



# The Raven

BULLETIN OF THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY

J. J. MURRAY, EDITOR  
LEXINGTON, VA.

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VOL. XXII

January-February, 1951

Nos. 1 & 2

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## CONTENTS

	Page
Officers of the V. S. O. ....	2
1951 Annual Meeting .....	2
Christmas Counts - 1950 - Virginia .....	2
Back Bay	Chatham
Yorktown	Shenandoah National Park
Richmond	Harrisonburg
Fort Belvoir	Lexington
Charlottesville	Blacksburg
Warren	Abingdon
Lynchburg	Mt. Rogers
Spring Season - 1950 - Virginia	
By F.R. Scott .....	10

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## 1951 ANNUAL MEETING

The 1951 Annual Meeting of the V.S.O. will be held at Danville, Virginia, on Friday and Saturday, April 27 and 28.

Meetings and dinner Friday will be held at the First Presbyterian Church, with tea at the Nature Museum.

Suggestions for rooms, all within walking distance of the Church:

Hotel Danville, \$2.50 - \$4.50.  
Nelson Tourist Home, 130 W. Main, \$1.50 - \$2.00.  
Grogans Tourist Home, 235 W. Main, \$1.50 - \$2.00.

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## CHRISTMAS COUNTS

Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Va. (Refuge area including Long Island, ocean beach from Sandbridge to North Carolina line, Knott's Island (the Va. part), Sigma, Pungo, Pleasant Ridge, North Landing River, ferry; open farmland 10%, pine woodland 15%, deciduous woodland 22%, ocean beach 10%, marshes and inland bay 43%). -- Dec. 30; 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Overcast, intermittent rain in morning, becoming rather heavy in afternoon; temp. 35° to 44°; wind N, veering to NE, 3-10 m.p.h.; ground bare; water open. Twelve observers in 2 to 4 parties. Total party-hours, 26 (18 on foot, 2 by car, 2 by truck on beach, 4 by motorboat); total party-miles, 117 (16 on foot, 75 by car, 20 by truck, 6 by boat). Common loon, 9; Red-throated Loon, 1; Horned Grebe, 31; Pied-billed Grebe, 2; Cinnamon Teal, 8; Double-crested Cormorant, 14; Great Blue Heron, 5; Black-crowned Night Heron, 1; American Bittern, 1; Whistling Swan, 751 (650 est., 101); Canada Goose, 3966 (3950 est., 16); Snow Goose, 5380 (est.); Blue Goose, 8; Mallard, 6; Black Duck, 112; American Widgeon, 40,000 (est.); Pintail, 356 (260 est., 96); Green-winged Teal, 3; Redhead, 50 (est.); Ring-necked Duck, 6450 (est.); Canvas-back, 9215 (9170 est., 45); Scaup (sp.),



1100 (est.); American Golden-eye, 3; Buffle-head, 13; Old-squaw, 3; White-winged Scoter, 15; Surf Scoter, 11; Ruddy Duck, 35; Hooded Merganser, 5; Red-breasted Merganser, 23; Black Vulture, 8; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 2; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Bald Eagle, 8; Marsh Hawk, 12; Peregrine Falcon, 1; Pigeon Hawk, 1 (R.J.B.); Sparrow Hawk, 12; Bob-white, 1; King Rail, 3; Virginia Rail, 1; American Coot, 4600 (est.); Killdeer, 3; Black-bellied Plover, 2; Wilson's Snipe, 4; Sanderling, 6; Great Black-backed Gull, 12; Herring Gull, 12; Ring-billed Gull, 195; Bonaparte's Gull, 41; Mourning Dove, 1; Short-eared Owl, 1; Belted Kingfisher, 2; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 16; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 8; Eastern Phoebe, 1; Horned Lark (Northern), 35; Tree Swallow, 3; American Crow, 40; Fish Crow, 13; Carolina Chickadee, 18; Tufted Titmouse, 2; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 12; Brown Creeper, 3; House Wren, 10; Winter Wren, 4; Carolina Wren, 45; Long-billed Marsh Wren, 7; Short-billed Marsh Wren, 19; Mockingbird, 11; Catbird, 30; Brown Thrasher, 2; American Robin, 35; Hermit Thrush, 8; Eastern Bluebird, 24; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 9; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 8; Water Pipit, 24; Common Starling, 82; Myrtle Warbler, 253; Common Yellowthroat, 12; House Sparrow, 60; Eastern Meadowlark, 24; Red-winged Blackbird, 141; Rusty Blackbird, 43; Purple Grackle, 4; Cardinal, 53; American Goldfinch, 9; Eastern Towhee, 25; Savannah Sparrow, 138; Slate-colored Junco, 5; American Tree Sparrow, 4 (C.E.S.); Field Sparrow, 27; White-throated Sparrow, 181; Fox Sparrow, 15; Swamp Sparrow, 130; Song Sparrow, 160; Total, 100 species; about 74,267 individuals. -- Mr. and Mrs. R.J. Beasley, R.N. Bowman, R.P. Carroll, J.H. Grey, K.R. Lawless, S. Mitchell, R.O. Paxton, J.E. Perkins, W.F. Rountrey, F.R. Scott, C.E. Stevens.

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Yorktown, Va. (York River from Felgaters Creek to Yorktown, Colonial Parkway, Seaford, Harwood Mills Reservoir, Newport News Reservoir, Denbigh; open farmland 15%, pine woodland 25%, deciduous woodland 20%, marshes and river shores 40%). -- Dec. 29; 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Overcast, steady rain in morning, becoming intermittent in afternoon; temp. 32° to 40°; wind NE, 2-10 m.p.h.; ground bare; water open. Four observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours, 18 (16 on foot, 2 by car); total party-miles, 88 (8 on foot, 80 by car). Common Loon, 5; Horned Grebe, 86; Pied-billed Grebe, 19; Double-crested Cormorant, 1; Great Blue Heron, 14; Green Heron, 1 (C.E.S.); Gadwall, 47; American Widgeon, 87; Pintail, 8; Redhead, 1; Ring-necked Duck, 275; Canvas-back, 88; Scaup (sp.), 124; American Golden-eye, 328; Buffle-head, 135; White-winged Scoter, 60 (est.); Surf Scoter, 100 (est.); Ruddy Duck, 1264; Hooded Merganser, 110; American Merganser, 121; Red-breasted Merganser, 25; Turkey Vulture, 40; Black Vulture, 23; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Red-shouldered Hawk, 2; Bald Eagle 7; Marsh Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 6; Bob-white, 5; King Rail, 1; Clapper Rail, 1; American Coot, 3; Piping Plover, 1 (C.E.S., J.H.G.); Killdeer, 29; Black-bellied Plover, 3; Wilson's Snipe, 1; Greater Yellow-legs, 1; Red-backed Sandpiper, 37; Herring Gull, 16; Ring-billed Gull, 231; Laughing Gull, 5; Mourning Dove, 46; Belted Kingfisher, 10; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 26; Pileated Woodpecker, 6; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 7; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 3; Hairy Woodpecker 2; Downy Woodpecker, 9; Eastern Phoebe, 3; Tree Swallow, 18; Blue Jay, 3; American

Crow, 84; Fish Crow, 1; Carolina Chickadee, 43; Tufted Titmouse, 32; White-breasted Nuthatch, 7; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 5; Brown Creeper, 2; House Wren, 6; Winter Wren, 4; Carolina Wren, 47; Short-billed Marsh Wren, 2; Mockingbird, 25; Catbird, 2; Brown Thrasher, 3; American Robin, 5; Hermit Thrush, 10; Eastern Bluebird, 20; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 13; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 3; Water Pipit, 1; Common Starling, 482 (120 est., 362); Myrtle Warbler, 609; Pine Warbler, 6; Palm Warbler (Western), 1; Common Yellowthroat, 4; House Sparrow, 55; Eastern Meadowlark, 278 (150 est., 128); Red-winged Blackbird, 1526 (1300 est., 226); Rusty Blackbird, 2; Brown-headed Cowbird, 377; Cardinal, 63; American Goldfinch, 77; Eastern Towhee, 38; Savannah Sparrow, 26; Sharp-tailed Sparrow, 2; Slate-colored Junco, 378; Field Sparrow, 129; White-throated Sparrow, 290; Fox Sparrow, 1; Swamp Sparrow, 20; Song Sparrow, 187. Total, 93 species; about 8374 individuals. -- J.H. Grey, K.R. Lawless, F.R. Scott, C.E. Stevens.

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Richmond, Va. (same area as in previous years, Richmond east and south to Curles Neck and Meadowville; open farmland 40%, pine woodland 12%, deciduous woodland 20%; residential districts 5%, marshes and river shore 10%, brushy field 13%). -- Dec. 28; 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Overcast, light sleet and freezing rain in afternoon; temp. 18° to 31°; wind N, 1-9 m.p.h.; ground bare, lakes mostly frozen. Three observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours, 20 (18 on foot, 2 by car); total party-miles, 74 (12 on foot, 62 by car). Great Blue Heron, 15; Canada Goose, 2000 (est.); Mallard, 112; Black Duck, 67; American Widgeon, 31; Pintail, 8; Wood Duck, 1; Ring-necked Duck, 19; Lesser Scaup, 5; American Golden-eye, 6; Bufflehead, 12; Ruddy Duck, 17; Hooded Merganser, 2; American Merganser, 38; Red-breasted Merganser, 16; Turkey Vulture, 21; Black Vulture, 19; Goshawk, 1 (observed both at rest and in flight at 250 yards with 20x scope; size, flight, flight pattern and light coloration noted by F.R.S.); Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Bob-white, 12; American Coot, 110; Killdeer, 14; Herring Gull, 11; Ring-billed Gull, 557; Mourning Dove, 7; Belted Kingfisher, 2; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 27; Pileated Woodpecker, 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 20; Red-headed Woodpecker, 5; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 10; Hairy Woodpecker, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 38; Eastern Phoebe, 3; Horned Lark (Prairie); 51; Blue Jay, 31; American Crow, 79; Carolina Chickadee, 77; Tufted Titmouse, 40; White-breasted Nuthatch, 15; Brown Creeper, 29; House Wren, 2 (C.E.S., K.R.L.); Winter Wren, 17; Carolina Wren, 65; Mockingbird, 26; Catbird, 1; Brown Thrasher, 2; American Robin, 30; Hermit Thrush, 32; Eastern Bluebird, 44; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 105; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 8; Cedar Waxwing, 17; Loggerhead Shrike, 1; Common Starling, 345 (250 est., 95); Myrtle Warbler, 65; House Sparrow, 48; Eastern Meadowlark, 134; Red-winged Blackbird, 41; Cardinal, 129; Purple Finch, 9; American Goldfinch, 203; Eastern Towhee, 73; Slate-colored Junco, 897; Field Sparrow, 114; White-throated Sparrow, 507; Fox Sparrow, 3; Swamp Sparrow, 46; Song Sparrow, 196; Red-shouldered Hawk, 4; Bald Eagle, 7; Marsh Hawk, 1; Sparrowhawk, 5. Total, 73 species; about 6711 individuals. -- K.R. Lawless, F.R. Scott, C.E. Stevens.

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Fort Belvoir and Pohick (Lebanon to Neabsco Creek), Va., Dec. 31; 6:50 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Ten observers in two parties. Pied-billed Grebe, 2; Great Blue Heron, 5; Mallard, 75; Black Duck, 122; Pintail, 24; Scaup Duck, 4; Buffle-head, 2; Ruddy Duck, 1; American Merganser, 101; Turkey Vulture, 13; Black Vulture, 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 2; Red-tailed Hawk, 10; Red-shouldered Hawk, 5; Bald Eagle, 7; Marsh Hawk, 4; Pigeon Hawk, 1 (observed swooping at a Marsh Hawk over an inland marsh at Ft. Belvoir by J.M. Abbot, G. Sigel and B.O. Bird); Kildeer, 18; Herring Gull, 32; Ring-billed Gull, 170; Mourning Dove, 7; Barred Owl, 2; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Flicker, 23; Pileated Woodpecker, 3; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 13; Red-headed Woodpecker, 15; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 4; Downy Woodpecker, 21; Phoebe, 2; Prairie Horned Lark, 4; Blue Jay, 140; Crow, 75; Black-capped Chickadee, 1; Carolina Chickadee, 32; Tufted Titmouse, 18; White-breasted Nuthatch, 10; Brown Creeper, 4; Winter Wren, 8; Carolina Wren, 15; Mockingbird, 18; Robin, 10; Hermit Thrush, 6; Bluebird, 14; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 25; Starling, 129; Myrtle Warbler, 141; English Sparrow, 24; Meadowlark, 92; Red-wing, 147; Rusty Blackbird, 84; Purple Grackle, 1; Cowbird, 1; Cardinal, 59; Purple Finch, 2; Goldfinch, 65; Towhee, 2; Slate-colored Junco, 262; Tree Sparrow, 71; Field Sparrow, 63; White-throated Sparrow, 93; Fox Sparrow, 2; Swamp Sparrow, 43; Song Sparrow, 62. Total, 67 species; about 2408 individuals. -- J.M. Abbott and I.R. Barnes, Compilers.

