captured by George Rader on South Buffalo Creek, near Murat Post Office, May 15, 1940. It was later liberated. Hugh Wash, who lived at Big Spring, saw some small birds on the lily pads in late August, 1929, and about the same time a large brownish bird with a long bill. This suggests the nesting of this species.

Northern Clapper Rail. Rallus longirostris crepitans.
About November 1, 1928, I was told of a strange bird that was hanging on a barbed wire fence on a country road three miles south of Lexington. Happening to pass the spot on November 9 I found that it was a mummified rail. It was identified by Mr. J. H. Riley and Dr. C. W. Richmond as a Clapper Rail. (The Auk, Vol. 46, 1929, pp. 106-107. I have no idea how the bird got there. At least, I could not learn of any hunter from this section who had been to the coast at that time and who could have thrown the bird away.

Virginia Rail. Rallus limicola limicola.
Visitor; rare. I saw one in dull plumage at Big Spring, September 26, 1932, and what was probably the same bird on October 1. A local taxidermist showed me one that was presumably shot in this county in October or November, 1936. It is strange that this bird should be so rare here.

Sora. Porzana carolina.
Transient. It was common both in spring (April 13 to May 27) and in fall (August 29 to November 5) from 1928 to 1932, when Cameron's Pond had plenty of water and when Bidens grew abundantly in the shallow sections of Big Spring; but since the Bidens has practically disappeared Big Spring it has been absent there, and only occasional at Cameron's Pond since t at pond has been dry so much of the time. I have not seen it elsewhere in the county. On June 9 and July 7, 1930, I heard rails at Big Spring which sounded like this species, but ofwhich I could not get sight.

Yellow Rail. Coturnicops noveboracensis.
Rare. One was brought to me alive on September 29, 1937, which had been captured in a wet meadow three miles east of Lexington. The man who brought it said that he saw several others.

Purple Gallinule. Ionornis martinica.
Accidental. On May 16, 1940, a Mr. Morrison brought me a living bird of this species which he had captured that morning at his home on South Buffalo Creek, ten miles southwest of Lexington. The bird had flown from the creek where it was feeding into a tree and then back to the creek. Since it seems to be the first Virginia record for fifty years and the only inland record, I had it made into a skin.

Florida Gallinule. Gallinula chloropus cachinnans.
Rare; three records. One was captured by a negro boy at East Lexington on May 1, 1927, and brought to Dr. W. D. Hoyt of the Washington & Lee Biology Department; I saw one at Big Spring, April 19-25, 1929, and another on May 3, 1932. I have also heard sounds there in summer which suggest this bird.

American Coot. Fulica americana americana.
Transient; fairly common; spring, March 20 to May6; fall, September 23 to December 6.

Semipalmated Plover. Charadrius semipalmatus.
Transient; uncommon in spring, May 7 to 27, all records at Cameron's; two fall records, August 30, 1933, at Cameron's, and September 14, 1936 at Glasgow.

Killdeer. Oxyechus vociferus vociferus.
Resident; common summer; abundant migrant; fairly common in winter. Nests: April 6, 1937, four eggs; May 12, 1932, four eggs; May 20, 1944, four eggs; June 11, 1934, three eggs; June 17, 1935, four eggs. Downy young: May 7, 1941, May 6, 1938, May 25, 1930, June 19, 1934, June 27, 1928. This spread of dates probably indicates two broods.

Black-bellied Plover. Squatarola squatarola.
Transient; rare; one record, May 25, and 26, 1935, at a temperary rain pool three miles north of Lexington, on the Rockbridge Baths road.

American Woodcock. Philohela minor.
Transient; not uncommon; March, May, August, September, November. Possibly breeds, as I have a record for June 2, 1930, and for early July, 1937.

Wilson's Snipe. Capella delicata.
Transient; common in spring, February 20 to May 14; uncommon in fall. September 14, to November 21: four winter records, January 13, 1930, December 8, 1931, December 13, 1933, December 22, 1941, all at Big Spring.

Upland Plover. Bartramia longicauda.
Transient; fairly common; summer resident, uncommon; formerly very common and much hunted; March 22 to July 23. Nests: June 3, 1930, four downy young just hatched; May 27, 1935, two eggs and two young. In the latter case I could hear a young bird tapping inside the egg and could also hear faint calls.

Spotted Sandpiper. Actitis macularia.
Summer resident; common; April 16 to July 27; one fall record, October 10, 1936, Big Spring, I have not found a nest but have frequently seen downy young, June 8 to July 2.

Eastern Solitary Sandpiper. Tringa solitaria solitaria.
Transient; common in spring, April 3, to May 27; fairly common in fall, July 26 to October 28. One late or early migrant, July 6, 1936.

Greater Yellow-legs. Totanus melanoleucus.
Transient; uncommon in spring, March 28 to May 20, mostly at Cameron's, a few at Big Spring; three records in fall, October 14, 1935 (Cameron's October 20, 1937 (rain pool), October 28, 1940.

Lesser Yellow-legs.
Transient; common in spring, March 27 to May 20, mostly at Cameron's, a few at Big Spring; uncommon in fall, July 23 to November 18.

Pectoral Sandpiper. Pisobia melanotos.
Transient; scarce. Freer, M. G. Lewis and I saw five in a marshy place along the Lee Highway two miles south of Lexington, April 3, 1931. One of them, which already had a broken wing, I collected. I saw three at the same place, April 5 and 8, 1931; one at Cameron's Pond, September 19, 1933; two at Big Spring, October 17, 1933; one at the same place, July 23, 1934; and four at a rain pool on the Rockbridge Bats road, October 21, 1937.

White-rumped Sandpiper. Pisobia fuscicollis.
Transient; rare; one at a rain pool on the Rockbridge Baths road, three miles north of Lexington, September 30 and October 1, 1940.

Least Sandpiper. Pisobia minutilla.
Transient; common in spring, April 2 to June 13; uncommon in fall, August 19 to September 18; specimens taken.

Semipalmated Sandpiper. Ereunetes pusillus.
Transient; fairly common in spring, May 6 to 27; scarce in fall, September 1 to 14; specimens taken.

Red Phalarope. Phalaropus fulicarius.
Transient; rare. I collected a female at Cameron's Pond, September 30, 1940, in molt fndm breeding to winter plumage, and fairly fat.

Ring-billed Gull. Larus delawarensis.
Regular and not uncommon visitor, mainly in early April. I collected a crippled female at Big Spring, February 13, 1933 (not 1932, as I had it in the Wilson Bulletin article). It was common in this section in early April, 1935. I saw 14 at Cameron's, April 6, 1936. One was brought to me in the flesh, December 6, 1937, which had been shot near Timber Ridge. On April 19, 1940, a flock of 30 or 40 gulls, probably made up of this species and of Bonaparte's Gulls, was reported to me from East Lexington.

Bonaparte's Gull. Larus philadelphia.
Winter and spring visitor; uncommon. M. G. Lewis saw an adult in breeding plumage at Cameron's on April 29, 1928; and I saw a similar bird at the same place and on the same day in 1929. The latter bird stayed in the neighborhood for several days. Other records: January 8, 1932, two adults in winter plumage at East Lexington; March 28, 1935, an adult showing some change to summer plumage; April 6, 1935, two at a rain pool on the Rockbridge Baths road (large flocks seen aroun Staunton, Augusta County, about the same time); March 31, 1936, one at East Lexington; April 26, 1937, one at Cameron's; April 19, 1940, a flock of 30 or 40 gulls at East Lexington, probably made up of this species and of Ring-billed Gulls.

Common Tern. Sterna hirundo hirundo.
Accidental. Four terns were seen briefly at East Lexington, September 6, 1935. Later in the day I was able to identify the single tern that was still there as this species. (I saw a tern at Glasgow, May 13, 1938, which I took to be the Forster's, Sterna forsteri, but of which I could not be sure. Another unidentified tern was seen at Beuna Vista on April 27, 1942).

Black Tern. Chlidonias nigra surinamensis.
Rare visitor. Handley saw one over Maury River at East Lexington, May 10, 1919. I saw one in adult plumage at Big Spring, May 18, 1931; and two in winter plumage with an adult Common Tern at East Lexington, September 6, 1935.

Rock Dove. Columbia livia livia.
Feral and abundant; breeding in towers and in roofs of buildings.

Mourning Dove. Zenaidura macroura carolinensis.
Resident; abundant in summer; uncommon in winter, scarce some winters. Singing by February 20. Nests: Eggs from March 29 to September 4.

Passenger Pigeon. Ectopistes migratorius.
Extinct; once common. A Mr. McClelland, who lives near Natural Bridge, tells me that he hunted them in the early 1880's, and that they were most abundant in the 1870's. They came in great flocks, preferring to perch in some dead hickories near his home, and often breaking the branches with their weight.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Coccyzus americanus americanus.
Summer resident; abundant; April 30 to September 29. Two broods are usual here, I think. Nests: eggs from May 22 to August 1. This cuckoo can be heard calling at any time during the night.

Black-billed Cuckoo. Coccyzus erythrophthalmus.
Summer resident; uncommon; mostly about 1,500 feet, where it ismore common than the Yellow-billed, Nests: May 15, 1933, two eggs, just outside Lexington, at 1,000 feet; May 30, 1932, one young bird and an infertile egg, at the foot of Dale Mountain. A bird collected at the Big Levels in Augusta County on May 17, 1937, contained a compact mass of about 50 hard grasshoppers.

Barn Owl. Tyto alba pratincola.
Resident; uncommon. A dead bird was brought to me on December 30, 1928; and a living bird on June 26, 1929. I saw one in my yard on April 5, 1934, a remarkably light-colored captive bird on June 27, 1930, and another captured bird on August 23, 1935. For 15 years a pair have reared young in a hollow about 40 feet up in a large tree at East Lexington. Young can be heard hissing in the nest in June and July.

Eastern Screech Owl. Otus asio naevius.
Winter visitor in the valley; probably scarce; possibly the breeding form on our higher mountains. Specimens, identified as naevius: November 24, 1937, three miles north of Lexington, identified by Dr. H. C. Oberholser; December 31, 1939, three miles west of Lexington, identified by G. M. Sutton; January 15, 1940, just outside Lexington, identified by Sutton. One picked up at Swoope, in Augusta County, October 18, 1937, identified as this form by Oberholser.