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Charlottesville, Virginia, (Henley's Lake, Whitehall, Albemarle Lake, Bellair Pond, Thraves Pond, city reservoir, Woolen Mills, 9 miles along Rivanna and South Fork Rivanna River from Burnt Mills to town; farmland 30%, lakes and ponds 25%, river-bottom 25%, deciduous woods 15%, pine woods 5%); Dec. 23; 7 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Fair; temp. 20° to 51°; wind negligible. Some of the river-bottom weed and corn fields swept bare by recent floods. Ground partially covered with 1-2-in. old snow. All ponds frozen except city reservoir. Two parties with 2 observers in a.m., 3 in p.m. Total hours, 20; total miles, 64 (40 by car, 24 afoot). Great Blue Herron, 2; Canada Goose, 6; Blue Goose, 1 (imm., present at Henley's Lake since Nov. 5 - K.L., C.E.S.); Mallard, 19; Black Duck, 72; Wood Duck, 1; Scaup Duck (sp.), 3; Turkey Vulture, 18; Black Vulture, 4; Cooper's Hawk, 2; Red-tailed Hawk, 4; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Marsh Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 2; Bob-white, 31 (2 coveys); Wilson's Snipe, 2; Mourning Dove, 17; Belted Kingfisher, 2; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 13; Pileated Woodpecker, 8; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 9; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 4; Hairy Woodpecker, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 21; Eastern Phoebe, 6; Horned Lark, 1; Blue Jay, 32; American Crow, 373; Carolina Chickadee, 57; Tufted Titmouse, 30; White-breasted Nuthatch, 4; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Brown Creeper, 8; Winter Wren, 14; Carolina Wren, 34; Mockingbird, 29; Robin, 4; Hermit Thrush, 6; Eastern Bluebird, 7; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 47; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 5; Cedar Waxwing, 13; Loggerhead Shrike, 4; Starling, 29; Myrtle Warbler, 7; House Sparrow, 15; Eastern Meadowlark, 2; Red-wing, 35; Rusty Blackbird, 1; Cardinal, 214; Purple Finch, 9; Pine Siskin, 1; American Goldfinch, 41; Eastern Towhee, 4; Slate-colored Junco, 542; American Tree Sparrow, 430; Field Sparrow, 180; White-crowned Sparrow, 13; Fox Sparrow, 7; Swamp Sparrow, 5; Song Sparrow, 247; White-throated Sparrow, 177; Total, 62 species; 2881 individuals. -- Kenneth Lawless, William F. Minor, Charles E. Stevens, Jr.

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Warren (Albemarle Co.) Va. (James River from Hatton to Goosby Island and area about Keene, Totter Creek, Scottsville, and Warren; open farmland 45%, river-bottom 35%, deciduous woods 15%; pine woods 5%). Dec. 24; 7 a.m. to 5:10 p.m. Fair in a.m., cloudy in p.m.; temp. 35° to 60°; wind S to W, 0-30 m.p.h. Much of the river-bottom weed fields cleaned up by recent floods. Two observers together in a.m., 1 observer in p.m. Total hours, 10; total miles 28 (15 by car, 13 afoot). Mallard, 5; American Golden-eye, 2; Turkey Vulture, 36; Black Vulture, 5; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Bald Eagle, 1; Marsh Hawk, 2; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 2; Red-tailed Hawk, 3; Sparrow Hawk, 3; Bob-white, 39 (3 coveys and 1 single); Killdeer, 17; Wilson's Snipe, 1; Mourning Dove, 27; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 4; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 6; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 4; Downy Woodpecker, 5; Eastern Phoebe, 1; Horned Lark, 76; Blue Jay, 24; American Crow, 156; Carolina Chickadee, 35; Tufted Titmouse, 11; White-breasted Nuthatch, 6; Brown Creeper, 5; Winter Wren, 3; Carolina Wren, 21; Mockingbird, 16; Catbird, 1; Hermit Thrush, 5; Eastern Bluebird, 15; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 19; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1; Water Pipit, 32; Cedar Waxwing, 47; Loggerhead Shrike, 3; Starling, 27; Myrtle Warbler, 34; House Sparrow, 42; Eastern Meadowlark, 82; Cardinal, 46; Purple Finch, 14; Pine Siskin, 15; American Goldfinch, 30; Eastern Towhee, 7; Slate-colored Junco, 213; American Tree Sparrow, 22; Field Sparrow, 55; White-throated Sparrow, 61; Swamp Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 44. Total, 56 species; 1337 individuals. -- William F. Minor, Charles E. Stevens, Jr.

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Lynchburg, Va. (Timber Lake, College Lake, Blackwater and Tomahawk Creeks to Grave's Mill, Tomahawk Swamp, Airport, James River around Six Mile Bridge; deciduous woods 40%; pine woods 10%, brome sedge fields, 20%, lespedeza meadow 9%, cattail swamp 1%, river bank 20%). Dec. 26; 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Clear until late p.m., then partly cloudy; temp. 23° to 58°; wind NNE to S, 7-12 m.p.h.; ground bare, lakes frozen over, streams open. Nine observers in two parties. Total party-hours, 19 (14½ on foot, 4½ by car); total party-miles, 118½ (17½ on foot, 101 by car). Canada Goose, 3; Red-breasted Merganser, 1; Turkey Vulture, 37; Black Vulture, 5; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 2; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Rough-legged Hawk, 1 (Mrs. J.W.W., Jr.); Sparrow Hawk, 1; Bob-white, 11; Killdeer, 1; Wilson's Snipe, 3; Mourning Dove, 2; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 25; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 8; Red-headed Woodpecker, 4; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 4; Hairy Woodpecker, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 25; Eastern Phoebe, 1; Horned Lark, 12; Blue Jay, 51; American Crow, 250; Carolina Chickadee, 93; Tufted Titmouse, 44; White-breasted Nuthatch, 25; Brown Creeper, 4; Winter Wren, 9; Carolina Wren, 46; Mockingbird, 21; Brown Thrasher, 1; American Robin, 51; Hermit Thrush, 14; Eastern Bluebird, 25; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 22; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 8; Cedar Waxwing, 9; Great Shrike (Northern), 1 (M.B. Tillotson); Common Starling, 42; Myrtle Warbler, 31; Pine Warbler, 2; House Sparrow, 3; Eastern Meadowlark, 8; Rusty Blackbird, 14; Cardinal, 78; Purple Finch, 17; Pine Siskin, 3; American Goldfinch, 88; Eastern Towhee, 14; Slate-colored Junco, 618; American Tree Sparrow, 108; Chipping Sparrow, 1; Field Sparrow, 184; White-throated Sparrow, 471; Fox Sparrow, 7; Swamp

Sparrow, 14; Song Sparrow, 357. Total, 59 species; 2387 individuals. -- (The larger size of the Northern Shrike was noted; also the lighter lower mandible. R.S. Freer). Bob Giles (p.m. only), Larry Farmer (p.m. only), Jane Freer, Ruskin S. Freer (compiler), Kenneth R. Lawless, Melvin A. Mitchell, Jr. M.B. Tillotson, Mr. and Mrs. James W. Wiltshire, Jr.

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Chatham, Virginia. Fields and woods northwest and north of town; open fields 40%, pine woods 30%, pine and deciduous woods 30%. Dec. 26; 12:00 M. to 5:00 P.M. Fair to partly cloudy, temperature 44° F. to 54° F.; wind west shifting to southwest, mild to still; small bodies of protected water frozen; streams open. One observer on foot. Total hours, 5; total miles, about 5. Turkey Vulture, 4; Black Vulture, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 3; Crow, 12; Carolina Chickadee, 9; Tufted Titmouse, 2; White-breasted Nuthatch, 4; Brown Creeper, 4; Winter Wren, 2; Carolina Wren, 8; Mockingbird, 1; Hermit Thrush, 1; Bluebird, 11; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 6; Starling, 13; Pine Warbler, 1; Meadowlark, 1; Cardinal, 5; American Goldfinch, 6; Towhee, 2; Junco, 63 (partly estimated); Field Sparrow, 49 (partly estimated); White-throated Sparrow, 24; Song Sparrow, 2. Total; species, 24; individuals, about 198. -- William S. James.

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Chatham, Virginia. Fields and woods northwest and west of town; open fields 15%, fields with small pines and other trees 35%, cut-over pine woods 5%, deciduous and pine woods 45%. Dec. 30; 10:45 a.m. to 4:00 P.M. Cloudy, temperature 37° F. to 40° F., still to very slight north wind; ice on small bodies of protected water, streams open. One observer on foot. Total hours, 5½; total miles, about 5. Turkey Vulture, 6; Mourning Dove, 11; Flicker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 4; Phoebe, 1; Blue Jay, 3; Crow, 4; Carolina Chickadee, 16; Tufted Titmouse, 2; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Brown Creeper, 1; Winter Wren, 1; Carolina Wren, 1; Mockingbird, 2; Hermit Thrush, 2; Bluebird, 25; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 2; Cedar Waxwing, 18; Starling, 4; Pine Warbler, 2; Cardinal, 15; American Goldfinch, 8; Towhee, 2; Junco, 93 (partly estimated); Field Sparrow, 92 (partly estimated); White-throated Sparrow, 6; Song Sparrow, 16. Total: species, 28; individuals, about 345. -- William S. James.

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Shenandoah National Park, Virginia (7½ mile radius centering on Skyland and including Park Headquarters area, Thornton Gap north to Pass Mountain shelter, U.S. Route 211 from west Park boundary to east Park boundary, Whiteoak Canyon Trail to upper falls, Skyland, Big Meadows area as far south as Milam Gap, and Rapidan Road to Camp Hoover and vicinity; a altitude 1000 to 3600 feet; deciduous woods 50%, pine woods 5%, hemlock groves 6%, mixed evergreen planting 2%, abandoned fields 37%). Dec. 27, 7:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. Clear; temperature 21° to 25°; wind NW to S, 0-10



m.p.h.; ground bare on lower slopes, up to 6 inches crusted snow on ridge crest. Three observers in 1 to 3 parties. Total party-hours, 22 $\frac{1}{2}$  (18 on foot, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  by car); total party-miles, 119 (17 on foot, 102 by car). Turkey Vulture, 26; Red-tailed Hawk, 3 (including 1 albino spending 5th consecutive winter in the Thornton Gap vicinity); Broad-winged Hawk, 1 (J.E.L.); Rough-legged Hawk, 1; Marsh Hawk, 1; Ruffed Grouse, 6; Bob-white, 22; Pileated Woodpecker, 2; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 9; Blue Jay, 6; Common Raven, 2; American Crow, 33; Carolina Chickadee, 50; Tufted Titmouse, 21; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Brown Creeper, 4; Winter Wren, 9; Carolina Wren, 4; Mockingbird, 3; Hermit Thrush, 1; Eastern Bluebird, 7; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 10; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1; Common Starling, 47; Cardinal, 14; Purple Finch, 21; American Goldfinch, 63; Slate-colored Junco, 104 (both Carolina and typical Slate-colored seen); White-throated Sparrow, 47; Song Sparrow, 4. Total, 31 species (1 additional subspecies); 526 individuals. (Seen in area during count period: Black Vulture, 15; Sparrow Hawk, 2; American Robin, 1; House Sparrow, 5.) -- Paul G. Favour, Jr. (compiler), James E. Liles, Charles E. Stevens, Jr.

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Harrisonburg, Virginia. (Waterman Wood to Tide Spring, a total distance of 12 miles including oak-hickory-cedar-pine woodlot 60%, oak-hickory woodlot 10%, a small village bordering college campus 10%, cedar-pine wasteland 10%, pasture field and fence rows 10%). Small pond in oak-hickory woodlot. Ground frozen; small pools of water covered with thick layer of ice. December 26; 8:45 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. At beginning it was moderately cloudy with cirro-stratus clouds; temperature, 30° F.; wind about 10 m.p.h. from south; noon, heavily overcast; temperature, 36° F; calm. At close, still heavily overcast; temperature 28° F; cold north wind about 5 m.p.h. Two observers working together within calling distance. Total hours, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  on foot; total miles, 8 on foot. Turkey Vulture, 64; Black Vulture, 60; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 4; Unidentified Hawks, 4; Bobwhite, 12; Mourning Dove, 6; Flicker, 3; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Red-headed Woodpecker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Horned Lark, 1; Blue Jay, 7; Crow, 74; Carolina Chickadee, 8; Tufted Titmouse, 21; White-breasted Nuthatch, 10; Winter Wren, 2; Mockingbird, 4; Hermit Thrush, 1; Bluebird, 13; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 1; Starling, 56; English Sparrow, 85; Cardinal, 14; Purple Finch, 4; Goldfinch, 4; Towhee, 1; Slate-colored Junco, 121; Tree Sparrow, 49; White-throated Sparrow, 14; Song Sparrow, 1. Total, 32 species; 646 individuals. -- Daniel B. Suter, D. Ralph. Hostetter.

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Lexington, Virginia. (Last year's area. Somewhat enlarged and more closely worked; city, 5%, open pasture 20%, oak woods 10%, cedar woods 40%, scrub 25%). Dec. 27; 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Clear, temperature 12 to 25; wind NE, varying; 5-15 m.p.h. wind; ground bare and frozen; ponds frozen, river mostly open. Thirteen observers in 3 parties. Total miles, 118 (88 by car, 30 on foot). Mallard, 1; Black Duck, 37; Turkey Vulture, 64; Black Vulture, 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 4; Bob-white, 3; Killdeer, 2; Wilson's Snipe, 4; Screech Owl, 2; Belted Kingfisher, 2;



Yellow-shafted Flicker, 9; Pileated Woodpecker, 7; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 8; Red-headed Woodpecker, 3; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 4; Hairy Woodpecker, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 9; Eastern Phoebe, 7; Horned Lark, 30; Blue Jay, 17; Common Raven, 4; American Crow, 233; Black-capped Chickadee, 2 (J.J.M.); Carolina Chickadee, 86; Tufted Titmouse, 37; White-breasted Nuthatch, 14; Brown Creeper, 6; Winter Wren, 7; Carolina Wren, 19; Mockingbird, 17; American Robin, 1; Hermit Thrush, 4; Eastern Bluebird, 50; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 36; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1; Shrike, 5; Common Starling, 406; Myrtle Warbler, 20; House Sparrow, 90; Eastern Meadowlark, 32; Rusty Blackbird, 2; Brown-headed Cowbird, 7; Cardinal, 156; Purple Finch, 3; American Goldfinch, 42; Slate-colored Junco, 437; American Tree Sparrow, 175; Field Sparrow, 110; White-throated Sparrow, 223; White-crowned Sparrow, 2; Song Sparrow, 28. Total, 52 species, 2474 individuals. -- John F. Baxter, R.P. Carroll, Gordon Echol, Jack Lackmann, Joe Magee, Robert Moses, J.J. Murray, Dickson Vardell Murray, James Murray, Jr., Robert O. Paxton, Charles Ritchey, F.M. Yellott, Joshua Womeldorf.

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Blacksburg (Montgomery Co.), Va. (V.P.I. campus and farm, town and radius of 1 mile to east and north, Brush Mt. and Tom's Creek to Whitehorse Station, New River from Goodwin's Ferry to Lover's Leap; pasture and plowed land, 20%, town and suburbs 9%, virgin white oak wood lots, 20%, mixed pine and oak woods, 24%, river and creek bottom 27%). Dec. 29; 6:45 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Overcast, clear to overcast (fog in valley from 9 a.m. to 12 a.m. cut visibility to one quarter mile; dense fog enveloped Brush Mt. from about 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.); temperature, 32° to 38°; wind none to 3 m.p.h.; ground covered with 1-2 inch freshly fallen snow and ice; all vegetation coated with ice; marshes completely frozen over. Seven observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours, 37 (34 on foot, 3 by car); total party-miles, 113 (34 on foot, 79 by car). Horned Grebe, 1; Pied-billed Grebe, 2; Mallard, 149; Black Duck, 80; Gadwall, 12; American Widgeon, 40; Pintail, 3; Green-winged Teal, 1; Wood Duck, 1; Ring-necked Duck, 6; Scaup (var.?), 2; American Golden-eye, 54; Buffle-head, 3; Hooded Merganser, 11; Turkey Vulture, 15; Cooper's Hawk, 2; Red-tailed Hawk, 3; Red-shouldered Hawk, 2; Marsh Hawk, 3; Sparrow Hawk, 13; Ruffed Grouse, 2; Bob-white, 16 (5 coveys of which 3 consisted of one bird each); American Coot, 2; Killdeer, 11; Wilson's Snipe, 4; Mourning Dove, 55; Screech Owl, 1; Barred Owl, 1; Belted Kingfisher, 3; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 19; Pileated Woodpecker, 4; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 9; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 26; Prairie-horned Lark, 149; Blue Jay, 9; American Crow, 251; Black-capped and Carolina Chickadee, 40; Tufted Titmouse, 33; White-breasted Nuthatch, 29; Brown Creeper, 7; Winter Wren, 2; Carolina Wren, 14; Mockingbird, 23; Eastern Bluebird, 21; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 19; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 2; Loggerhead Shrike, 9; Common Starling, 454; English Sparrow, 151; Eastern Meadowlark, 60; Red-winged Blackbird, 1; Cardinal, 103; Purple Finch, 1; American Goldfinch, 118; Red Crossbill, 2; Slate-colored Junco, 292; American Tree Sparrow, 238; Field Sparrow, 189; White-crowned Sparrow, 139; White-throated Sparrow, 13; Song Sparrow, 127. Total, 63 species, 3054 individuals. -- Mrs. Ellison Smyth, Martha Roane, E.W. Roane, John W. Murray, R.J. Watson, John M. Handley, C.O. Handley, Sr. (compiler).

Abingdon, Va. (City limits south-east to the South Holston River; farmland and pastures 35%, deciduous woodlands 35%, mixed pine and deciduous woodland 15%, marsh and creek bottoms 10%, white pine groves 5%). Dec. 24; 7:15 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. cloudy to clearing; temperature 37° to 46°; wind W, 5-15 m.p.h.; ground thawing but ponds frozen. One observer, Total hours 8.75; total miles, 12 (6 on foot, 6 by car). Turkey Vulture, 26; Black Vulture, 20; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 3; Marsh Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 7; Ruffed Grouse, 1; American Coot, 2; Killdeer, 1; Mourning Dove, 7; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 5; Blue Jay, 2; American Crow, 170; Carolina Chickadee, 17; Tufted Titmouse, 6; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Brown Creeper, 2; Winter Wren, 1; Carolina Wren, 6; Mockingbird, 11; American Robin, 43; Eastern Bluebird, 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 12; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 2; Shrike, 1; Common Starling, 255; Palm Warbler, 1; House Sparrow, 78; Eastern Meadowlark, 4; Red-winged Blackbird, 47; Rusty Blackbird, 1; Cardinal, 26; American Goldfinch, 26; Eastern Towhee, 1; Slate-colored Junco, 40; American Tree Sparrow, 3; Field Sparrow, 24; White-crowned Sparrow, 2; White-throated Sparrow, 6; Swamp Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 55. Total, 43 species, 922 individuals. -- Stephen M. Russell.

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Mt. Rogers, Virginia. (From Elk Garden Gap to top of mountain and Wilburn Ridge, return to origin via valleys of Cabin and Briar Creeks; elevation range: 4450' to 5719'; deciduous forest 41%, grassy fields 35%, spruce-fir forest 24%). Dec. 23; 7:55 a.m. to 5:40 p.m. Clouds on mountain in morning clearing by noon; temp. 26° to 38° to 36°; wind NW to W, 10-35 m.p.h.; depth of snow increasing from 3 inches in Elk Garden Gap to 16 inches on top; streams mostly frozen; snow and ice thawing rapidly in afternoon. Two observers working singly and together. Total party hours, 13.25; total party miles, 12.5 (by foot). Ruffed Grouse, 4; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Blue Jay, 3; Common Raven, 3; American Crow, 7; Chickadee (sp.), 3; Tufted Titmouse, 5; White-breasted Nuthatch, 5; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 3; Brown Creeper, 1; Starling (resident in Elk Garden Gap), 7; Pine Siskin, 8; Goldfinch, 4; Slate-colored Junco, 2. Total, 15 species, 57 individuals. -- Fred W. Behrend, Stephen M. Russell.

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#### SPRING SEASON - 1950 - VIRGINIA

By F.R. Scott

March was fairly normal, but a cold wave that hit most of the state near the end of the month ushered in four weeks of cool, damp weather. Warm weather again arrived April 26-27 and continued throughout most of May. Another short cool and rainy spell closed the spring season at the end of May. The migration reacted strongly to these conditions. Birds arrived on schedule through March, and a number of species were hard hit by the follow-



ing cold spell. Migrants during most of April were as much as ten days to two weeks late. The dam broke, however, on April 26, and from then until mid-May wave after wave of birds swept into the state, and abnormally large daily lists were marked up. At Charlottesville Charles E. Stevens, Kenneth Lawless and Bill Lewis found 138 species on May 4. The Washington area field trip with thirteen parties on May 13 chalked up 183 species including 36 warblers. Winter residents on the whole remained later than usual.

Pelagic Birds. A flock of 9 Common Loons was seen at Hopewell on May 7 and the last of the season at Yorktown on May 29. One Red-throated Loon was recorded at Hopewell, May 7, the third record from the Richmond area. The first Hopewell record of the Red-necked Grebe was made there on March 6 (Scott). Double-crested Cormorants were noted three times in Albemarle County, April 30, May 7 and May 13. A count of 1608 was made in the Newport News - Buckroe Beach area on April 16. Fifteen Gannets at Chincoteague Refuge on May 20 were late; a Sooty Shearwater was recorded there on the same day (R.E. Stewart, et al).

Heron. Activity around the Great Blue heronry just east of Richmond was noticed first on March 27. The American Egret has suddenly become a regular spring transient in eastern Virginia. It was recorded for the first time in spring in Albemarle County on March 29 and May 4, and at the National Airport first on April 29. It was actually fairly common on the James River throughout May from Hopewell to Curles Neck. Carpenter again reported Yellow-crowned Night Herons at Dayton (in the Valley) April 22 to April 25. The Least Bittern was recorded four times in Albemarle County from May 4 to May 30, 2 being seen on May 29.

Geese and Ducks. Curles Neck had a maximum of 5300 Canada Geese on March 13. One apparently uninjured bird was seen at the Newport News Reservoir on May 22. The last Snow Goose was observed at Curles Neck on March 13 and the last Blue Goose on March 27. In general ducks were quite numerous in the interior with large counts of many species, and a number of birds remained later than usual. Gadwalls were recorded for the first time at Danville when Royster Lyle reported 7 on April 20. Albemarle County had a few of these up until May 4. Green-winged Teal seem to be increasing at Curles Neck, but they were scarce at Charlottesville. In the Washington region a European Teal was reported at the National Airport on March 4 and April 2 (J.M. Abbott) and 1 at Aquia Creek on March 19 (E.T. McKnight). Ring-necked Ducks were quite common east of the Blue Ridge. Charlottesville reported a maximum of 65 on March 23, and Richmond had 321 on March 6. There were large flocks of Redheads in Albemarle County with 42 on March 14. Yorktown had an estimated 6100 Scaup (sp.?) on April 10, and Charlottesville recorded a maximum of 77 on April 20. Inland records for the Old Squaw were 2 to 4 at Lynchburg from mid February to April 4 (Freer), 11 in Albemarle County on April 20 (Stevens) and 1 at Hopewell on March 6 (Scott).

Birds of Prey. A Goshawk was seen in Shenandoah National Park on March 4 (McMillan). Herbert G. Deignan found an almost completely albino Buteo, probably a Red-tail Hawk, near Panorama, Shenandoah National Park on March 4. He also observed 3 Golden Eagles in the air at one time near Warrenton, Fauquier County, on the same day. There was a very late



Osprey in Albemarle County on May 29. Melvin Mitchell reported a Pigeon Hawk at Lynchburg in April. Great Horned Owls were nesting at Dyke, near Alexandria, on March 11. A migrant Long-eared Owl was seen near Luray on April 9 (Liles), and a nest of the Short-eared Owl with 4 eggs was discovered at Leesburg on April 17 (A. Nye). Saw-whet Owls were recorded in Shenandoah National Park,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  miles south of Panorama, March 4 (Deignan) and in Richmond, March 15 (Scott).