Southern Screech Owl. Otus asio asio.
Permanent resident; abundant. Specimens: November 15, 1933 and December 18, 1933, identified as asio, but not altogether typical, by Dr. H. C. Oberholser. Nesting: Young on the wing, May 26, 1930; young leaving the nest, July 20, 1935; large young in nest on Washington & Lee Campus, June 18, 1944.

Great Horned Owl. Bubo virginianus virginianus.
Permanent resident; common in the rougher sections. I have handled a number of specimens.

Snowy Owl. Nyctea nyctea.
Rare. I have seen none, but have two reports. Fred T. Deaver described

satisfactorily one that he had shot in his chicken yard about 1920; and David Barclay tells me that he and his father, while hunting in 1890, shot one which flew up from a stubble field, the bird having only a moderate amount of dark flecking.

Northern Barred Owl. Strix varia varia.
Permanent resident; fairly commong. I have handled specimens.

Long-eared Owl. Asio wilsonianus.
Rare. I have the skin of a female shot on December 26, 1929. It contained the feathers of a Mourning Dove. The man who shot it told me that several others were roosting in the same sink hole, three miles east of Lexington, in a tangle of vines. Twenty-nine pellets picked up at the place yielded the bones of 50 rodents, but no other birds. I also have a doubtful record for March 2, 1940.

Short-eared Owl. Asio flammeus flammeus.
Rare. One was brought to Handley in the fall, about 1922. I saw one at Cameron's on March 11 and 12, 1929; and a local taxidermist showed me a mounted bird which was shot near Lexington in the fall of 1934.

Saw-whet Owl. Cryptoglaux acadica acadica.
Rare. One seen by Southgate Hoyt on the Washington & Lee Campus on February 22 and 25, 1937. I have the sking of a male picked up by Kenneth Ellis on the Cascades Golf Course at Hot Springs, Virginia, in an adjoining county, December 8, 1939.

Eastern Whip-poor-will. Antrostomus vociferus vociferus.
Summer resident; fairly common, but somewhat localized; April 5 to September 28. It is more common at the foot of the mountains. I have no nesting record.

Eastern Nighthawk. Chordeiles minor minor.
Summer resident; rare in summer; uncommon in spring, May 4 to 18; abundant in fall, August 6 to October 19. Although May 4 is my earliest date here, I have seen it at Harrisonburg, 60 miles north, on April 22. I have no records for most summers; but recorded it in June and July, 1931; June, 1932; June, 1934; July, 1939. Its scarcity here in summer is a puzzle, as it nests commonly 50 miles to the south and to the north

Chimney Swift. Chaetura pelagica.
Summer resident; abundant; April 8 to October 24; more abundant as a transient. Its arrival date has varied only nine days in 17 years, from April 8 to 16. Nests: May 11, gathering twigs; July 6, young in the nest. Its chief roosting place in Lexington is the Methodist Church chimney.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Archilochus colubris.
Summer resident; fairly common; April 27 to September 26. Nests: May 17, 1934, two eggs; May 24, 1937, incubating; July 2, 1931, eggs hatching.

Eastern Belted Kingfisher. Megaceryle alcyon alcyon.
Resident; common; less common in winter. Nests: March 17, 1930, and

March 18, 1940, digging holes; May 18, 1929, young in nest.

Northern Flicker. Colaptes auratus luteus.
Resident; abundant in summer; uncommon in winter. A male from Lexington, May 15, 1939; was identified by Dr. Alexander Wetmore as luteus. The chief migration is in early March and late September. Nests: Courtship beginning, March 24; excavating, April 16 to May 28; young in nest, June 10 to July 13.

Southern Pileated Woodpecker. Ceophloeus pileatus pileatus.
Resident; common in big timber and in the rougher sections; occasional even in open woods and near dwellings. Specimen taken near the top of Mill Mountain, near the Rockbridge Alum Springs, December 5, 1939, identified by Wetmore as pileatus. I had listed our birds as abieticola in the article in The Oologist. Nests: May 8, 1929, Brushy Hills, M. G. Lewis; May 30, 1932, Dale Mountain; May 13, 1940, Warm Run, found by Dickson Vardell Murray.

Red-bellied Woodpecker. Centurus carolinus.
Resident; fairly common; as common in winter, I believe, as in summer. Nests: Handley had a record near the Washington & Lee Campus; May 13, 1929, Brushy Hills; May 8, 1933, Dale Mountain; July 14, 1943, feeding young on the wing in my yard; June 17, 1944, feeding the young on wing at If.

Red-headed Woodpecker. Melanerpes erythrocephalus.
Summer resident; uncommon; a few present some winters; unusually common in the winter of 1936-1937, when I counted 18 in one stretch of open woods near If on December 7, 1936. There are few suitable open oak groves in our county. This bird has been much less common within the past ten years. Nests: May 24, 1929, excavating; June 8, 1931, July 4, 1930, and September 10, 1929, young in the nest. On the September date I saw the young looking out of the hole as they were being fed.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Sphyrapicus varius varius.
Winter resident; common; September 1, to April 28. Freer and I have found it in summer in Amherst County, a few miles outside our limits. This bird does considerable damage to young dogwoods in town. I have seen courtship activities begin in early April, before the birds leave us.

Eastern Hairy Woodpecker. Dryobates villosus villosus.
Resident; fairly common. Nests: May 14, 1928, young, Brushy Hills; young in nest on Thunder Hill at 2,700 feet, June 12, 1931, and at 3,800 feet, May 29, 1933.

Northern Downy Woodpecker. Dryobates pubescens medianus.
Resident; abundant. Specimens, Dec. 27,1928 (female), Feb. 2,1929 (female), March 16,1929 (male), identified by J.H.Riley as medianus. Nests: May 26, 1930, young; June 12, 1931, at 2500 feet on Thunder Hill, Young; June 12, 1931, at 3500 feet on Thunder Hill, young; May 25, 1936, at Cameron's Pond, 3 eggs, incubation well advanced.

(To be concluded in the next issue).

The Raven

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

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THE BIRDS OF ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

By J. J. Murray

(Concluded from the last issue)

Eastern Kingbird. Tyrannus tyrannus.
Summer resident; fairly common; April 22 to September 14. Nests: May 13, 1934, nest nearly completed; July 1, 1936; six other records on intermediate dates.

Northern Crested Flycatcher. Myiarchus crinitus boreus.
Summer resident; common; April 23, to September 13, Young in nest, June 15, 1931, Timber Ridge, M. G. Lewis.

Eastern Phoebe. Sayornis Phoebe.
Resident; abundant in summer; regular but not common in winter. Nests: eggs as early as April 8 (1936); young leaving the nest, July 27, 1932. It nests on rock cliffs and under overhanging roadside banks as well as on bridges and under porch and barn roofs.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. Empidoniz flaviventris.
Transient; rare; only recorded on May 18-26, 1928; May 18, 1940; and Aug. 31, 1935.

Acadian Flycatcher. Empidonax virescens.
Summer resident; common; more common at the foot of the mountains and where cliffs shade the streams; May 7, to September 14. Nests: June 14, 1933, and June 29, 1932, incubating; July 6, 1935, nest still under construction, a rather unusual record.

Least Flycatcher. Empidonax minimus.
Summer resident; scarce; May 14 to September 12; transient, uncommon. On June 7, 1937, I found one in Goshen Pass, calling "Chebec" continually and apparently settled for breeding.

Eastern Wood Pewee. Myiochanes virens.
Summer resident; abundant; May 5 to October 13. Nests: Eggs as early as May 29; nest under construction, May 15, 1937; July 18, 1933, feeding young on the wing. On September 15, 1935, I saw an adult repeatedly feed a young bird on the wing at Big

Spring.

Olive-sided Flycatcher. Nuttalornis mesoleucus.
Transient in fall; rare. Dr. Wetmore saw one, August 1, 1937, at Montebello, Nelson County, just a few miles outside our limits. I saw one at If on Septmeber 7, 1944.

Northern Horned Lark. Otocoris alpestris alpestris.
Winter visitor; rare. A specimen taken at Cameron's Pond, December 26, 1934, was identified by J. H. Riley as alpestris. I had seen one there on December 24, and three on December 25; and saw several in a large flock of Prairie Horned Larks on February 4, 1935. It is probably more common than my records indicate.

Prairie Horned Lark. Otocoris alpestris praticola.
Resident; fairly common in summer, abundant in winter. Eight nests: March 12, 1935, three eggs, to May 14, 1934, four naked young. Nests on golf courses and on close-cropped pastures. Singing flight song by February 9. Associates to some extent with Pipits.

Tree Swallow. Iridoprocne bicolor.
Transient; common in spring, March 27 to May 11; scarce in fall, three records. September 5, 1929, August 28, 1936, September 9, 1939.

Bank Swallow. Riparia riparia riparia.
Transient in fall; scarce; probably more common than my records would indicate; September 14 and 15, 1935; August 28 and September 2, 1936; September 9, 1940. It is odd that according to Dr. Ellison A. Smyth this bird is an abundant breeder at Blacksburg, one hundred miles southwest of us, and the Rough-winged Swallow exceedingly scarce; while here the conditions are just the reverse.

Rough-winged Swallow. Stelgidopteryx ruficollis serripennis.
Summer resident; common; April 1 to September 9. I have several times caught birds in the nest holes (June 6, 1929, and May 1, 1934, for examples) in order to make sure of the identification. May is the chief nesting month; holes completed by April 17 (1931); young just from the nest, June 14, (1941).

Barn Swallow. Hirundo erythrogaster.
Summer resident; abundant; April 4 to September 26; one late record, October 5, 1931. Our breeding birds seem to leave about August 15, after which there is a period of two weeks or more when the species is very scarce, until the transients begin passing through. Nests: apparently two broods, eggs by April 27, young again on August 3; April 27, 1934, four eggs; May 3, 1932, beginning to build; June 1, 1933, nests with eggs; July 10, 1929, eggs hatching; August 3, 1934, a nest with young.