Marsh Birds. In Albemarle County a Florida Gallinule was seen on May 29 and 2 Virginia Rails on May 4, the latter a first record (both Stevens). A Coot on May 15 is the latest date for Lexington.

Shorebirds. The widespread inland migration of shorebirds last fall was virtually repeated during the spring, but on a considerably lesser scale. Sixty late Black-bellied Plovers were noted at Cobbs Island on June 25 by the Audubon Society of the District of Columbia. Other late migrants seen the same day were 20 Dowitchers, 12 Red Knots, a few Hudsonian Curlews and numbers of the smaller sandpipers and plovers. Large numbers of Wilson's Snipe were reported from Albemarle County with a maximum of 193 on March 25. An "unusually high" count of 350 Hudsonian Curlews was made at Chincoteague Refuge on May 20. Two Upland Sandpipers were reported in Albemarle County on April 2 (Mr. and Mrs. Lewis), the first definite record in 70 years. It was also noted at Dayton, April 19 to 29 (Carpenter). Liles reported one near Luray on May 22, a date suggesting a breeding bird. The Greater Yellow-legs appeared unusually common inland with 58 at Curles Neck, April 24. It was recorded as late as June 1 at Lexington and May 30 at Charlottesville. Thirty Lesser Yellow-legs at Hunting Creek, April 6, was the maximum reported from the Potomac. Stevens saw a Pectoral Sandpiper in Albemarle County on May 2. Probably the most notable shorebird inland was the White-rumped Sandpiper. Murray reported it at Lexington on four occasions May 22 to 31 with a maximum of 6 on May 26. Stevens saw one in Albemarle County on May 2. Scott observed a flock of 11 at Curles Neck on May 26. Murray also found the Least Sandpiper more common than usual, the highest daily count being 22 on May 15; he obtained the first record of the Red-backed Sandpiper for Lexington on May 29. A count of 420 Dowitchers was recorded at Chincoteague on May 20, and on the same day 2 Northern Phalaropes were observed from the Chincoteague causeway (Dr. Lawrence Kilham, R.E. Stewart, et al.), a very unusual record.

Gulls and Terns. Ring-billed Gulls were more common than usual at Danville, and individuals were reported inland at Lexington on May 3 and 20, at Luray on May 16 and at Charlottesville as late as May 29. The numbers that passed through Richmond between mid January and late May were staggering. Several individual flocks of 500 migrating birds were seen, and the maximum was 1118 on March 6. Bonaparte's Gulls were fairly common over Tidewater with a high count of 500 at Hunting Creek on the Potomac on April 13. Bailey in his Birds of Virginia mentioned the occasional wintering of the Forster's Tern in Hampton Roads, and others have also reported the bird there at that season. Yet strangely enough, a flock of 39 at Lynnhaven on April 16 is only the second spring record from the Cape Henry region. No doubt it is often mistaken for the Common Tern at this season. On May 22 three Least Tern nests with eggs were found at Seaford (Grey, Scott)

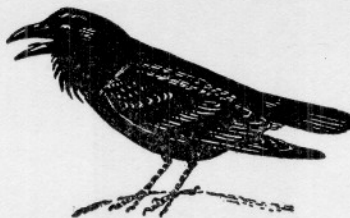
together with a number of empty hollows in the sand. A Caspian Tern was seen at Hunting Creek on April 22 (E.G. Davis, W. Todd) and another at Yorktown on April 24 (Grey).

Passerine Birds. There was a heavy migration of Kingbirds through Dayton on May 19 and Richmond on May 7, 108 being recorded on the latter date. No Phoebe have been recorded as nesting in the Cape Henry region, and so it was of decided interest that 4 were seen in Seaside State Park on April 16 (Scott). Grey, however, reported them nesting commonly at Williamsburg. A maximum of 3 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers was seen at Pine Ridge, Fairfax County, on May 13 (K.L. Trever), and one Traill's Flycatcher was reported at New Alexandria on May 30. An unusual bird for Hopewell was a Least Flycatcher on April 24. A much agitated Horned Lark was seen near Williamsburg on April 30, but no mate or young were found (Grey). Six Blue Jays at Seaside State Park on April 16 were unusual for the area. Red-breasted Nuthatches were noted as late as May 7 at Charlottesville and May 13 (2) at Pine Ridge. Royster Lyle reports finding a nest of the Brown-headed Nuthatch near Danville and several other pairs on territories. There were numbers of Winter Wrens migrating through Albemarle County in late April, an unusual phenomenon (Stevens). A Bewick's Wren banded at Pine Ridge on April 5 was still in the area on April 17 (E.D. Peacock). Grey observed the departure of Loggerhead Shrikes from Williamsburg in early April, indication no breeding in that area. A Philadelphia Vireo at Charlottesville, May 19, is the second spring record for the area (Lawless). The Washington region had many reports of the Golden-winged and Tennessee Warblers, the maximum of the former being 10 at Pine Ridge on May 13. Murray observed 2 Nashville Warblers near Lexington on May 1, quite an unusual record for spring. There was an "exceptional flight" of Cape May Warblers at Washington, and 13 were seen at Pine Ridge on May 13. Curles Neck had 3 on May 7 and Williamsburg one on May 7. A count of 32 Black-throated Green Warblers at Seashore State Park on April 16 was quite a large number for that region. A Yellow Palm Warbler at Pine Ridge, May 13, was very late. A Black-capped Warbler was seen at the same time.

Three Baltimore Orioles at Curles Neck on May 7 are the first spring record in the Richmond area for 42 years. Murray reported 2 male Blue Grosbeaks singing throughout May near Lexington. A female Evening Grosbeak was recorded in Lynchburg March 15 to 23 (Preer), and 7 were noted at Herndon, Fairfax County, on March 5. At Lexington they were first seen (2) on March 2 (Carroll), and gradually increasing in numbers they reached a peak count of 30 (3 males and 27 females - Murray) on April 15. The last observation was on April 22. A small flock was also present in Blacksburg during this period. The only Dickcissel record comes from Bedford County where one was found on May 18 and 22 (Shipley). Stevens saw a singing Lark Sparrow at Whitehall, Albemarle County, on April 27. Abbott reported 2 Lincoln's Sparrows at Fort Belvoir on May 17. A surprising number of White-crowned Sparrows were seen throughout the state. Murray had them at Lexington on April 15 and 17, and Scott recorded one near Richmond on May 7. A wintering flock remained at Sweet Briar until May 5 (Miss Prior), and 6 were seen in Campbell County on April 29 (Shipley). In Albemarle County a Pines-woods Sparrow was seen on May 4 (Stevens) and a Swamp Sparrow on the amazing date of May 27.

-- Ann Arbor, Michigan





# The Raven

BULLETIN OF THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY

J. J. MURRAY, EDITOR  
LEXINGTON, VA.

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Vol. XXII

March-April

Nos. 3 & 4

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## CONTENTS

	Page
King Rail Nesting in Roanoke County By A.O. English.....	15
Winter Bird Population Studies By Charles E. Stevens, Jr. ....	15
Notes and News .....	17
"Where Birds Live" - A Review .....	18
Members of the Virginia Society of Ornithology .....	18



KING RAIL NESTING IN ROANOKE COUNTY  
by A.O. English

On May 14, 1950, I flushed three King Rails (*Rallus Elegans*) in the marsh at Murray's Pond. The birds probably arrived with other marsh birds, including the Virginia Rail, the week of May 6, as I checked the pond and marsh on April 30th and again on May 6. On May 21, the three birds were again flushed. Two birds were found on May 28 and one on June 10. After finding the birds on May 28, I suspected they were nesting and made a close search for a nest on several trips, but without success. On July 2nd, I was in the marsh shortly after daybreak and was covering an area the second time when a brooding bird flushed immediately in front of me, uttering a series of harsh "chucks". The young chicks with necks outstretched and calling a rather loud succession of "peeps" disappeared quickly in the grass. I was on my knees examining one of the chicks which I had caught when the parent bird suddenly moved in close and threatened an attack. She finally danced away for about fifteen feet and began squealing in a manner that sounded like a young pig being captured. I was so amazed at her antics and the squealing that I momentarily released my hold on the young chick, which slipped from my hand and disappeared almost instantly. I have examined the young of the Clapper Rail on several occasions and in comparison would judge the chick of the King Rail to be about three days old.

The marsh at Murray's Pond is not a large one and, on account of the grazing of cattle, does not lend itself to nesting of birds although the Least Bittern nested there in 1946 and again in 1948. The nesting of the King Rail is unusual and so far I have been unable to find any other inland nesting record for this species.

- Roanoke, Virginia

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WINTER BIRD POPULATION STUDIES  
by Charles E. Stevens, Jr.

Virginia Pine - Shortleaf Pine Forest. SIZE: 45 acres. LOCATION: 1 mile south of Proffit, Albemarle County. DESCRIPTION OF AREA: An upland pine stand described in Raven, May-June, 1948, and March-April, 1949. CLIMATE: January, 1951, was somewhat warmer and drier than usual with a daily mean temperature of 38.7° (extremes, 13° to 71°) and a total precipitation of 1.64 in. (all rain). CENSUS DATES: January 10, 15, 17, 22, 27, 29. Total, 6 trips. Hours per trip averaged 1½ (time of trips varied from 6:35 a.m. to 4 p.m.). CENSUS: Average number of birds seen per 100 acres of habitat (with average number of individuals in area per trip in parentheses) - Golden-crowned Kinglet, 42 (18.8); Carolina Chickadee, 13 (5.8); Brown Creeper, 6 (2.7); Carolina Wren, 1 (.7); Myrtle Warbler, 1 (.7); Downy Woodpecker, 1 (.5); Tufted Titmouse, 1 (.3); Cardinal, 1 (.3); Slate-colored Junco, 1 (.3); Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1 (.2); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1 (.2); Winter Wren, 1 (.2); Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1 (.2);

Purple Finch,  $\nearrow$  (.2). TOTAL: Average of 69 birds per 100 acres. The following birds were recorded flying over the area but not using it. Horned Lark, 4; American Crow, 75; Fish Crow, 1; Robin, 1; Starling, 18; American Goldfinch, 4. REMARKS: Blue Jay feathers in the woods and large cuttings on several dead trees indicated that the Blue Jay and Pileated Woodpecker visited the area. A Pileated was heard just outside of the area on several trips. Two pre-dawn trips were made but no owls were heard. Two Cardinals were found on one pre-dawn visit which roosted in the area but which moved out shortly after sun-up to a brushy creek. They apparently did not roost on the tract every night as they were not found on a subsequent early trip. The Woodpecker and Tufted Titmouse populations have fallen off steadily since 1948. The Golden-crowned Kinglet, besides being the commonest species, was the most stable component of the total bird population, with its numbers ranging from 15 to 24 on the different trips. The other species appeared dependent upon adjoining areas as a part of their winter territory to a greater extent than the Kinglet. Thus the numbers of Brown Creepers ranged from 0 to 6 on individual trips. The only species seen on all six trips were the Golden-crown Kinglet and the Carolina Chickadee.

Upland Abandoned Field. SIZE: 31 acres. LOCATION: 1 mile west of Charlottesville. DESCRIPTION OF AREA: A roughly rectangular tract of broomsedge (Andropogon virginicus) field crossed by a thin sapling hedgerow and located on rolling ground. Broomsedge and small unidentified grasses are the dominant herbs, with asters (Aster spp.), goldenrods (Solidago spp.), dewberry (Rubus villosus), blackberry (Rubus sp.), ox-eye daisy (Chrysanthemum leucanthemum), Queen Anne's lace (Daucus carota), milkweed (Asclepias sp.), and chickory (Cichorium intybus) occurring less abundantly. Blackberry achieves such density in some parts of the area that it forms patches. The tract is sparsely scattered with red cedar (Juniperus virginiana) seedlings and sumac (Rhus sp.). A thin straight hedgerow crosses the area lengthwise and consists of sassafras (Sassafras albidum), persimmon (Diospyros virginiana), tulip poplar (Liriodendron tulipifera), common hackberry (Celtis occidentalis), and black cherry (Prunus serotina) saplings with a light honeysuckle (Lonicera japonica) and green brier (Smilax rotundifolia) tangle at their base. In the SE corner of the tract is a group of several honeylocusts (Gleditsia triacanthos) and persimmons with blackberries, honeysuckle, and tick trefoils (Desmodium spp.) underneath. Near the south end of the area are 3 tiny islands (6' by 6') of sassafras and persimmon saplings which have come up where rocks were piled and rock outcrops occur. There are also several persimmon trees, about 25' in height occurring singly in the tract. The over-all effect is of a broomsedge field with hedgerow modifications. This type of abandoned field is common and is fairly characteristic of the central part of piedmont Virginia where a pure broomsedge field, that is a field without the interruptions of clumps of brush or hedgerows, of more than 15 acres is difficult to find. Immediately bounding the area, which is located in a suburban home development, is a gravel road, beyond which are more broomsedge fields, some with shrubby creek borders. CLIMATE: Same as the above census. CENSUS DATES: January 15, 17, 19, 22, 27, 29. Total, 6 trips. Time per trip averaged 50 minutes. CENSUS: Average number of birds seen per 100 acres of habitat (with average number of individuals in area per trip in parentheses): American Tree Sparrow, 45 (14); Field Sparrow, 25 (7.7); Bob-white, 13 (4); Slate-colored Junco, 9 (2.7); Cardinal, 8 (2.3); Song Sparrow, 7 (2.2); Turkey Vulture, 6 (2); Eastern Meadowlark, 5 (1.5); Mockingbird, 4 (1.3); American Goldfinch, 3 (.3); Red-tailed Hawk, 2 (.7); Eastern Bluebird, 2 (.7); Downy Woodpecker, 2 (.5); Loggerhead Shrike, 2 (.5); Carolina Wren,  $\nearrow$  (.3); Ruby-crowned Kinglet,  $\nearrow$  (.3); Yellow-shafted Flicker,  $\nearrow$  (.2); Carolina Chick-



adee, / (.2); White-breasted Nuthatch, / (.2); Myrtle Warbler, / (.2).  
TOTAL: Average of 136 birds per 100 acres. Birds seen passing over area but not using it: Yellow-shafted Flicker, 2; American Crow, 24; Fish Crow, 1; Robin, 34; Purple Finch, 1; American Goldfinch, 2. REMARKS: No birds were restricted to the tract and many were seen entering or leaving the area while it was being censused. There was much more movement of birds through this area than through the Virginia-Shortleaf Pine tract. The most stable species was the Song Sparrow which always occurred in the same location. Deciduous woods, apple orchards, brushy fields, broomsedge fields, and cultivated fields located  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 mile from the area influenced its avifauna to such an extent that the census is a rough sampling of the birds of these types. Most birds were found along or near the hedgerow or the 3 small sapling clumps while the only species, other than raptorial birds, found in the open broomsedge were the Meadowlark and to some extent the Tree Sparrow. A covey of 12 Bob-white was found twice along the hedgerow. On one trip a Shrike was seen with a small sparrow leg. The occurrence of the White-breasted Nuthatch was quite unexpected.

- Charlottesville, Virginia

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#### NOTES AND NEWS

VSO Annual Meeting - Danville, Virginia - April 27 and 28. The Danville Society of Natural History will be host to the 1951 Annual Meeting of the VSO at Danville, Virginia. Registration will take place at the Wednesday Club, 1002 Main Street, from 1:30 to 2:00 on Friday, April 27. The afternoon program will follow, with the usual Annual Dinner, and the evening program of films and addresses. The fine film of nesting ravens in the Pennsylvania mountains is promised for the evening, with an interesting film of Barro Colorado Island, Panama. We also hope to have an address on one of his Panama field trips by Dr. Alexander Wetmore, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution. Inquiries should be addressed to Royster Lyle, Jr., Mt. View Avenue, Danville, Virginia.

Audubon Centennial Stamps. Commemorating the centenary of the death of John James Audubon the National Audubon Society has issued a beautiful set of twenty-four Audubon Centennial Stamps,  $2\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{2}$  inches in size, reproducing some of Audubon's most colorful paintings of birds - Flamingo, Roseate Spoonbill, Summer Tanager, Glossy Ibis, Ruffed Grouse, etc. - and one of his self portraits. They are designed for collectors and also for use in decorating letters and packages "in order that Audubon paintings will receive during the Centennial Year the public attention which they merit". The stamps may be secured at two sets for \$1.00 from the National Audubon Society, 1000 Fifth Avenue, New York 28. The proceeds will go to the conservation work of the Society.

Birdlife of Virginia. Under the editorship of Mr. J.J. Shomon, Chief of the Education Division of the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, the Commission is publishing a large booklet on Virginia birds.

With a beautiful color cover from a painting of Cardinals by Walter Weber and many fine photographs, it will be an attractive book. It is planned for release some time this summer. The book will be distributed among the schools of the State and will be available at a nominal price. In 1948 the Commission published an interesting booklet, Game Birds, Mammals, Fish of Virginia, which may be obtained from the Richmond office.

Bird Study Course at George Washington University. A course in bird study, taught by Roger Tory Peterson, was begun at George Washington University on March 7th and is running for eight successive Wednesday evenings. The sessions are open to the public and are held at Room 101, School of Government, 21st and G Streets, N.W., Washington. It is said that when the University authorities proposed some courses for the public, they were quite skeptical when this subject was suggested, but that as soon as it was announced as a possibility they were delighted with requests that it be given.

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#### "WHERE BIRDS LIVE" - A REVIEW

Where Birds Live, Habitats in the Middle Atlantic States, ed. by Shirley A. Briggs and Chandler S. Robbins, 58 pages, 75¢, 1951, Audubon Society of Washington, Inc., Box 202, Benjamin Franklin Station, Washington 4, D.C. One of the most active bird groups in the nation is the Audubon Society of the District of Columbia. With a wealth of professional leadership and a large group of enthusiastic and capable amateurs the Society is covering the birds of its region in a remarkable way. This useful booklet consists of articles in the field of ecology which have appeared in the Atlantic Naturalist (and its predecessor, The Wood Thrush), which has become the outstanding local journal of natural history. The booklet contains a chapter on each of the major types of habitat in the Middle Atlantic region. It will be interesting and helpful to all bird students.

- J.J. Murray

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# The Raven

BULLETIN OF THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY

J. J. MURRAY, EDITOR  
LEXINGTON, VA.

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VOL. XXII

MAY - JUNE, 1951

NOS. 5 & 6

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## CONTENTS

	Page
Eighteenth Annual Meeting	
By Florence S. Hague .....	25
Business Sessions of the Annual Meeting	
By President James Eike .....	26
Danville Field Trip Gets Wide Publicity	
By J.J. Murray .....	27
Bird's Nest Built of Wire	
By Robert J. Watson .....	28
Nesting Season - 1950 - and Fall Season	
By F.R. Scott .....	29
Field Trip for August 11 .....	32
An Invitation to Membership	
By Mrs. Colgate W. Darden .....	33
A Letter from Mrs. Floy Barefield .....	33
Treasurer's Report	
By W. Edwin Miller .....	34
Bald Eagle Bill .....	36
Things are Looking Up for the Condor .....	36



EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING  
DANVILLE - APRIL 27 and 28, 1951

By Florence S. Hague

The Annual Meeting of the V.S. O. was held on April 27 and 28 in Danville. It was a new and pleasant experience to have a local group, the Danville Society of Natural History, as hosts and planners for the meeting.

Mr. James Eike, President of the V.S.O., opened the Meeting at two o'clock at the Wednesday Club. After a welcome from Dr. Chase, President of the Danville Society of Natural History, the Chatham Hall Bird Club was introduced. The presence of Dr. Harry Oberholser, who has not attended one of our meetings for some years was noted.

Miss Martha Clark spoke briefly of the Danville Recreation Program. As director of nature recreation she has headquarters at the Nature Center, a building in the City Park. Living animal and plant exhibits as well as a collection of products of craft activities are to be found there. Nature trails in the Park and exhibits in the schools are also used to interest children.

Dr. John H. Grey has found that the Black Vulture breeds well over the State as well as the Turkey Vulture. The Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks are also state-wide in their breeding grounds, but the Red-tailed is more abundant in the western and the Red-shouldered in the eastern part of Virginia. The Sharp-shinned Hawk is found in some part of the state at all seasons of the year. Other species are found at some season along the Blue Ridge which is apparently an important migration route; only the Broad-winged and Duck Hawks nest there; Golden Eagles, Rough-legged and Pigeon Hawks occur as transients along the coast as well as along the Blue Ridge. The Bald Eagles breed in the Tidewater section and wander inland in spring and fall.

The Chatham Hall Bird Club is a thriving extra-curricular activity among the students at that School according to the report of Miss Lillian Hensley. A very active Bird Club was reported at Newport News also.

The ornithological value of the ponds which are being made on many farms was pointed out by Dr. J.J. Murray. A pond of about one acre which has been stocked with fish, has no mud flats, no bushes close to it but grass to the water's edge has added seven species to the Rockbridge County list. Among these seven are the Lesser Snow, and the Blue Goose, the Ruddy Turnstone and Sanderling.

Mrs. W.S. Norman, Jr., Vice-president of the Danville Society of Natural History, narrated some of the history of the Society and through statistics on the lectures and school visits of Mr. John Westbrook showed something of their work. Following the afternoon program, many visited the Museum of the Danville Society of Natural History and enjoyed refreshments and visiting in the adjoining garden.

Members and friends met for dinner at the Wednesday Club and then went to a nearby church auditorium for the evening program. Dr. Alexander Wetmore used slides, films and records to picture to us the jungle and the Jungle Laboratory which is located on the shore of Gatun Lake, a part of the Panama Canal. The region of the Canal is really a mountain range which connects the North and South American continents. It is an excellent place for the study of bird migration because along this narrow strip many of the birds from North America are funneled in their southward migration and likewise many northbound birds. The jungle sounds, chiefly bird calls by day but those of toads, frogs and owls by night, as recorded by Dr. Allen of the Ornithological Laboratory of Cornell University, added much to the concept of the jungle.

Announcements concerning the Saturday Field trip and narratives by Mr. Westbrook about some of his experiences with some of the 305 species of birds that have been found in the Danville area concluded the evening program.

--- Sweet Briar, Virginia

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BUSINESS SESSIONS OF THE ANNUAL MEETING  
By President James Eike

The luncheon meeting of the Executive Committee on April 27 was attended by Messrs. Eike, Murray, Miller, Grey, Perkins and Watson; Mrs. Darden; Misses Hague and Prior. The Treasurer's report showed that the membership at the close of 1950 was 244, of which 62 were Sustaining Members. Thirty-five members were delinquent and the Treasurer planned a third notice in an attempt to retain them in the Society. Seventeen members had made special contributions to the Society, which helped greatly in meeting the unusually large expenditures of 1950, which were due primarily to important special issues, purchase of files, and increases in cost of publishing The Raven. Dr. John Grey invited the Society to hold its next annual meeting in Williamsburg, and his invitation was accepted. The meeting will be held in February, 1952, with the definite date to be set later. This will be the first annual meeting of the Society in Eastern Virginia in several years, and should provide views of water fowl and some early shore birds. It was also voted that there should be a summer shore-bird field trip, to be held on August 11. Dr. Murray volunteered to work with Mr. J.J. Shomon of the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries on arrangements for the trip. It was proposed that the V.S.O. submit to the Commission a resolution for the protection of hawks and owls of Virginia, but after some discussion it was voted that the Commission be advised that the Society is in favor of removal of all bounties on hawks and owls in all counties of Virginia.

Following the delightful outdoor luncheon at the conclusion of the Saturday field trip, the President called for the report of the Nominating Committee. The Committee proposed that the present officers be re-elected, that Frederic R. Scott be elected to the 1953 class of the Executive Committee, and that Mrs. A.H. Michie, Charles E. Stevens, Jr., and Royster Lyle, Jr. be elected to the 1954 class. There were no nominations from the floor and the slate was approved.



The proposal for preparation and publication of a Virginia Check List was presented to the members present, and plans for preparation and publication were discussed. Members were invited to pay or pledge two dollars or more, for which they would be assured two copies of the Check List, and the opportunity to aid the Society in producing an important State publication. The members showed considerable interest, and sufficient funds were assured to permit negotiations for printing of the List. Mr. A.O. English of Roanoke offered to work out the business details, while Dr. J.J. Murray agreed to do the monumental work of assembling and editing the material for the ckecklist. It is hoped that there will be wide interest, not only within the state, but among ornithologists outside of the State, particularly those in the surrounding area.

--- 3708 First Road South  
Arlington, Virginia

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#### DANVILLE FIELD TRIP GETS WIDE PUBLICITY

By J.J. Murray

The mind of the public, if the purveyors of news have rightly interpreted it, is always more interested in the unusual than in the important. This was well illustrated in the wide-spread interest aroused by the crossing-up of the V.S.O. Field Trip procession and the parades of the Danville textile strikers. The V.S.O. has always received generous publicity from State papers; but this time we made the New York Times and the C.B.S. radio hook-up.