Northern Cliff Swallow. Petrochelidon albifrons albifrons.
Summer resident; uncommon and localized; formerly more common; April 23 to September 21; more common as a transient in spring. Handley tells me that he found nests on rock cliffs along Maury River. A colony near Big Spring, on the Berry Farm, has its nests not under the eaves of the barn, which being unpainted would take them all right, but on the sides of the sills under the floor which stretches out over a driveway. July 4, 1933, twelve nests, one just begun, some with eggs, some with young. One nest, same place, July 22, 1935; and two, July 25, 1938. I have failed to look there for earlier nests.

Purple Martin. Progne subis subis.
Summer resident; scarce; March 22 to September 9. A small colony nested in the boxin under the eaves of several stores on Main Street in Lexington, until 1935, when there nesting places were closed up. I have seen small colonies also at Beuna Vista and at Brownsburg.

Northern Blue Jay. Cyanocitta cristata cristata.
Resident; common in summer; less common in winter, sometimes absent then. They are not commonly seen in town in winter, but are more often found in sheltered cedar groves, of which there are many about Lexington. They occur on the highest mountain as well as in the valley. A male collected near Lime Kiln Bridge, April 12, 1937, was identified by Wetmore as cristata. C. E. Addy informs me that one which he took at Goshen, June 16, 1939, was also identified as the northern race. Migrating flocks are seen in late September and early October. Nests: first egg, April 8; feeding young on the wing, June 27; a dead nestling picked up, July 1.

Northern Raven. Corvus corax principalis.
Permanent resident; fairly common, both in the Blue Ridge and on the Western side of the county. Jacob Hostetter has seen as many as twelve together (June 13, 1934). I have seen one fly high over my yard in town. On May 27, 1929, my wife and I drove up so close to two feeding on the ground at the Maury monument in Goshen Pass that even our two year old baby could tell that they were not crows. In March, 1940, I had reports of an albino Raven in the Blue Ridge above Beuna Vista. The Raven is a voracious and filthy feeder. I have seen them at animal carcasses with Turkery and Black Vultures. Jacob Hostetter, who has seen more Ravens than any man in this section, tells me that he has seen them harry vultures until the latter disgorges their food, when the Ravens drop to the ground and eat it. I often see crows harry the Ravens. Since 1938 (and probably long before) a pair have nested on a mountain in the western part of the county, alternating almost regularly from year to year between two high cliffs half a mile apart. Jacob Hostetter first found the nest on April 17, 1938. It was 20 feet up on a narrow ledge of an 80 foot cliff at an elevation of 3,200 feet, and held one young bird. The nest had three or four young, in the second location, somewhat higher up in a lower cliff, April 8, 1939; three young, May 6, 1940; tow or three young, May 5, 1941; large young, March 28, 1943; and six eggs, March 16, 1944. Food debris collected below these nests contained the bones of a Norway rat, gray squirrels, flying squirrels, a Ruffed Grouse, a Mourning Dove, Blue Jays, a colubrine snake, and short-horned grasshoppers.

Eastern Crow. Corvus brachyrhynchos brachyrhynchos.
Winter resident; abundant; large roosts. No specimen taken.

Southern Crow. Corvus brachyrhynchos paulus.
Resident; abundant. A female collected on May 11, 1934, was identified by Oberholser as Paulus. Measurements of a male and female collected April 12, 1937, were said by Wetmore to come within the normal for paulus. I have seen crows at the carcasses of animals with vultures. They harry Red-tailed Hawks, Turkey and Black Vultures, and Ravens. Nests: April 12, 1943, five eggs, about one-third incubated; April 12, 1937, four eggs, the young still in nest on May 10; April 19, 1937, uncubating, young leaving nest about May 20; April 30, 1930, four eggs, Dale Mountain; many other nests all in April.

Fish Crows. Corvus ossifragus.
Resident: heard mush more often from December to April, and apparently more com-

mon then. I have not taken a specimen, but the call is unmistakable. One June 15, 1944, I heard a bird flying over my yard which I was sure was this species and not a young common crow. Dr. D. Ralph Hostetter collected a crow near Harrisonburg, May 10, 1935, which was identified by Oberholser as ossifragus.

Appalachian Chickadee. Penthestes atricapillum practicus.
Winter visitor; regular but not common. I collected a Black-capped Chickadee near the Lime Kiln Bridge, December 18, 1939, which was identified by Wetmore as Penthestes atricapillus practicus Oberholser, the newly-described Appalachian form. I have a dozen or more sight records, December to March, The call notes seem to me to be easily differentiated from those of the Carolina Chickadee, being both louder and harsher, with more of a burr.

Northern Carolina Chickadee. Penthestes carolinensis extimus.
Resident; abundant. A specimen, taken September 13, 1937, was identified by Wetmore as Penthestes carolinensis extimus Todd & Sutton, a newly described sub-species. Nests: eggs, April 29 to May 29.

Tufted Titmouse. Baeolophus bicolor.
Resident; abundant. Nests: May 17, 1929, young; June 5, carrying food.

White-breasted Nuthatch. Sitta carolinensis carolinensis.
Resient; abundant. Nests: May 3, 1928, young; June 4, 1934, feeding young on the wing.

Northern Brown Creeper. Certhia familiaris americana.
Winter resident; common; October 2 to April 26. The height of the spring migration comes in early April. A specimen collected on April 15, 1940, was identified by Wetmore as americana.

Red-breasted Nuthatch. Sitta canadensis.
Winter visitor; fairly common, especially in the mountains; September 12 to April 30.

Southern Brown Creeper. Certhia familiaris nigrescens.
Winter resident; probably common; dates for the two forms not separable. A specimen collected near the Lime Kiln Bridge, December 20, 1937, was identified by Oberholser as Certhia familiaris nigrescens Burleigh, the newly-described race breeding in the Southern mountains. Another specimen, taken April 11, 1940, was similarly identified by Wetmore. These were the first Virginia records for this form. I think it is not difficult to differentiate the two races in the field in good light, each of these birds collected being previously identified by sight.

Eastern House Wren. Troglodytes aedon aedon.
Transient; undoubtedly common; no specimens taken; dates for the two forms not separable.

Ohio House Wren. Troglodytes aedon baldwini.
Summer resident; abundant; April 4 to October 18. A bird in breeding conditions picked up dead in our yard on June 5, 1934, by my daughter Jane was identified by Oberholser as this race recently described by him. It was the first breeding record for this race for Virginia. Another specimen, a male, certainly breeding, taken May 20, 1935, was similarly identified by Oberholser. It often breeds in dead trees in mountain clearings, far from dwellings. Nests: two broods, probably three in some cases; eggs, May 2; young still in the nest, September 11, 1931.

Eastern Winter Wren. Nannus hiemalis hiemalis.

Southern Winter Wren. Nanus hiemalis pullus.
Winter resident; common; September 21 to May 4; dates for the two forms not separable. A specimen taken on October 3, 1938, was identified by Wetmore as hiemalis; and one taken on December 20, 1937, was identified by Oberholser as Pullus, the breeding race of the Southern mountains recently described by Burleigh. This was the first winter record for pullus in the State. As in the case of the Creepers, I think the two races here can be distinguished in the field in good light.

Bewick's Wren. Thryomanes bewicki bewicki.
Summer resident; fairly common; more common on dry hillsides at the foot of the mountains; February 9 to October 8; one winter record, December 19,1939, Lime Kiln Bridge. Nests: April 24, 1939, six eggs; May 3, 1933, eight eggs, May 5, 1938, half-grown young; May 24, 1936, seven eggs; June 28, 1936, five young.

Carolina Wren. Thryothorus ludovicianus ludovicianus.
Permanent resident; abundant. Nests: two broods, probably three sometimes; eggs by March 29; eggs again, May 1; young, August 13. I have seen several odd nesting sites here: one, May 19, 1937, on the ground, in a hole in a steep bank at the foot of a stump, on Dale Mountain at 2,200, which is high for this species here; another, April 18, 1938, five feet up in a cedar bush, a round mass of roots and straw and moss; another, on a chandelier in our Chapel at House Mountain, the young just leaving the nest one Sunday afternoon, July 11, 1943, as the children gathered for Sunday School. This wren is not often seen above 2,000 feet.

Long-billed Marsh Wren. Telmatodytes palustris palustris.
Transient in fall; uncommon; August 25 to November 26.

Short-billed Marsh Wren. Cistothorus stellaris.
Transient; scarce. Several birds were present at Cameron's Pond in a patch of tall rye from May 2 to 27, 1935; and one was seen at the pond on October 14, 1935.

Eastern Mockingbird. Mimus polyglottos polyglottos.
Permanent resident; fairly common; has become more common, I believe, during my years at Lexington. Not ordinarily found above 1,500 feet, although I have one record at 2,500 feet. It never seems to me quite at home here in the mountains, as it does not sing with the gusto of its eastern Virginia or Carolina relatives. Nests: eggs April 20; young, April 26; small young, June 1.

Catbird. Dumetella carolinensis.
Summer resident; abundant; April 20 to October 14; one winter record, December 26, 1942, an apparently uninjured bird which had been seen by others for several weeks. Nests: at least two broods; May 13 four eggs; July 13, three fresh eggs.

Brown Thrasher. Toxostoma rufum.
Summer resident; abundant; March 20 to October 1; one winter report, a bird seen in the same neighborhood in Lexington on November 21 and December 25, 1942. Nests: eggs by April 20; young in the nest as late as August 3. I have a record of a nest on the limb of an apple tree nine feet from the ground, and of another in an open hollow in an apple tree twelve feet from the ground; and a report of a nest on the ground, some distance from any bush.

Eastern Robin. Turdus migratorius migratorius.
Transient, abundant; winter resident, scarce, in cedar woods and in sheltered coves in the mountains. The main spring migration takes place in late February and March. Apparently these transients and our breeding birds come about the same time, the transients staying in flocks in the fields and woods, wild and restless, while the breeding birds begin to take up territory in town by February 20. The transient birds are still passing through in small flocks as late as May 1. Specimens indentified as migratorius; December 23, 1935, by J. H. Riley; March 1, 1937 by Wetmore.

Southern Robin. Turdus migratorius achrusterus.
Summer resident; abundant. Specimens, September 16, 1932; September 5, 1932, spotted immature; February 4, 1935; identified by Oberholser as achrusterus. A few may occasionally winter here with the northern birds. Nests: eggs by April 4; eggs, June 30. The Robin's territory is apparently only the nesting tree; feeding territory being communal.

Wood Thrush. Hylocichla mustelina.
Summer resident; abundant; scarce on the higher mountains, although nesting up to 3,600 feet; April 21 to October 1. Nests: eggs by May 15; young in nest as late as July 23.

Eastern Hermit Thrush. Hylocichla guttata faxoni.
Transient, common; winter resident, scarce; October 12 to April 27.

Olive-backed Thursh. Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni.
Transient; fairly common in spring, April 29 to May 26; common in fall, September 2 to October 26. I have heard this bird and the Gray-cheeked Thrush sing in my yard in May.

Gray-cheeked Thursh. Hylocichla minima aliciae.
Transient, spring and fall; scarce; May 13 to 25; September 18 to 21.

Veery. Hylocichla fuscescens fuscescens.
Transient in valley; uncommon; May 3 to 29; one fall record, September 28, 1939; common summer resident in the two small areas which we have above 3,300 feet, on Thunder Hill and Rocky Mountain in the Blue Ridge. I have not seen it on the western side of the county. June 22, 1931, several pairs carrying food on Rocky Mountain at 3,500 feet. (Nest, June 2, 1941, two eggs, in small mountain laurel bush on Cardinal Mountain, Amherst County, found by Mrs. Murray). I have heard it sing although not a full song, in my yard in May.

Eastern Bluebird. Sialia sialis sialis.
Resident; common in summer; uncommon in winter. Nests: two broods; eggs as early as March 25, and as late as June 23.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Polioptila caerulea caerulea.
Summer resident in the valley; common; April 3 to September 19. Nests: Building by April 21; eggs hatching about June 4.

Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglet. Regulus satrapa satrapa.
Winter resident; common; some years abundant; October 4 to May 2.

Eastern Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Corthylio calendula calendula.
Transient; common; spring, March 3, to May 8; fall, September 19 to November 18. Singing in April and October.

American Pipit. Anthus spinoletta rubescens.
Winter visitor; irregular, common some years; October 27 to May 3; some years absent. Occassionally associated with Prairie Horned Larks.

Cedar Waswing. Bombycilla cedrorum.
Resident, but very erratic; uncommon in summer; abundant in fall, September 2 to October 30; common in spring, February 15 to May 27; wandering flocks in winter. Feeding young just from the nest, June 22, 1931. Irish Creek; fledgling, early September 1929; (Nest, five eggs, June 12, 1944, Campe Kewanzee, Apple Orchard Meuntain, just outside our limits, found by Grey and myself).

Migrant Shrike. Lanius ludovicianus migrans.
Resident; common; more common during migration in late February and March, late October and November. A specimen taken at Big Spring, December 31, 1936, indentified by Wetmore as typical migrans. This usually silent bird is sometimes quite noisy when migrating. Nests: April 20, 1930, four young; April 27, 1940; May 2, 1938, just completed.

Starling. Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris.
Resident; very abundant; more so in winter. Is found up to 3,200 feet. First recorded by Handley in 1919, and nested that year. Nests: carrying material, March 17; one egg, March 31; young in nest June 28.

White-eyed vireo. Vireo griseus griseus.
Summer resident; scarce and localized; April 19 to September 27. It appears to have moved into this county since about 1937. I think I heard one sing at Cameron's Pond on May 6, 1932. Beginning in April, 1937, I have found it regularly along Warm Run; along a stream at the foot of Brushy Hills; and along Maury River above Furr's Mill. Dr. H. C. Oberholser saw one at Natural Bridge, April 29, 1938.

Yellow-throated Vireo. Vireo flavifrons.
Summer resident; fairly common; April 19 (Hoyt) to October 12. Most common in cool ravines and along streams near the foot of the mountains. Occurs up to 2,500 feet, Breeding: Carrying food, June 18, 1931; gathering strips of cedar bark for nest, May 27, 1940 (Warm Run), and May 30, 1944 (If).

Blue-headed Vireo. Vireo solitarius solitarius.
Transient; fairly common; April 4 to May 4; August 20 to October 22. No specimens taken.

Mountain Vireo. Vireo solitarius alticola.
Summer resident, above 1,500 feet; fairly common. No specimens. I do not have satisfactory arrival and departure dates for species breeding only in the mountains.

Red-eyed Vireo. Vireo olivaceus.
Summer resident; abundant; April 21 to October 14. Found at all altitudes. Nests: May 24, 1937, four eggs and a Cowbird egg; June 22, 1931, two eggs, at 2,600 feet; Juen 30, 1933, well-grown young; July 7, 1932, one egg, two young, and a large young cowbird.

Eastern Warbling Vireo. Vireo gilvus gilvus.
Summer resident; common but localized, chiefly near water; April 23 (Hoyt) to Sept. 11. Nests: May 18, 1933, eggs; June 29, 1931, young.

Black and White Warbler. Mniotilta varia.
Summer resident; abundant at all altitudes; April 5 (Hoyt) to October 21. Nests: May 30, 1932, five eggs, foot of Dale mountain; carrying food, June 10, 1929, June 20, 1930, June 26, 1931: May 29, 1933.

Worm-eating Warbler. Helmitheros vermivorus.
Summer resident; uncommon; chiefly in the mountains; April 30 to September 22. Feed-young on the wing, June 30, 1932, Buffalo Creek.

Golden-winged Warbler. Vermivora chrysoptera.
One record, an adult male, July 30, 1940, in yard of our Chapel at the foot of House Mountain.

Tennessee Warbler. Vermivora peregrina.
Transient; rare in spring, two records, May 17 and 21, 1935; abundant in fall, August 28 to October 16, chiefly in immature plumage.

Nashville Warbler. Vermivora ruficapilla ruficapilla.
Transient; rare; specimen taken, September 9, 1929; seen, September 13, 1937, Sept. 18, 1935, October 2, 1933, October 3, 1936, October 3 and 10, 1938.

Northern Parula Warbler. Compsothlypis americana pusilla.
Transient; dates not separable from southern race. Specimen collected at the junction of Maury and South Rivers, April 29, 1940, identified by Wetmore as pusilla.

Southern Parula Warbler. Compsothlypis americam americana.
Summer resident, up to about 1,800 feet; common; usually found along streams; April 16 to October 5. I was in error, in the paper in The Oologist, in taking for granted that our breeding form was pusilla. A singing male, collected in Goshen Pass, June 7, 1937, was identified by Wetmore as americana. Nests: May 22, 1938, small young; July 16, 1943, large young, Nests here are not typical, being made not of moss but of fine grasses and leaf fibres.

Eastern Yellow Warbler. Dendroica aestiva aestiva.
Summer resident; common; April 14 (Hoyt) to September 24. Nests: May 19, 1936, four eggs; June 3, 1930, small young; June 1, 1933, three eggs and a naked young.

Magnolia Warbler. Dendroica magnolia.
Transient; common in spring, April 27 to May 25; abundant in fall, September 2 to October 20, chiefly in immature plumage; one very late record, a bird which was picked up alive on November 10, 1936, and which died the following day.

Cape May Warbler. Dendroica tigrina.
Transient; common in spring, April 29 to May 18; sometimes abundant in fall, September 6 to October 30, I have seen as many as 30 in a day in my yard. Here they as prefer conifers in spring, but in fall stick almost exclusively to hardwoods, and particularly to maples.

Black-throated Blue Warbler. Dendroica caerulescens caerulescens.
Transient; fairly common in spring, April 29 to May 17; common in fall, September 12 to October 20. A male brought to me on October 1, 1943, was clearly this form.

Cairns's Warbler. Dendroica caerulescens cairnsi.
Summer resident, in the mountains; occasional as low as 1,200 feet (Goshen Pass); common from 1,800 to 2,500 feet; abundant from 2,500 feet up. Probably occurs in the valley as a transient. Feeding young on the wing, June 12, 1931, and June 27, 1938. (Nest, three eggs, June 16, 1933, at 3,000 feet on Elliott's Knob, Augusta County).

Myrtle Warbler. Dendroica coronata.
Winter resident, common; transient, abundant; September 27 to May 15.

Black-throated Green Warbler. Dendroica virens virens.
Summer resident, in the mountains; common from foot of the mountains (1,200 feet in places) to 2,500 feet; transient in the valley; common in spring, April 15 to May 15, abundant in fall, August 29 to October 16. Carrying nest material, June 16, 1930; feeding young on the wing, May 29, 1933, and June 20, 1933.

Cerulean Warbler. Dendroica Cerulea.
Summer resident, up to 1,500 feet; common, mostly along streams; April 21 to August 28. Bradford Torrey ("Virginia Notes", The Auk, Vol. XIII, 1896, p. 179) wrote of this species as moderately common at Natural Bridge, May 4 to 6, 1895. Feeding young on the wing; June 10, 1929; June 29, 1929 (two pairs); July 1, 1932; July 16, 1943.

Blackburnian Warbler. Dendroica fusco
Summer resident, in the mountains; common above 1,500 feet wherever there are conifers; transient in the valley, fairly common; May 1 to 22; August 27 to October 8. Feeding young: June 12, 1931, at 1,900 feet on Thunder Hill; June 16, 1930, at 3,600 feet on Thunder Hill; June 16, 1933, at 1,200 feet in Goshen Pass, where it is cool and damp; June 27, 1938, at 1,500 feet on Thunder Hill.

Chestnut-sided Warbler. Dendroica pensylvanica.
Summer resident, in the mountains; fairly common above 2,500 feet; transient in the valley, common; May 10 to 16; August 27 to September 28. Carrying food, June 22, 1931, at 2,600 feet on Rocky Mountain; feeding young on the wing, June 20, 1932, at 2,800 feet on Rocky Mountain. (John Grey and I found a nest, with four young about ready to fly, June 12, 1944, at Camp Kewanzee, Apple Orchard Mountain).

Bay-breasted Warbler. Dendroica castanea.
Transient; scarce in spring, May 5 to 24; uncommon in fall, August 28 to October 14.