Here is the AP dispatch, as reported in the Richmond Times-Dispatch for Monday, April 30:

#### BIRD WATCHERS, PICKETS GET ALL FOWLED UP

In a long history of bird walks, the Virginia Society of Ornithology had never gotten involved in anything like its bird walk here yesterday.

Some 100 members of the society, here for their annual meeting, began their bird walk bright and early. Their course took them past strikebound Riverside Mill. Pickets, mistaking the procession for another parade of strikers, joined the caravan.

The bird watchers, and the confused pickets, stopped to study waterfowl on the Dan River. Danville police, totally befuddled by the whole performance, sent squad cars, sirens wailing, to investigate.

A parade permit was demanded during the ensuing discussion, but finally the bird watchers, the pickets and the police got the thing straightened out.

And here is the news item put on the "World News Roundup" of the Columbia Broadcasting System on a network of about 100 stations on Sunday, April 29:

"A final item concerning the Virginia Society of Ornithology in Danville where a hundred members congregated yesterday for their annual bird hunt. As they struck out past the strike-bound Riverside mill, a number of pickets fell in line, assuming a sympathy of interests. At Dan River police appeared in squad cars to inquire about a parade permit. The embarrassed pickets were separated as wheat from chaff, or, should we say, chaff from wheat, and the ornithologists finally convinced the cops they were only out to spot the tubular Red Wing and the talkative Titmouse."

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#### BIRD'S NEST BUILT OF WIRE

By Robert J. Watson

Several months ago, while engaged in pruning some bushes growing near the front porch of my home in Blacksburg, I came upon an abandoned nest located in a mock-orange bush about five feet from the ground. The nest was in a somewhat dilapidated condition, dating at least from the 1950 nesting season, but, from its appearance, was almost certainly that of a Catbird, a species which as a rule nests in this immediate vicinity each year.

What made this nest unusual was the fact that the greater part of it had been built up of bits of wire of the kind used to secure the caps of milk bottles. These wires had been used instead of twigs in the construction of the framework of the nest, which had then been lined in the usual fashion. The wires, made of some soft metal, were about nine inches long and about No. 24 wire gauge size in thickness, and had been removed by someone from the milk bottles in such a way as to leave them bent into the approximate form of a three-quarter circle of just about the right diameter for the bird's purpose. There were at least 50 of these wires remaining in the nest structure at the time I discovered it. Evidently the bird had discovered a large supply of these wires around one or more of the houses in the vicinity and had made liberal use of them for its purposes.

It is not unusual, of course, to find occasional pieces of wire employed by birds in building nests, but I have never seen a nest constructed almost entirely of wires as this was.

--- Blacksburg, Virginia



## NESTING SEASON - 1950 - VIRGINIA

By F.R. Scott

The fairly cool and damp weather of spring lasted through the summer, and precipitation for the period was generally far above normal. Charlottesville, however, was an exception and reported little rain in June and early July. The ornithological results of this cool weather were not marked except in the late shorebird migration along the coast and the somewhat later nesting of a number of species, particularly in the mountains.

Hérons. For the piedmont and mountainous parts of the state the egret flight was disappointing. Only in the Richmond-Hopewell region was any increase reported, and it was estimated that 100 American Egrets were present in this area during June. Colonel and Mrs. Gordon Hemer found a Yellow-crowned Night Heron near Lexington on June 13. Records of this bird seem to be increasing inland as well as north along the coast. An early migrating Green Heron struck a wire in downtown Richmond on July 11 and was rescued from the gutter. It was released the following day, although it appeared to be suffering from internal injuries. Irston R. Barnes made a census of the Dyke marsh on the Potomac on June 25 and counted 17 Least Bitterns, a remarkable number considering the secretive-ness of the bird.

Hawks. A Broad-winged Hawk was found near Williamsburg on June 9 (Grey) and is, I believe, the first summer record of this bird east of Richmond and Pocohontas State Park. A Bald Eagle was seen flying over Lexington on June 13. As summer records of the Marsh Hawk are quite unusual with the possible exception of the coastal marshes, it is extremely interesting to have it reported from Albemarle County where Stevens saw one on three occasions in July. Murray found a Sparrow Hawk nesting in his attic roof again at Lexington. As usual the eggs failed to hatch because of the heat.

Grouse through Shorebirds. An increase was noted in the Ruffed Grouse population in Shenandoah National Park where rangers reported four broods of young in June. Clapper Rails had a successful breeding season in the Chincoteague marshes, and Robert Stewart found 79 occupied nests in 47 acres of marsh. Because of disturbances on the Byrd Park lake in Richmond no coots nested there this year. One adult, however, did make its appearance on July 20, indicating that it had summered or nested nearby.

A Killdeer hatched its second brood near Lexington on July 4. On a trip to Cobbs Island on the week end of June 24 a group of Washington ornithologists found fewer Common Terns and Black Skimmers, more Gull-billed Terns and the usual number of Oystercatchers, Wilson's Plovers and Willets. They reported only two Royal Terns. The highlight of the trip was the large number of late transients, which included 60 Black-bellied Plovers, 20 Dowitchers, 12 Red Knots and a few Hudsonian Curlews (June 25). A number of Woodcock were seen in June in Shenandoah National Park and Berg reported an adult and two young there on June 5. At Chincoteague 6 Stilt Sandpipers were seen on August 5 (J.E. Johnson et al.), and S.M. Russell reported a Baird's Sandpiper from Southwest Virginia at Saltville.

Passarine Birds. Grey found two Horned Larks near Williamsburg on May 20 but did not confirm their nesting. While the Blue Jay is abundant at Richmond, it decreases rapidly eastward and is quite uncommon at Williamsburg and rare in the Cape Henry region. Some increase has been noted recently, however, and Grey found young on the wing at Williamsburg on June 6 and nest building June 16. Residents of the area stated that none had been observed here before. Scott found a single bird at Virginia Beach on July 3.

For the second consecutive year Winter Wrens were found in summer in Shenandoah National Park. One was discovered singing near Stony Man on June 15 (Liles) and another near Hemlock Spring on July 16 (Wetmore). A Bewick's Wren was found nesting at Park headquarters near Luray where none had been found before. Barnes counted 87 singing Long-billed Marsh Wrens at Dyke on a boat trip June 25. Two migrating Short-billed Marsh Wrens were seen at Linden, Warren County, on August 16 and 7-8 at Hatton, Albemarle County, on August 6 and 12. The White-eyed Vireo, which is uncommon around Lexington, was found in two localities near there in July by Murray. He also reported a Cerulean Warbler on June 8 at 3800 feet, a new altitude record. Liles found a Worm-eating Warbler feeding young on Pine Mountain, Shenandoah National Park, on June 9. A flock of 10 adult Cowbirds was recorded near Williamsburg on June 5.

A "bald-headed" Cardinal was seen at Richmond in June by Mrs. William Northrup who stated that it had been present around her home for four years. Scott observed that the bird appeared to be completely devoid of feathers on the head. The Blue Grosbeak is still being recorded in the Valley. Murray found a nest near Lexington on June 6 (2 eggs and 1 cowbird egg), and Robbins saw one in Warren County on August 14. The Henslow's Sparrow continues to spread in Albemarle County where Stevens found it in seven new localities this year.

--- Ann Arbor, Michigan

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#### FALL SEASON - 1950 - VIRGINIA

By F.R. Scott

The fall season was rather mild until mid November, and during the latter part of the month an early winter storm lashed the area leaving amazing quantities of snow in some parts of the mountains. Precipitation was well over normal during August and September. The severe storms and hurricanes that hit the Southeast mostly bypassed Virginia but had considerable effect on the birdlife in the Northeast.

Pelagic Birds. Murray had a Horned Grebe at Lexington on the early date of October 5, although the first at Williamsburg was October 30. Another Valley record was one at Silver Lake, Rockingham County, November 11 (Carpenter). Pelagic birds often invade the Hampton Roads area, and Grey observed a number of adult and immature Gannets at Old Point Comfort on November 6.



Hérons. The late summer heron flight was generally conceded to be disappointing in view of the records of the past few years, although apparently there were no observers on the Eastern Shore to report on the heron population there. Perhaps the most interesting heron record was a Snowy Egret in southwest Virginia at Saltville (S.M. Russell - no date). Grey reported a flight of Green Herons at Williamsburg on September 11, and an American Bittern was seen at Norfolk on November 9 (Rountrey).

Swans, Geese, Ducks. Perkins considered the waterfowl population of Back Bay to be about normal with some small increase of Whistling Swans. Inland the flight of Canada Geese seemed better than usual, and the Blue and Snow Geese were recorded in some numbers just over our border in West Virginia. In our area a group of 6 to 8 Snow Geese were noted with some Canadas at Lexington October 14 (Rev. James May), and Blue Geese apparently arrived to winter, one at Roaches Run on October 22, and another in Albemarle County November 5. Considerable interest was aroused in Washington by the appearance in Roaches Run of an eastern Asiatic Swan-geese, a Bean Goose (early October) and a Muscovy Duck. All were probably escapes from some aviary, although not from the National Zoo. Inland the duck migration might be generalized as poor in diving ducks and quite good in dabbling ducks. The American Golden-eye was reported from Norfolk as early as November 5 (Rountrey). The Ruddy Duck apparently summered again in the state, for on September 3 Scott found 8 at Dahlgren, King George County, and 1 at Port Royal, Caroline County.

Birds of Prey. Although no "Season" editors brought out the fact, there seems to have been a slight Goshawk flight to the middle Atlantic states with records from Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia and Virginia. Our bird was one over the Shenandoah National Park headquarters on October 28 (Liles), the fourth record from the Park. A Pigeon Hawk was seen at Lexington September 18 (Murray).

Rails to Terns. A Florida Gallinule was seen at Williamsburg September 11 (Scott). The inland shorebird migration was rather disappointing, especially at Charlottesville; nevertheless, several interesting records were reported, the most notable being a Wilson's Phalarope at Saltville on August 23 (Russell). The same observer also found Stilt Sandpipers there on September 3 and 7. More observers along the coast are disproving the belief that Stilt and White-rumped Sandpipers are rare there. The hurricane which passed off the Virginia coast just brought rain and wind to the eastern part of the state, although an unusual concentration of Laughing Gulls occurred at Hopewell on September 12, 124 being seen. The species ordinarily does not arrive at Hopewell until October. At the same time a flock of 167 Forster's Terns was at Hopewell (Scott), and 150 were reported from Alexandria on September 3. Black Terns were reported inland at Lexington and Dayton.

Owls to Passerine Birds. A Snowy Owl, perhaps a stray from the "echo flight" that hit the northern states, was found at Back Bay on November 19 (fide Perkins). A Saw-whet Owl was found dead near Alexandria on November 27. The unusually mild weather of the fall was responsible for many reports of "late" migrants, some of which are noted below. Late Black-billed Cuckoos were reported from Hawksbill Gap, Shenandoah Park, on

October 15 (Liles) and Albemarle County October 20 (Stevens). Murray had a Hummingbird at Lexington on September 28, his latest date for the area. A Traill's Flycatcher was found in Alexandria on September 17 (Abbott). William G. Lord picked up 165 dead birds on the morning of September 18 at Doughton Park, near Roanoke, that had been killed the night before in a dense fog. Among the 23 species represented were a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and 9 Northern Water-thrushes. Stevens found late Rough-winged Swallows in Albemarle County on September 11 and October 5. Those who realize the rarity of the Blue Jay on the Virginia coast will wonder what happened to the thousands of Blue Jays reported in mid October at Cape May. Both W.R. DeGarmo and C.S. Robbins agree that the Raven is increasing in numbers along the Allegheny ridges of Maryland and West Virginia, and the same appears true of western Virginia, but more particularly in the Blue Ridge. S.S. Baker found a flock of 25 at Big Meadows on September 15. The absence of Red-breasted Nuthatches was emphasized by a number of observers. Grey reports the Loggerhead Shrike as not breeding as far east as Williamsburg, the first bird being seen on September 12. Liles saw a Philadelphia Vireo at the Shenandoah Park headquarters on September 20. The second record of the Prothonotary Warbler in Albemarle County was made on August 19 (Stevens). Russell reports a large migration of Tennessee Warblers on Mt. Rogers, where 267 were counted on September 24. Stevens found a late Yellow-breasted Chat in Albemarle County on October 15 and another on October 16. Extremely late Redstarts were noted at Lexington on November 13 (Murray) and at Charlottesville on November 15 (Stevens). Carpenter found 5 Red Crossbills at Deerfield on November 20, the forerunners, let us hope, of a new southern invasion. Stevens found 2 Lincoln's Sparrows in different places in Albemarle County on October 19, and Wetmore reports a White-crowned Sparrow in Shenandoah Park on October 1. Wetmore also found 2 Snow Buntings on December 2 and a Lapland Longspur on October 29, both at Big Meadows.