Black-poll Warbler. Dendroica striata.
Transient; common; twice as numerous in spring; May 4 to June 2; September 6 to October 25.

Northern Pine Warbler. Dendroica pinus pinus.
Summer resident, scarce; transient; scarce in spring, four records, April 4, 1932 (M. G. Lewis), April 14, 1937 (Hoyt), March 29, 1938, April 14, 1939; uncommon in fall, September 9 to October 20. Feeding young on the wing: May 13, 1938, Rocky Row Mountain, at 1,200 feet; May 24, 1938, Rockbridge Baths. Two singing males, June 9, 1941, near Rockbridge Alum Springs.

Northern Prairie Warbler. Dendroica discolor discolor.
Summer resident; common; April 17 to September 7. This austral species breeds here wherever suitable habitats are found. It is common on North Mountain at 3,000 feet, near great stretches of low rhododendron. Nest, May 10, 1937, almost completed; feeding young on the wing as late as July 15.

Western Palm Warbler. Dendroica palmarum palmarum.
Transient; scarce in spring, April 25, 1932, May 1 and 8; Uncommon in fall, September 14 to November 2. A specimen taken on October 8, 1935, identified by Wetmore as palmarum.

Yellow Palm Warbler. Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea.
Transient; scarce in spring, May 8, 1931 (flock), May 1, 1940; common in fall, September 19 to November 1. A bird seen at Big Spring, February 1 and 13, 1930, and said to have been there since January 20, seems to be the farthest north winter record.

Oven-bird. Seiurus aurocapillus.
Summer resident; abundant at all altitudes; April 20 to October 15. Nests: May 27, 1931, five eggs, M. G. Lewis; June 17, 1935, five eggs, Jacob Hostetter; June 20, 1933, young leaving nest, at 2,500 feet.

Northern Water-thrush. Seiurus noveboracensis noveboracensis.
Transient; scarce, but regular; April 16 to May 20; August 28 to October 27 (1930), the last apparently being the latest date north of Florida.

Louisiana Water-thrush. Seiurus motacilla.
Summer resident; common up to 1,500 feet; April 13 to September 21. Nests: May 26, 1934, two eggs; June 17, 1935, four eggs.

Kentucky Warbler. Oporornis formosus.
Summer resident; rare. I have one record, a male, June 12, 1931, at 1,700 feet on Thunder Hill. M. G. Lewis told me that he heard it twice in spring, once in Goshen Pass, and once at the foot of Brushy Hills. Col. Robert P. Carroll heard one singing on a heavily wooded hillside on Maury River in May, 1944. William Williams saw one just outside our limits on Pedlar River, in Amherst County, May 25, 1940.

Connecticut Warbler. Oporornis agilis.
Transient; rare. An adult female collected at Cameron's Pond, October 8, 1935, was identified by Wetmore as agilis. I also collected a singing male on Warm Run, September 27, 1939. Sight records (given for this and for the following species with some hesitancy): September 11, 1936; August 31, 1939; May 17, 1937, a singing male.

Mourning Warbler. Oporonis philadelphia.
Transient; rare. One, probably a young male, collected at Cameron's Pond, September 25, 1933, indentified by Oberholser as philadelphia. Sight records: September 29, 1933, Cameron's; September 28, 1939, Warm Run. William Williams saw a pair at Warm Run, May 27, 1940.

Northern Yellow-throat. Geothlypis trichas brachidactyla.
Transient; probably fairly common; dates not separable from the Maryland Yellow-throat. Two immature birds collected at Newtown, two miles southwest of Lexington.

September 12, 1932, were identified by Oberholser as this form. I saw a large, bright male on the lower slopes of House Mountain, May 1, 1933, that I was sure was also this form.

Maryland Yellow-throat. Geothlypis trichas trichas.
Summer resident; common at all altitudes; April 18 to October 21. A male collected by Dr. Wetmore at Cameron's Pond, June 6, 1936, was typical trichas. In Rockbridge County this bird is not at all confined to marshy spots or the vicinity of water, but is often found in patches of 'devil's shoe-string' (coral berry) in dry fields, and also at the edges of woods on high mountain shoulders. Nest: eggs hatching, June 7, 1943, at the Meadowground; feeding young on the wing, June 22, 1943.

Yellow-breasted Chat. Icteria virens.
Summer resident; abundant; April 25 to September 22. Another austral bird which is found well up in the Alleghanian Zone; in old fields up to 3,600 feet, breeding in close proximity to Canada Warblers and Veeries. Nests: May 16, 1944, four eggs; May 18, 1943, two nests, four eggs each; May 24, 1937, three eggs; May 29, 1944, four eggs; May 30, 1932, three eggs; June 5, 1944, one egg; June 17, 1935, three small young; June 24, 1931, young leaving the nest. Here the Chat has a variety of nesting places; cedars, hardwood shrubs, briers, grape-vine tangles, and, most common of all, 'devil's shoe-string' bushes. On May 15, 1944, while I was spending the night alone at If I heard one singing off and on through the night, a full, loud song.

Hooded Warbler. Wilsonia citrina.
Summer resident; common; less so in the higher mountains; April 22 to September 2. Carrying food: June 20, 1930, Brushy Hills; June 22, 1931, at 2,900 feet on Rocky Mountain; June 27, 1938 at 1,200 feet.

Wilson's Warbler. Wilsonia pusilla pusilla.
Transient; rare. Specimen, male, September 14, 1931. Other records: May 19, 1933; May 26, 1934; May 22, 1935; September 27, 1943.

Canada Warbler. Wilsonia canadensis.
Summer resident; above 3,000 feet; abundant; the most common warbler in the small amount of territory we have at that altitude; does not occur on the mountains in the western part of the county, where there are only island spots above 3,000 feet. Transient in the valley; scarce; May 6; August 27 to September 22. Pairs carrying food: June 12, 1944; June 16, 1933; June 30, 1932; June 20, 1933.

American Redstart. Setophaga ruticilla.
Summer resident; common in the valley; less so on the mountains; April 20 to September 30. Nest, June 30, 1930, three young. Carrying food, May 30, 1932; and feeding young on the wing, June 30, 1932.

English Sparrow. Passer domesticus domesticus.
Permanent resident; common; said to have been more common, at least in town, before automobiles replaced horses. Nests: eggs as early as April 7; June 3, carrying nest material. On February 1, 1943, I saw a pair collecting nest material; this is not at all uncommon in mid-Febraury. I saw a pair carrying material into a hole on November 11, 1935.

Bobolink. Dolichonyx oryzivorus.
Transient; common in spring, April 25 to May 27; uncommon in fall. August 25 to September 23.

Eastern Meadowlark. Sturnella magna magna.
Resident; abundant in summer; uncommon in winter; the height of the migration coming around March 1 and November 1. Nests: May 14, 1934, five eggs; June 25, 1944, four eggs, Mrs. Milam B. Cater.

Eastern Red-wing. Agelaius phoeniceus phoeniceus.
Summer resident; abundant; almost a resident, occurring every month except January; February 22 to December 13. Nests: Eggs, May 8 to July 4.

Orchard Oriole. Icterus spurius.
Summer resident; common; April 26 to September 19. Occupied nest, May 18, 1933; feeding young on the wing, June 20, 1944.

Baltimore Oriole. Icterus galbula.
Summer resident; common; April 25 to September 12. Nests: May 13, 1935, just completed; May 22, 1944, six eggs; June 4, 1931, young; Juen 20, 1944, feeding young on the wing.

Rusty Blackbird. Euphagus carolinus.
Transient; almost winter resident; common; January 30 to April 25; October 7 to December 6.

Ridgway's Grackle. Quiscalus quiscula ridgwayi.
Summer resident; abundant; February 16 (Hoyt) to November 12; a pair on December 10, 1930; a flock of fifteen on December 3, 1941. Two males, collected in my yard, March 4, 1930, and April 4, 1940, were identified by Dr. Wetmore as ridgwayi, somewhat intermediate toward stonei. A female which Dr. Wetmore collected in my yard on September 26, 1935, he considered still more like stonei. Nests: eggs by April 19; probably two broods. On April 26, 1928, I replaced six eggs in one nest with five eggs from another nest. They were hatched and the birds successfully reared.

Eastern Cowbird. Molothrus ater ater.
Summer resident; common; March 5 to November 25. Eggs; May 4, 1941, Song Sparrow; May 24, 1934, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher; May 4, 1937, Red-eyed Vireo; June 22, 1937 and July 6, 1944, Indigo Bunting. Young being fed: June 5, 1944, Parula Warbler; June 16, 1941, Chipping Sparrow; July 1, 1929, Yellow Warbler; July 7, 1937, Red-eyed Vireo.

Scarlet Tanager. Piranga erythromelas.
Summer resident; above 1,500 feet on higher hills and in the mountains; common; transient in valley; common; April 21 to October 6. The breeding line between this and the Summer Tanager is rather sharply drawn at about 1,400 feet. I have seen males in bright red plumage as late as July 22. Nests: June 30, 1930, one egg and one young; May 15, 1931, carrying nest material.

Summer Tanager. Piranga rubra rubra.
Summer resident, below 1,400 feet; common, although somewhat local; April 26 to September 27. Nests: June 6, 1931, eggs; June 19, 1934, eggs; July 2, 1932, one egg; July 10, 1928, eggs. A singing male which I watched near Goshen Pass, June 10, 1944, covered a territory of about 12 acres; while a pair nesting regularly at my cabin at If have a territory of only three or four acres.

Eastern Cardinal. Richmondena cardinalis cardinalis.

Permanent resident; common, They sometimes gather in considerable flocks in winter. I found a flock of 20 in a thicket at the Big Spring Cemetery, December 26, 1938; and on the Christmas Census, December 21, 1939, we found 78 at East Lexington in a strip of weeds and brush about a quarter of a mile long. It occurs up to about 2,500 feet. At least two broods1 well-feathered young as early as April 16; young still in the nest, July 30; Mrs. W. V. Thompson of Lexington saw an adult feeding a young bird on the wing, September 26, 1932.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Hedymeles ludovicianus.
Summer resident, above 2,500 feet, fairly common; transient in valley; scarce in spring, May 12, 1928, May 13, 1929; common in fall, September 7 to October 2. Nests: May 16, 1932, just begun at 2,800 feet on Thunder Hill; June 12, 1931, grown young in nest, same location; June 17, 1935, four eggs, at 2,200 feet on Dale Mountain.

Eastern Blue Grosbeak. Guiraca caerulea caerulea.
Transient, rare, four records: May 20, 1935, pair at Cameron's Pond; June 2, 1935 pair in different plumage, same place; May 21, 1936, pair, South Lexington, Robert Funkhouser; May 1, 1937, pair at Cameron's, Male collected, William Williams, who for a time mounted birds for a National Park Service collection in this section.

Indigo Bunting. Passerina cyanea.
Summer resident; abundant at all altitudes; April 18 (Hoyt) to October 14, Nests in bushes as well as in briers; at least two broods. Nests: May 25, 1936, one egg; June 22, 1933, three eggs and a Cowbird egg; June 29, 1942, four eggs about ready to hatch; July 31, 1943, four eggs, hatching.

Eastern Evening Grosbeak. Hesperiphona vesperitina vespertina.
Accidental; one record, a flock of two males and four females in very high plumage in my yard, February 28 and April 9, 1944; seen around Washington & Lee Campus by others between these dates.

Eastern Purple Finch. Carpodacus purpureus purpureus.
Winter resident; common in spring; uncommon in fall and winter, October 21 to May 1.

Northern Pine Siskin. Spinus pinus pinus.
Winter visitor; scarce; flock seen by Handley on the edge of Lexington, November 2, 1919; flock seen by Freer at Petite's Gap in the Blue Ridge, December 10, 1933. I have not seen it.

Eastern Goldfinch. Spinus tristis tristis.
Resident; common in summer; fairly common in winter; abundant, April, May, September. Nests: July 18, 1932, eggs, Buffalo Creek; July 22, 1935, carrying nesting material at Big Spring; September 1, 1936, 4 eggs, young just hatched on September 4.

Red Crossbill. Loxia curvirostra pusilla.
I have not seen it, Bradford Torrey, in the article referred to above, states that he found several at Natural Bridge in May 1895, about May 5. Southgate Hoyt saw a flock of 27, of both sexes, in a pine about three miles northwest of Lexington. In April (2nd, 3rd, or 4th), 1941. Handley thinks he once saw a small flock on House Mountain.

Red-eyed Towhee. Pipilo erythrophthalmus erythrophthalmus.
Summer resident, abundant where it occurs but somewhat local; at all altitudes;

February 22 to October 24; a few winter records, December 21, 1939, January 6, February 27, and December 22 , 1941. Two males collected May 9, 1935, were identified by Oberholser as the typical form. Nests: May 22, 1944, three eggs, William Willaims; May 24, 1944, young leaving the nest; June 20, 1932, young on the wing, at 3,300 and 3,800 feet on Rocky Mountain; July 22, 1935, half-grown young.

Lark Bunting. Calamospiza melanocorys.
Accidental. I collected a bird in winter plumage at Cameron's Pond, February 11, 1932, which is now No. 330,128 in the U. S. National Museum.

Eastern Savannah Sparrow. Passerculus sandwichensis savanna.
Transient; abundant; February 21, to May 20; September 5 to November 14.

Eastern Grasshopper Sparrow. Ammodramus savannarum australis.
Summer resident; common; April 15 (Hoyt) to October 20. Feeding young on the wing, July 9, 1933.

Nelson's Sparrow. Ammospiza caudacuta nelsoni.
One sight record, October 17, 1928, Cameron's Pond, along with M. G. Lewis.

Eastern Vesper Sparrow. Pooecetes gramineus gramineus.
Summer resident; common; abundant transient; March 18 to November 11. Nests: May 14, 1936, four eggs; May 21, 1934, carrying food.

Bachman's Sparrow. Aimophila aestivalis bachmani.
Casual. I saw a singing male in an old field at the foot of Dale Mountain, April 14, 1939, and looked for it again in vain, May 1. Handley once found a singing male six miles west of Lexington.

Slate-colored Junco. Junco hyemalis hyemalis.
Winter resident; abundant; October 2 to May 1.

Carolina Junco. Junco hyemalis carolinensis.
Resident; abundant in summer above 2,800 feet; occurs in winter in the valley, probably common. Winter specimens: January 22, 1932, Lime Kiln Bridge; December 31, 1933, near Big Spring; both identified by Friedmann as carolinenesis. As far as I have been able to learn, these were the first winter specimens for any point North of North Carolina. In the winter of 1936-1937 I collected 14 Juncos at random at weekly intervals for a probelm which Dr. D. Ralph Hostetter was working out in collaboration with Dr. Oberholser. One of them, taken February 15, 1937, turned out to be carolinensis. That piece of research showed, by the way, that the Carolina Junco migrates away from the mountains in winter to a certain extent. Nests: evidently two or more broods; spotted young are abundant in June; (July 6, 1933, three eggs, Cole Mountain, Amherst County, a few miles outside our limits). I once found the species common as low as 2,000 feet on Irish Creek.

Eastern Tree Sparrow. Spizella arborea arborea.
Winter resident; common; November 9 to April 9.

Eastern Chipping Sparrow. Spizella passerina passerina.
Summer resident; abundant; March 18 to November 4. Nests: at least two broods; eggs by May 3; young still in nest, July 12.

Eastern Field Sparrow. Spizella pusilla pusilla.
Resident; abundant in summer; scarce in winter. Nests: probably three broods; eggs by May 7, and as late as September 5, (1931, in yard of M. G. Lewis).

White-crowned Sparrow. Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys.
Winter resident; scarce although regular in winter; common transient; October 7 to May 9.

Gambel's Sparrow. Zonotrichia leucophrys gambeli.
Accidental. A bird in bright adult plumage was carefully studied at close range, May 5, 1942, at Cave Spring Dam on Maury River.

White-throated Sparrow. Zonotrichia albicollis.
Winter resident; uncommon in mid-winter; abundant transient; September 28 to May 25; height of migration comes in early May and late October.

Eastern Fox Sparrow. Passerella iliaca iliaca.
Transient; abundant in spring, February 22 to April 6, uncommon in fall, October 29 to November 29; a few winter.

Lincoln's Sparrow. Melospiza lincolni lincolni.
Transient; rare; one collected, October 18, 1933, at Cameron's: birds seen at Cameron's, September 21, 1933, September 29, 1933, September 28, 1936, November 22, 1936, and at Robinson's Gap, at 2,500 feet in the Blue Ridge, May 18, 1936.

Swamp Sparrow. Melospiza georgiana.
Transient; common; March 18 to May 13; September 23, to November 26; one winter record, December 21, 1939, three birds.

Eastern Song Sparrow. Melospiza melodia melodia.
Winter resident, probably a bundant; I am not able to distinguish our two forms in the field. The main migration is in late February and early March. Specimens: March 2, 1936, October 21, 1935, October 19, 1936, identified by Wetmore as melodia.

Mississippi Song Sparrow. Melospiza melodia euphonia.
Summer resident; abundant; probably a resident, as a specimen which I collected on February 22, 1937, was identified by Wetmore as this form. A breeding specimen collected by Dr. Wetmore at Cameron's Pond on June 6, 1936, was "intermediate toward melodia", but more like euphonia, and so was referred by him to this form, at least until more material was available for this part of the Valley. Nests: two or three broods; April 30, 1938, four eggs; May 6, 1932, four large young; feeding young on the wing, August 28; carrying food, September 4, 1931.

Lexington, Virginia.

The Raven

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

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

Vol. XV. September-October, 1944 Nos. 9 & 10

White Ibis at Charlottesville -
By Charles E. Stevens, Jr.

On August 21, 1944, while wading up the South Fork of the Rivanna River about a mile above the bridge on U. S. Highway #29, I saw two birds about the size of a Little Blue Heron, standing on a sand bar. They were standing quite motionless, and had long decurved bills. Their heads and necks were brownish-gray with a white wash, and their backs were uniformly slate-gray. They had white underparts, and dull orange-brown bills and legs. I watched them with a pair of binoculars at a distance of about 35 feet, before they flew. In flight their necks were outstretched and they displayed white rumps. Their flight was characteristic; slow wing-beats followed by a short glide. I tentatively identified these birds as immature White Ibises, Guara alba. I described them to Dr. John H. Grey, Jr., and after consulting several books we determined they were White Ibises. The birds were identical with the immature bird shown on plate 19 of Florida Bird Life, by Howell. The next day we drove up to the spot on the river and found that the Ibises were still there. Dr. Grey had a 20-power telescope, and we got within about twenty-five feet this time. They were very calm and unafraid in comparison with the various Herons in the vicinity. They were feeding in the shallow water; probing around under the surface with their long bills. Their only apparent note was a low duck-like grunt, uttered when alarmed.

The Fourth A. O. U. Check List records these birds as breeding north to South Carolina and wandering occasionally to North Carolina, Vermont, Connecticut and New York. The Birds of North Carolina, page 39, records them only twice in that state: July 1898, near Beaufort, and August 10, 1939, in Onslow County. It also records a probable occurence near Asheville on August 9, 1913.

This adds a bird to the Va. List.

(This, the most unusual bird record for Virginia for many months, is an example of what the beginner may turn up, if he is always on the alert. Editor.)

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The Stilt Sandpiper (Micropalama himantopus) in Norfolk, Virginia.

By Dr. Locke L. Mackenzie.

On August 25 I visited the little lakes near the Azalea Gardens. The height of the shorebird migration was on, and the muddy banks were covered with large

numbers of Semipalmated Sandpipers and Sanderlings, and there were many Semipalmated Plover, and a lesser number of Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers among the others. A few Least and Western Sandpipers were scattered in with the other more numerous varieties.

On one flat, distant about fifty yards, I suddenly saw three larger shorebirds, wading deep in the water, and probing vigorously with long bills. At first I mistook them for Dowitchers, but, upon approaching more closely, saw that they were Stilt Sandpipers. They were very tame, and allowed a close approach and leisure to study them with the high power glass. Noticeable was the long bill, slightly decurved. They frequently buried their heads in the water for a few seconds at a time. They waded up to their bellies as a general rule. The legs and feet were a greenish yellow, the backs mottled and scaled. The birds were in winter plumage, although one of them still had a few streaks of transverse barring with a grey-brown color under the throat and down the sides. Noticeable was a supraorbital white stripe. Finally I flushed the birds, and the flashy white upper tail coverts resembled the Yellowlegs.