--- Richmond, Virginia

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#### FIELD TRIP - AUGUST 11 - TO THE EASTERN SHORE

At the Danville Meeting a summer field trip to the Eastern Shore was planned. Arrangements have now been made. By the kindness of the Honorable I.T. Quinn, Executive Director of the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, one of the Commission boats (two boats, if it is found necessary) will meet the V.S.O. group at Oyster around 9 o'clock on Saturday morning, August 11, and take them out to one of the island beaches.

There are two ways to reach the Eastern Shore. Those who wish can take the trip from Old Point Comfort to Cape Charles, leaving Old Point at 8:40 P.M. and reaching Cape Charles at 10:35, spending the night either on the Ferry or at the hotel at Cape Charles. Staterooms on the Ferry may be occupied until 6:30 A.M. Cost: auto, \$4.00; passenger fare without auto, \$1.00; stateroom, \$4.00 single, \$1.00 extra for each additional passenger.



The return trip can be made from Cape Charles in the same way at 10:45 P.M. Reservations should be made in advance with The Brooke Avenue Ferry, Pennsylvania Railroad, Norfolk, Virginia.

The Little Creek-kiptopeake Ferry is somewhat simpler and less expensive, particularly if cars be left on the Norfolk side. Cost: auto, \$3.00; passengers without auto, 50¢. Morning ferries leave Little Creek at 3:00, 4:15; 5:30; and 6:30, arriving at Kiptopeake  $1\frac{1}{4}$  hours later. It must be noted that these morning ferries are often so crowded that passengers with cars may have to wait over one or even two ferries. There is always plenty of room for passengers without cars. Dr. Grey strongly recommends that cars be left on the Norfolk side. He is arranging for a truck to meet the group at Kiptopeake, take them to Oyster and return them to Kiptopeake in the evening, at a cost of about \$1.00 each. Return ferries leave Kiptopeake at 4:30; 5:30; 6:45; and 8:00 P.M. and on until midnight.

For any further information write Dr. John H. Grey, Williamsburg, Virginia

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AN INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP  
By Mrs. Colgate W. Darden, Jr.

There are always people interested in bird study. Many around us have never heard of the Virginia Society of Ornithology nor do they know that they would be welcomed even though their knowledge be sketchy. Our field trips give an excellent opportunity to see birds sought out by the experts. There is fellowship with people of a common interest and frequently a chance to collect specimens for botany classes, besides of course the Raven. Send in the names of prospectives to me on the yellow slips and I shall invite them to join.

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A LETTER FROM MRS. FLOY BAREFIELD

Memphis 3, Tennessee  
May 10, 1951

Dear Mr. Miller:

As usual, I am late getting my dues to you. I promise next year to be on time.

I received the notice of the Annual meeting in Danville - how I wish it were possible for me to attend. But hope you all have a successful meeting and have good birding. Our Tennessee club meets this coming Friday at Standing Stone State Park - somewhere between Nashville and Knoxville for

our annual meeting. We are leaving here Friday night (about 25 of the Memphis Chapter) and hope to have a nice weekend in the mountains. Its always a treat to us "flat country" people to get a trip to the mountains.

We held our Spring field day last Sunday - got about 126 species - but missed a number of warblers because of the bad weather in the morning. Had about 65 on the trip. High water in all our shore bird places tho.

I am hoping to have a wonderful vacation this year - am going to Mexico with two ornithologist friends and my little boy - We hope to do quite a bit of birding. Going as far as Veracruz. They have made three trips there studying the birds and I hope with their assistance I will be able to identify a few of them. From the pictures, they must be gorgeous and quite a thrill to see. We are leaving June 1st - will be there during rainy season but we are hoping it will not be too bad. Will tell you more about that later. I hope to get some good pictures while there.

Hoping you and your family have a nice summer - give my regards to the folks - Almond English and wife, Mrs. Ball and of course Connie Darden and Mrs. Reed, Dr. Grey and Dr. Murray. But I doubt if this letter reaches you before your meeting.

Best regards,

Floy Barefield

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#### TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. President & Members of the V.S.O.:

I wish to hand you herewith my annual report as Treasurer of the Society for the year ending December 31, 1950, from which you will observe that our expenditures were quite heavy during the year, starting with a balance of \$131.95 on January 1, 1950 and ending with a balance of \$15.46 on December 31, 1950. However, I am glad to report that the balance on our books at this time is substantially more than this.

Our membership at the close of 1950 was 244 members as compared with 221 members at the close of 1949. In sending out the memorandum bills for the dues the first part of January, 1951, there was contained in it a suggestion made at our last annual meeting, that if those who could afford to do so would take out Sustaining Membership it would be helpful to the Society. This resulted in 30 members being added to this class of membership, making a total of 62 in the Sustaining Membership in all at this time.



The Treasury also has been helped by special contributions made by the following members:

Mr. L. Porter Seay, Jr.	Mr. Harold H. Bailey
Mr. O.C. Hemp	Mr. Sam Roller
Captain R.H. Blair	Dr. Florence S. Hague
Mrs. C.W. Darden, Jr.	Mr. Norman Pope
Mr. Fred R. Scott	Mrs. A.C. Reed
Mr. William Lord	Dr. Harry G.M. Jopson
Mr. W. Edwin Miller	Miss Ruth Bredekamp
Mr. James W. Eike	Mrs. Herbert D. Thompson
Mrs. Linden Stuart	Mrs. James W. Wiltshire, Jr.

There are 35 members who have not as yet paid their 1951 dues although they received their second notice on March 19, and in accordance with the resolution passed at the last annual meeting, we should discontinue sending them "The Raven" unless they renew their membership. This list has already been sent to the Secretary's Office at Sweet Briar, Virginia.

#### RECEIPTS

Balance on hand January 1, 1950	\$131.95
Received for Membership Dues	283.00
Received for back issues of "The Raven"	5.00
Received refund Annual Meeting	1.50
Received special contributions	140.50
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Total	\$561.95

#### DISBURSEMENTS

Cost of issuing "The Raven"	\$290.03
Postage for mailing "The Raven"	71.93
Postage for mailing memorandum for dues and correspondence	10.00
Post cards for notices of field trips	6.91
Stationary and Supplies	6.50
President's expense on attendance National Audubon Meeting	29.96
Stenographic help	10.00
Purchase of six transfer files	46.02
Typewriter Repair	16.50
Unused Reservations for Dinner & Lunch at Annual Meeting	23.00
Speakers travelling expense, Annual Meeting	20.20
Miscellaneous expense, Annual Meeting	5.44
National Audubon Society, New York, Annual dues to October, 1951	10.00
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Total	\$546.49

Balance in the State-Planters Bank and Trust Company, Richmond, Virginia, December 31, 1950	\$ 15.46
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W. Edwin Miller  
Treasurer

## BALD EAGLE BILL REINTRODUCED

Representative Homer Angell of Oregon has reintroduced a bill (H.R. 1870) in Congress to extend federal protection to the bald eagle in Alaska, the Wildlife Management Institute reports.

Although the killing of an eagle carries a fine of \$50 in the United States proper, the same act pays the hunter a two dollar bounty if it occurs in Alaska. In spite of the fact that there is no scientific evidence to indicate that the eagle kills many unspawned salmon, the bounty has been maintained for many years because the bird has been regarded by salmon fishermen as destructive of valuable fish. Of recent years, opposition to protective legislation also has come from many in the territory who profit from the bounty. During the past year, bounties were paid for 4,320 eagles, nearly double the 1949 total. The eagle in Alaska and elsewhere will take dead fish in preference to live ones, and around any spawning bed there are enough spent salmon to fill the craws of a great number of scavengers.

A bill similar to H.R. 1870, introduced in the last session of Congress by Mr. Angell, failed to pass in spite of the testimony in its favor by numerous leading ornithologists and conservationists.

--- Wildlife Management Institute

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## THINGS ARE LOOKING UP FOR THE CONDOR

Secretary of the Interior Chapman's recent order restricting entry into the last stronghold of the California condor gives this living relic of the Ice Age a fighting chance for survival, the Wildlife Management Institute reports. No more than 60 of these huge scavengers remain alive.

To provide more adequate protection for this remnant of a species, the Secretary withdrew from entry under the mining laws about 35,000 acres of the Los Padres National Forest in California where the birds nest. Limited entry will be permitted on areas more than one-half mile from any condor nest but more than 10,000 acres will be set aside as an inviolate refuge administered by the Forest Service.

The condor has the greatest wingspread of any bird in North America, and its soaring flight is one of the most spectacular sights in nature. The bird is entirely harmless to human interests and survives solely on a diet of carrion.

--- Wildlife Management Institute





# The Raven

BULLETIN OF THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY

J. J. MURRAY, EDITOR  
LEXINGTON, VA.

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VOL. XXII

JULY - AUGUST, 1951

NOS. 7 & 8

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## CONTENTS

	Page
Yellow-crowned Night Heron Nesting at Dayton, Virginia By Max M. Carpenter .....	38
Little Creek - Kiptopeke Observations By C.C. Steirly .....	39
Purple Sandpipers at Norfolk By Locke L. Mackenzie .....	40
Grebe Flight at Danville By Robert Eggleston .....	40
Connecticut Adopts Model Bird Law .....	41
Winter Season - 1950-1951 - Virginia By F.R. Scott .....	41
Winter Field Trip .....	43
A Guide to Bird Finding - A Review .....	44

## YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON NESTING AT DAYTON, VIRGINIA

By Max M. Carpenter

As indicated by recent records, the Yellow-crowned Night Heron, (*Nyctanassa violacea*), is slowly extending its range northward. The distribution of this heron in the East has been coastal and the colony at Seneca, Maryland, marks the northernmost advance except for a few cases in which it has nested in Massachusetts, western Long Island, and southern New Jersey. Further evidence of this heron's extension of breeding range was discovered on April 28, 1951, near Dayton, Rockingham County, Virginia.

This is a significant record because it shows a movement inland, across the natural barrier of the Blue Ridge Mountains, which is an abrupt change in the distribution pattern. The Maryland birds had natural north-south pathways, such as the Potomac River, to follow, while the Dayton birds had no such water courses for their journeys north. This does not mean that they always follow a river to get to new territory. It is quite possible that long stretches of land could be traversed in search of new nest sites.

The first record of the Yellow-crowned Night Heron for the region of Dayton, Virginia was one seen April 19, 1948, and collected on April 21, 1948 (Auk: 66,79,1949). The following year another bird was collected on May 8. Killing this bird was probably a mistake because three more birds were seen on May 10, which may have been one pair and a mate to the one collected.

The 1949 birds were thought to be nesting in this area. Suitable pine groves extend along Dry River on both sides all the way from the mountains to where it empties into North River at Bridgewater. About ten miles of the river were covered on foot, but no amount of searching disclosed either the birds or a nest that year. They had disappeared shortly after being seen in May and did not show up again for almost two months when one adult and one immature bird were seen feeding near the same spot on June 27. The next day, two immatures and one adult were seen, after which only adults were seen until July 26, 1949.

In 1950, only one pair returned, on May 23. No opportunity was afforded for observation of nesting activity, but the birds were known to have been around long enough to have nested.

On April 28, 1951, a nest of the Yellow-crowned Night Heron was found, the first nest of this species recorded in the Shenandoah Valley. The nest was 30 feet from the ground in a pine that stood well back from the river. Two normal eggs and one abnormal egg were being incubated. On May 23, one egg hatched. The young heron seemed to be in fine condition. The small egg was adled and was removed from the nest. A week later, only a single fledgling remained. Two weeks later the single young was found to be recently dead. The old birds were not around and no sign of predation



was evident. The young bird was still in good condition and was saved. The stomach contained crayfish remains which would indicate that death was not caused by starvation.

This indicates, perhaps, that considerable time and difficulty is involved, for a species to become established in a new locality.

-- Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.

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#### LITTLE CREEK - KIPTOPEKE OBSERVATIONS

By C.C. Steirly

The Little Creek - Kiptopeke Ferry contingent of the August 11 field trip to Cobb Island assembled at the Little Creek Ferry slip in time to make the 6:30 A.M. ferry. In order to complete any account written of the Cobb Island trip the writer is undertaking to present a list of the birds observed by members of this party.