The birds flew out over the water, and then did one of the most thoughtful things that it has ever been my pleasure to see a bird do. As if they had known that the only bird with which they might be confused in this plumage was a Lesser Yellow legs, they returned to the same spot with one. In an area of about two square feet the three Stilts and the one Lesser Yellowlegs posed not more than twenty feet distant. The differences now became quite apparent. Both had the whitish line over the eye. The Yellowlegs' feet and legs were a much brighter yellow; its bill was shorter and carried more horizontally, while the Stilts tended to point their's at an angle of about 45° to the ground. The Yellowlegs has a spotted back, the Stilts a mottled plumage. The Yellowlegs was appreciably larger. When they walked, the Yellowlegs had the deliberate and dignified strut which is so characteristic; the Stilts legs bent more at the junction of leg and thigh, and they moved more quickly. The Yellow legs fed in shallower water, and was quite deliberate; the Stilts waded out into deeper water, and prodded indiscriminately and rapidly. The Yellowlegs nodded and bobbed, the Stilts did not. Finally, when they flew, both showed the white flag on the upper tail coverts, but the Yllowlegs gave its characteristic three whistled calls, while the Stilts were silent.

Norfolk, Va.

(Dr. Mackenzie writes later that on August 28, while with Dr. John Grey, he collected a male and female Stilt Sandpiper, and saw a third. Editor.)

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A BLACK VULTURE'S NEST IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA

By John W. Murray.

The Black Vulture (Coragyps atratus atratus) is known to be a resident in the vicinity of Blacksburg, Virginia. According to Mr. Charles O. Handley, Jr., its nest had not hitherto been recorded in Montgomery County. Hence the discovery of a nest of this bird last spring may be of some interest to bird students in this region.

The nest located on the crest of a lateral spur of Brush Mountain about three quarters of a mile southwest of the Allen Fields fire lookout tower was about two or three hundred yards down the spur from the summit ridge of the mountain.

On April 25, 1944, I was bushwhacking up the spur in search of a clump of arbutus that I wished to photograph. I encountered an outcrop of bedrock which was broken into large blocks by weathering. The rock is a fine grained conglomerate. It seemed to me a likely place to find snakes so I approached it with caution. I found no snakes but on looking down between two blocks, I saw white bird droppings which suggested a bulture's nest. As I started to crawl down to see what was there, a great commotion ensued and a vulture emerged from another entrance to the nest and flew to a nearby tree. I identified it as a black vulture; tentatively, as I had never seen one before.

The eggs, of which there were two, were laid on the leaf-strewn floor of a passage which ran for about twelve feet under a large flock of rock. The passage had a sloping roof averaging about eighteen inches above the floor and was about thirty inches wide. The entrance nearest the eggs was at the bottom of a hole about five or six feet deep whereas that at the other end was at about ground level. The eggs were large and nearly oval and were marked with dark blotches of irregular size and shape.

On May 13, I visited the nest again with Handley and others and he confirmed my identification of the birds. No change in the nest was noticed. Photographs of the nest site and eggs were made at this time. On July 1 I visited the nest a third time and found that it was occupied by young birds about the size of a large chicken. Their wings were covered with black feathers but elsewhere the birds were clothed with a pale buff colored down. Photographs of the young were secured. On August 15 I returned to the nest once again and what appeared at first to be an adult bird flew up as I approached. It landed rather clumsily on a tree only about fifty feet from the nest. As I went closer, it took off, beating the foliage a good deal with its wings, and landed again a few feet further away. Examination with the binoculars revealed a sparse colar of down around the neck and more down under the wings. The second young bird was not seen at this time. Thus, the period of occupancy of the nest seems to be established within fairly narrow limits.

Box 214, Rt. 1, Blacksburg, Va.

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The Pomarine Jaeger (Stercorarius pomarinus) at Back Bay.

By Locke L. Mackenzie.

On September 15, 1944, I went out to the beach at Back Bay in the hopes of seeing some oceanic or southern birds which might have been blown in by the hurricane of the day before. On September 14 the coast was hit by a severe tropical hurricane which came up from the south-west; this storm did a great deal of damage to the North Carolina Coast.

Just at the border of Virginia and North Carolina I noted what first seemed to be two young Laughing Gulls flying over the beach, one harrying the other. As I drew closer I saw the flash of white in the wings of the pursuing birds, and immediately saw that it was a jaeger. Its agility of flight was remarkable, and no matter how the gull maneuvered, the jaeger actually blanketed it. Eventually the gull regurgitated some food which the jaeger caught as it hit the water. After this

the jaeger flew out to sea a few hundred yards, flying close to the water. It then turned south, and flew parallel to the shore, gradually edging a little out to sea until it disappeared. The long, rounded tail feathers were clearly visible, and it is the first time that I have ever had an occasion to study a jaeger from the shore. For a short time it was directly overhead, and quite close. It was in the dark phase of plumage.

Norfolk, Virginia

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The Arctic Tern (Sterna paradisea) in Back Bay.

By Locke L. Mackenzie

The day after the hurricane of September 14, 1944, there were large numbers of terns and gulls along the beach at Back Bay. The day was sunny and warm, with not much wind, and many were gathered in flocks on the sand. Most were Forster's and Royal Terns, and there was a scattering of Common and Caspian Terns, and a few Skimmers. One adult Great Black-backed Gull was seen, an early record for this bird in this locality.

A group of about twenty terns contained two Arctic Terns. These birds were readily distinguished from the others. The first noticeable feature was the fact that they were sitting much nearer the ground, due to their short tarsi. The mantle was a greyish-blue, noticeably darker than that of any of the other terns. They were a little larger than the Forster's and Common Terns, and their bills ware a coral red to the tip. The feet and legs were of the same bright, coral red. The tail was long, porjecting beyond the ends of the wings, I did not notice the white, infraorbital streak which Peterson mentions, but do not think it is always present, as I have often noticed its absence in birds in their breeding colonies. The best field mark, it seems to me, is the closeness to the ground of the sitting bird, the coral red color of the bill and feet, and in flight, the grace and ease with which the bird darts about.

Norfolk, Virginia

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1944 Breeding Census - Lexington, Virginia

Open Woodlot. Open mixed hardwoods, with scattered large trees, many smaller trees, and thick under-growth of shrubs and briers; lightly grazed. Has been lightly cut for firewood for many years and kept in rather stable condition. There are two openings of grass of two and a half and one and a half acres. In the center is a cabin used for overnight and vacation trips. Has a great variety of trees and shrubs, including: red oak (Quercus rubra), white oak (Quercus alba), bitternut (Hicoria cordiformis), black walnut (Juglans nigra), white ash (Fraxinus americana), elm (Ulmus americana), beech (Fagus grandifolia), white basswood (Tilia heterophylla), sycamore (Platanus occidentalis) (along the river), box elder (Acer negundo), red cedar (Juniperus virginiana), sweet birch (Betula lenta), American pawpaw (Asimina triloba), hop hornbeam (Ostrya virginiana), dogwood (Cornus florida), Eleagnus sp. (escaped and very common), black haw (Viburnum prunifolium), red-bud (Cercis canaden-

sis), strawberry bush (Euonymus atropurpureus), staghorn sumac (Rhus typhina), inkberry (Ilex glabra), coral berry (Symphoricarpus vulgaris), Size: 20 acres, triangular in shape. Location: In Rockbridge County, Virginia, 3 miles north of Lexington. Topography: Hillside, sloping 100 feet down to a level area along the river; with rocky ridges, cut by ravines, underlain by fossiliferous ordovician limestone. Edge: Bounded by North (Maury) River on north, across which is a steep and heavily wooded cliff; by a county road on south and southeast, across which is open pasture; and on west by pasture and cornfield. The grassy openings made further edges. Survey: frequent trips for several years; part of area censused in 1942 and 1943. Coverage: Partial, March 27, April 1, 10, 22, May 1, 8, 11, 16; full, May 23, 29, Jun 5, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 26, July 1, 6, and daily while living in the cabin from July 18 to August 6. Hours totaled at least 70. Weather: Extremely dry. Census: Bobwhite, 2P; mourning dove, 1P; yellow-billed cuckoo, 2N, 2P; chimney swift, 1P; hummingbird, 2P; red-bellied woodpecker, 1Y; downy woodpecker, 3P; crested flycatcher, 3P; Phoebe, 1P; Acadian flycatcher, 2P; wood pewee, 2N, 1Y, 2P; Carolina Chickadee, 1N, 2P; tufted titmouse, 1N, 3Y; white-breasted nuthatch, 2P; Carolina wren, 3Y, 1 P; catbird, 1P; brown thrasher, 1N, 1P; southern robin, 1P; wood thrush, 1P; blue-gray gnatcatcher, 1N, 1Y, 2P; yellow-throated vireo, 1N; red-eyed vireo, 1N, 3P; black and white warbler, 1Y; worm-eating warbler, 1Y; southern parula warbler, 2Y, 1P; cerulean warbler, 1Y, 1P; prairie warbler, 1N, 1P; Maryland yellow-throat, 1P; yellow-breasted chat, 3N, 1Y, 1P; redstart, 1P; English sparrow, 1N (in steel bridge); orchard oriole, 1Y; Baltimore oriole, 1Y; cowbird, 3P; summer tanager, 1Y; cardinal, 3N, 3Y, 3P; indigo bunting, 2N, 2Y, 3P; goldfinch, 2N, 2P; chipping sparrow, 1N; field sparrow, 6N, 2Y, 2P; Total: 40 species, 106 pairs (each item above indicating a different pair). Density: 530 pairs per 100 acres. Frequent visitors: great blue heron, 1; little blue heron (2 or more in late summer); green heron, 1; wood duck, 1P and 12 young, nested just outside area and fed within it at times; turkey vulture and black vulture, several pairs of each nested in cliff across the river and occasionally fed in area; Cooper's hawk, 1; sparrow hawk, 1; screech owl, 3 (possibly nested in area); kingfisher, 1P; pileated woodpecker, 1P; flicker, 1P; crow, several pairs; English sparrow, 20; bluebird, 2P brought young in area to feed; blue grosbeak, 1M. A dozen swifts flying overhead daily. Great numbers of robins and purple grackles fed on Eleagnus berries in late summer. (Abbreviations: N-nest, Y-young; P-pair).

J. J. Murray, Lexington, Va.

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Notes From Emory & Henry College

Arrivals: Sept. 7, Black Duck, Sora, Tennessee Warbler (abundant), Nashville Warbler, Palm Warbler. Sept. 12, Cape May Warbler, (Common till mid-October). Sept. 23, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Bay breasted Warbler. Oct. 14, Vesper Sparrow (May breed here), Swamp Sparrow. Departures: Sept. 7, Prairie Warbler, Grasshopper Sparrow, Bachman's Sparrow. Sept. 12, Barn Swallow. Sept. 23, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher Sept. 30, Tree Swallow. Octo 7, Yellow-throated Warbler (subsp ?). October 14, American Egret, Blue-winged Teal, Catbird, Wood Pewee. October 24, Blue-headed Vireo. Unusual: Oct. 14, Black Vulture, flock of 60.

Henry M. Stevenson, Jr.
Biology Department
Emory, Virginia.

Blue Ridge Notes - Madison and Page Counties

- Appalachian Trail: (Vicinity of Stony Man and Hawksbill Mts.) 2700 feet. - 4049 feet, August 27, 1944. Partly cloudy; 60°- 68°. Turkey vulture, 1; black vulture, 3; red-shouldered hawk, 1; ruffed grouse, 1; Whip-poor-will, 1; hummingbird, 1; flicker, 1; hariy woodpecker, 2; downy woodpecker, 1; phoebe, 2; yellow-bellied flycatcher, 2; wood pewee, 16; blue jay, 2; crow, 1; Carolina wren, 3; Catbird, 1; brown thrasher, 2; robin, 1; wood thrush, 4; cedar waxwing, 42; yellow-throated vireo, 1; red-eyed vireo, 1; black and white warbler, 3; Tennessee warbler, 47; Nashville warbler, 1; magnolia warbler, 8; Cape May warbler, 6; Cairns's warbler, 13; Black-throated green warbler, 1; chestnut-sided warbler, 2; black-poll warbler, 8; oven-bird, 2; hooded warbler, 5; redstart, 3; goldfinch, 5; towhee, 7; Carolina junco, 48; field sparrow, 8; 38 species. (Aug. 26; Raven 2, ; Canada warbler, 3; August 28; Rose-breasted grosbeak, 1; Wilson's warbler, 2;. Aug. 29, Scarlet Tanager, 1; blackburnian warbler, 7. Some representative species of this section, such as the crested flycatcher and veery, were not found.)

The underlined birds are transients, while the Cairns's Warbler, chestnut-sided warbler, blackburnian warbler, rose-breasted grosbeak, and Carolina junco are summer residents. Some black-throated green warblers breed in the lower mountain hollows of the Blue Ridge, where hemlocks and white pines are common, but the individual seen on the census, on Stony Man, was evidently a transient. There are few conifers on Stony Man, and I have not seen or heard any of these birds near it in the early summer. Of the Tennessee Warblers seen on the census, practically all were immature birds.

Charles E. Stevens, Jr.
Charlottesville, Va.

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POISONOUS SNAKES OF THE EASTERN UNITED STATES, WITH FIRST AID GUIDE, by Harry T. Davis and C. S. Brimley, the N. C. State Museum, Raleigh, N. C., 16 pages, 4 color plates and 16 photographes, price 10 cents. The North Carolina Museum, which has always been a wide-awake institution, has now rendered a very good service, not only to its own constituency but also to the adjoining states, in the publication of this booklet. The pamphlet is admirably done and is more important than its size would indicate. Its main feature is a carefully annotated list of the poisonous snakes of the eastern United States, the coral snake, the highland (copperhead) and water (cottonmouth) moccasins, and the various rattlesnakes, with descriptions, ranges, and habits. This descriptive material is followed by a discussion of snake venom and directions for first aid. Since publication the authors point out one error, where "50 ampoules" should read "5 ampoules", on page 16, line 32. The descriptions and pictures in this book will be of interest to all students of natural history; and the first aid suggestions are of the greatest value to all of us who are much in the woods.

J. J. Murray

The Raven

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

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Recent Additions to the Virginia Avifauna

By J. J. Murray

In "A List of Virginia Birds," published in The Raven (Vol. XV, 1938, 85-93), the writer recorded in nominal form 369 species and subspecies of birds for the occurrence of which in Virginia there seemed to be adequate evidence. Since that time 15 additional forms have been recorded, the evidence for which is presented herewith. This brings our tatal list to 384.

1. White Ibis. Guara alba. Two of these birds were seen near Charlottesville, Virginia, on August 21, 1944, by Charles E. Stevnes, Jr., and on the following day by Stevens and Dr. John H. Grey. (The Raven, XV, 1944, 84). Dr. Grey tells me later that they succeeded in capturing one of the birds by throwing a fishing line across its wings. They examined it carefully before liberating it.

2. Eastern Glossy Ibis. Plegadis falcinellus falcinellus. Mr. Clayman Ewell, who is familiar with wildfowl and who was formerly assistant to the manager of the Back Bay Migratory Waterfowl Refuge, told Mrs. A. C. Reed, after seeing the skin of one of these birds in her collection, that he had seen four of them and killed one of the four on Ragged Island in Back Bay in the spring of1928, about the first week in May. (The Raven, XIv, 1943, 25.)

3. Hutchins's Goose. Branta canadensis hutchinsii. Two were seen, along with two typical Canada Geese, at Back Bay on November 25, 1943, by Mrs. Floy Barefield, and Lt. Commander Locke L. Mackenzie. (The Raven, XV, 1944, 36). The chances for comparison with the larger geese were so goodthat the record should be acceptable. The authors of the note listed the birds as Richardson's Geese; but until the Check List accepts the change of name, it seems to me best to hold to the old one.

4. Bahama Pintail. Dafila Bahamensis bahamensis. Dr. Robert Cushman Murphy reports a specimen now in the American Museum of Natural History. (The Auk, 56, 1939, 471-472). The bird, an adult of undetermined sex, was shot by Mr. Starling W. Childs on December 17, 1937, on

Back Bay at the Horn Point Gun Club, Pungo, Virginia.

5. Northern Skua. Catharacta skua. Richard H. Pough, while en-route from Miami to New York on a Clyde-Mallory steamer, saw one of thes birds harrying a Herring Gull at a point off the Virginia coast, February, 5, 1940. (The Raven XI, 1940, 16).

6. Western Willet. Catoptrophorus semipalmatus semipalmatus. Dr. Witmer Stone, in Bird Studies at Old Cape May, p. 445, mentions skins of this form from Virginia. (The Raven X, 1939, December 2). Dr. John H. Grey has since collected this form on the Virginia coast.

7. Wilson's Phalarope. Steganopus tricolor. Mrs. Colgate W. Darden, Jr., with Mrs. A. C. Reed and Mrs. Floy Barefield, took motion pictures of a Wilson's Phalarope at Back Bay on September 17, 1944. (The Raven, XIV, 1943, 24). Ludlow Griscom confirmed the identification from a section of the film which I showed him.

8. Rock Dove. Columba livia. This pigeon, heretofore inadvertently omitted from our list, is wild and common throughout the State.

9. Burrowing Owl. Speotyto cunicularia subsp. William Duncan Strong, of Berkeley, California, published in The Condor (Vol. 24, 1922, 29), the record of a bird which was captured on a vessel just outside Hampton Roads on October 22, 1918, He handled the bird and positively identified it as to species but could not make a subspecific determination. This record was discussed in (The Raven X, 1939, April 2.)

10. Southern Flicker. Colaptes auratus auratus. Dr. John H. Grey and the writer collected a male at Ocean View, just outside the Norfolk city limits, on May 20, 1940, which was identified by Dr. Alexander Wetmore as the southern subspecies. (The Auk, 48, 1941, 109).

11. American Magpie. Pica pica hudsonia. One of these birds, caught in a steel trap near Ballsbille, Powhatan County, was brought to the offices of the Virginia commissions of Game and Inland Fisheries on May 1, 1940. (The Raven, XI, 1940, 44).

12. Eastern Evening Grosbeak, Hesperiphona vespertina vespertina. Two friends of Dr. William B. McIlwaine, Jr., described to him one of these birds which they had seen at Alexandria in 1940, about the last week in March. (The Raven, XI, 1940, 34). A flock of two males and four females was seen at Lexington by the writer on February 28, and April 9, 1944, and by Col. Robert P. Carroll and others at various times between these dates. (The Raven, XV, 1944, 49; The Auk, 61, 1944, 654).

13. Acadian Sharp-tailed Sparrow. Ammospiza caudacuta subvirgata. Dr. John H. Grey collected a sparrow at Norfolk on May 22, 1944, which was identified by Dr. Alexander Wetmore as this form; and which is thus an addition to our list.

14. James Bay Sharp-tailed sparrow. Ammospiza caudacuta altera. Dr. Alexander Wetmore lists one Virginia specimen of this race (The Auk, 61, 1944, 132-133); and Dr. John H. Grew collected a specimen at Norfolk on May 22, 1944., the same day as the Acadian Sharp-tailed sparrow specimen above, which was identified by Dr. Wetmore as this form.

15. Gambel's Sprrow. Zonotrichia leucophrys gambeli. Charles O. Handley, Jr., trapped one at Blacksburg, November 16, 1940; and the writer saw one in bright plumage near Lexington, January 5, 1942, (The Raven, XII, 1941, 4; The Auk, 59, 1942, 579).

(Three specimens of the Carolina Wren taken by John B. Lewis in Brunswick County and one taken in Amelia County have been identified by Dr. John W. Aldrich as the newly-described Southern Carolina Wren. (The Raven, XIII, 1942, 16). If this form is accepted in the Check List, it will thus be added to our Virginia list.)

(Itseems safter to wait for the collection of a specimen before adding the Arctic Tern to the State List.)

Lexington, Virginia.

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