V. S. O. members were immediately attracted to each other in the ferry waiting room by the signs of their mutual interests -- binoculars of all sizes and descriptions, field carrying bags, Peterson guides and clothes suitable to the occasion. The group immediately seized its territory on the forward part of the upper deck of the ferry and binoculars were soon trained on every gull or tern that passed near the ship. A large naval aircraft carrier crossing our bow attracted but little more attention from this group than did the occasional sight of a Wilson's petrel.

Here follows a list of the birds observed on both passages, as furnished the writer: barn swallow; laughing gull (observed while in the ferry slip); herring gull; great blue heron; double-crested cormorant; Wilson's petrel; osprey; sooty shearwater (possibly subject to question. Identification agreed upon by McIlwaine and Steirly); herring gull (open water); laughing gull; ring-bill gull; Caspian tern; common tern; least tern

-- Waverly, Virginia

## PURPLE SANDPIPERS AT NORFOLK

By Locke L. Mackenzie

On March 17, 1951, we came across Chesapeake Bay, leaving Kiptopeke at about two o'clock in the afternoon. On the way across we saw the usual number of Horned Grebes, Red-throated Loons, all three Scoters, 14 Gannets, and 2 Bonaparte's Gulls. Just as the ship came through the breakwaters into Little Creek Harbor, we saw, on the east breakwater, 6 Purple Sandpipers. These birds were moving sluggishly among the rocks which are generally covered at high tide, or sitting quietly. The light was excellent, and, as the ship was moving very slowly, an excellent opportunity was afforded to identify them, even to the orange color of the legs and the white about the eye. During two winters during the War which I spent in this vicinity, I never saw the Purple Sandpiper in this area.

-- 829 Park Avenue  
New York City

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## GREBE FLIGHT AT DANVILLE

By Robert Eggleston

On September 15, on an early morning field trip, I was struck by the unusual abundance of pied-billed grebes. The total for the day, 77, set a new maximum for the area by far. On the Dan River above the Union Street bridge I counted 26. At the Mill Lodge ponds there were 18 present. I also saw three on a small pond near the Mill Lodge.

Royster Lyle and I made a return trip to the Dan River later in the same day and found the number of grebes there had increased from 26 to 56. This was the largest flock I had ever seen. The birds were strung out in flocks of varying sizes for about three quarters of a mile up the river. When I returned on the 17th only three grebes remained.

It would be interesting to know whether a noticeable flight of this species was observed elsewhere in Virginia.

-- Danville, Virginia



## CONNECTICUT ADOPTS MODEL BIRD LAW

Hawks and owls have lots of friends in Connecticut, the National Audubon Society reports. That became apparent last week when Governor John Lodge signed a "model" bird protection bill that makes it unlawful to shoot any species of hawk or owl in the Nutmeg State. Approval of this legislation, which had been passed unanimously by both houses of the Connecticut Legislature, places the state among the leaders in bird conservation. Formerly, the Society said, Connecticut had one of the weakest laws in the country, protecting only the osprey in the hawk family.

A provision of the new law permits farmers to destroy those individual hawks caught in the act of doing damage to poultry. Pointing out that only occasional hawks develop into poultry stealers, the National Audubon Society said this provision will protect farmers and at the same time prevent misinformed persons from meting out "vigilante justice" to all hawks and owls because of the misdeeds of a few of them.

A public hearing on the new bird protection law, held before the Game and Fish Committees of the Legislature at Hartford, brought out nearly 50 representatives of state conservation organizations who testified to the value of predatory birds. No opposition was presented.

The National Audubon Society believes the new Connecticut law will be regarded as a model "because it recognizes that the average person cannot distinguish among the various hawks and owls, and hence the statute protects them all except that hawks may be taken when in the act of destroying poultry!"

A marked change in public attitude toward the birds of prey has been noted by the National Audubon Society since the turn of the century. "Fifty years ago", the Society says, "only five states offered any legal protection to the eagles, hawks and owls. Extensive studies of the economic relationships of these birds has produced evidence that they are friends of man and play an important role in controlling rodent and insect populations, as well as their general function in the ecological scheme of things. The growing army of hobbyists who observe birds has become increasingly impressed with the grace and skill of the birds of prey and has joined with conservation and farm organizations to support legislation protecting hawks and owls in all but six states.

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## WINTER SEASON - 1950-1951 - VIRGINIA

By F.R. Scott

While the temperature was statistically above normal in Virginia during the period covered, the season was invariably described as "severe",

probably because of the number of cold snaps that followed with regularity the Thanksgiving snow in the mountains. During some of these cold spells icy conditions existed as far south as Back Bay. In spite of these unusual conditions, however, many "southern" species wintered in numbers.

Pelagic Birds. Inland records of loons were lacking, though numbers of both species were reported along the coast. One Red-necked Grebe was reported at Newport News on January 7 (Glassell). American Egrets wintered at Norfolk with a maximum of 6 (W.F. Rountrey), and Stevens reported a Green Heron at Seaford, York County, on December 29. Yellow-crowned Night Herons also apparently wintered at Norfolk with one on December 6 (Richard Dobie) and another on Christmas Day (Mrs. Thomas Thompson).

Geese and Ducks. Brant were noted in some numbers near Chincoteague during mid December. Five Canada Geese and one Blue wintered in Albemarle County, both for the first time. Another Blue Goose spent the winter at Roaches Run. Perkins reported a maximum of 30,000 Snow Geese at Back Bay and photographed a single flock of 25, 436 birds. Other winter maximum counts from Back Bay were as follows: Canada Goose, 50,000; Mallard, 100; Black Duck, 6000; American Widgeon, 40,000; Green-winged Teal, 1500; Pintail, 10,000; Redhead, 30,000; Canvas-back, 50,000; Ruddy Duck, 5000; Ring-necked Duck, 4000 (unusually high). Pintails were much less numerous than usual in eastern Virginia; in some cases the decline was over 50 per cent. On the other hand Widgeon, Canvas-back and Redheads more than made up the difference. A single female European Widgeon was found at Roaches Run on December 3 (E.G. Davis).

Birds of Prey. Favour reports a flock of 65 Turkey Vultures going into a roost near Shenandoah National Park headquarters on February 23. A Goshawk was seen at the same place on January 19 (Liles) and another at Curles Neck on December 28 (Scott). Two Rough-legged Hawks were found at Big Meadows in the Park, one on December 27 (Liles) and the other on February 18 (Wetmore). Pigeon Hawks were noted at Back Bay on December 9 (Mackenzie), December 30 (Beasley) and February 16 (Grey).

Marsh and Shorebirds. A Sora was found by Russell in southwestern Virginia on January 30, the first winter record from that area. Murray had 4 Wilson's Snipe at Lexington on December 27, an unusual record. The coastal areas abounded in wintering shorebird records, especially at Seaford and Back Bay, and the species observed included Black-bellied Plover, Red-backed Sandpiper, Greater Yellow-legs, and the Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers. The most notable records were a Piping Plover at Yorktown, December 30 (Grey and Stevens); 6 Ringed Plovers at Newport News, January 7 (Glassell); and 15 Red Knots at Seaford, January 21 (Beasley).

Gulls through Woodpeckers. A Herring Gull found near Lexington on February 1 (Womeldorf) is the first record for Rockbridge County. Beasley reported a Long-eared Owl at Yorktown on February 25. Red-headed Woodpeckers were more common in eastern Virginia than they have been in years, and reports of large numbers came from Fort Belvoir and Richmond eastward. The maximum count was 15 at Fort Belvoir on December 31.



Passerine Birds. Black-capped Chickadees were seen regularly through the winter around Lexington, and there were two reports of single birds near Arlington. Red-breasted Nuthatches were notable by their absence, the only report away from southwest Virginia being a single bird at Charlottesville. House Wrens again wintered from Richmond east, and there were single birds at Arlington and Charlottesville. Catbirds and Brown Thrashers were numerous, especially at Tidewater, where 30 Catbirds were recorded on December 30 (Back Bay). Ruby-crowned Kinglets were reported from Shenandoan National Park, Lexington and Blacksburg; they are usually uncommon in winter in the mountains. A Common Yellowthroat was seen at Alexandria on December 30 and 12 at Back Bay on the same day. One of the most interesting winter records was a bright male Baltimore Oriole which visited various feeding stations in Lexington throughout the winter. It is apparently the first wintering record for this species in the state. Two Rusty Blackbirds were seen by Murray at Lexington on December 27, and he also reports the wintering flock of 75 Purple Grackle there. Winter finches were on the whole much less common than usual, although Liles believed the Purple Finch to be more common in Shenandoah Park than during the preceding year. Stevens reports the wintering of both Towhees and White-crowned sparrows in Albemarle County, both records of unusual interest. He also found 3 Tree Sparrows at Back Bay on December 30.

-- Ann Arbor, Michigan

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#### WINTER FIELD TRIP

Jack Perkins, Manager of the Back Bay Refuge, has suggested Saturday, December 8, as the date for the Winter Field Trip to Back Bay. This date will stand unless it is changed in the notices which will be sent out about the middle of November. The group will meet at Sandbridge at 7:00 A.M., when the trucks will start for the Refuge, and return about 1:30 to the church, where the Pungo Home Demonstration Club will serve a hot lunch at \$1.00. It will be necessary to make a reservation with Mr. Perkins for the transportation and for lunch. It is important to wear plenty of warm clothing, mittens, and waterproof shoes or boots. In the past year or so we have been fortunate in hitting mild weather; otherwise some who were not heavily enough clothed would either have had to forego the boat trip or would have suffered a good deal.

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## A GUIDE TO BIRD FINDING - A REVIEW

By J.J. Murray

A Guide to Bird Finding East of the Mississippi, by Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr., Oxford University Press, New York 1951, xxi and 659 pages, illustrated by George Miksch Sutton, \$5.00. This book is an ornithological Baedeker. It is a 'must' for the birder who travels. Recently the reviewer had occasion to make a brief trip to Texas. With only a few hours on two days to spare seeing birds, he wanted to make the best of his time. It was only by good fortune that he found a man who could take him right to the spot to see Scissor-tailed Flycatchers. If a western counterpart of Pettingill's new book had been available, time would have been saved and more birds seen.

This is a new kind of book. Books of description, with or without color plates, we have in plenty; books also about the habits of birds. This book has one chief purpose, and one which has not before been met -- to tell a visitor to a new part of the country where to go to find the birds in which he may be interested. It fulfills this purpose admirably. A chapter is devoted to each of the twenty-six states east of the Mississippi (except that Delaware is combined with New Jersey, and Rhode Island with Connecticut), pointing out the most interesting spots in the State and telling exactly how to get to them, and what birds may be expected. Having given the author some help on the Virginia chapter, the reviewer can testify to the care with which the book was compiled. The author has taken the greatest pains to make the book accurate and complete.

In the chapter on Virginia, after a section descriptive of the State in general and of its bird life, over twenty places are discussed: Chincoteague, Cobb Island, Kiptopeke, Hampton Roads, Seashore State Park, Back Bay, the Dismal Swamp, Curle's Neck, the James at Hopewell, Williamsburg and Yorktown, Charlottesville, Shenandoah National Park, Lexington, Goshen Pass, Apple Orchard Mountain, Roanoke, Blacksburg, Mountain Lake, Saltville, Abingdon, White Top and Mt. Rogers.

While the book is meant primarily as a reference handbook, it is made attractive by seventy-two drawings from the talented pen of George Miksch Sutton. In the two which ornament the Virginia chapter we see Black Skimmers flying along a beach and a Bewick's Wren on a log.

A Review of Birds of Montezuma and Tuzigot, by Henry H. Collins, Jr., 1951, 14 pages, illustrations (some in color) by Peterson, 25¢ (from the author, 136 Parkview Avenue, Bronxville, N.Y.). This is the first of a series planned by the author for the various national parks and monuments. It is a simple guide to the birds of these two Arizona National Monuments, including a check-list of the birds of the two areas. It is well prepared; and those who plan to visit the Southwest will find it helpful.





# *The Raven*

BULLETIN OF THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY

J. J. MURRAY, EDITOR  
LEXINGTON, VA.

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VOL. XXII

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER, 1951

NOS. 9 & 10

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## CONTENTS

### THE BIRDS OF THE RICHMOND AREA

#### PART I

by

Frederic R. Scott

## BIRDS OF THE RICHMOND AREA

By Frederic R. Scott

The area included within this report is a rather nebulous and arbitrary one, chosen not only to include as many representative habitats as possible, but also to enable the writer to take advantage of the reports of other observers who have worked in nearby areas. It is roughly an ellipse centered on Richmond, the major axis, 38 miles long, extending from Ashland, Hanover County, on the north to Petersburg on the south. Eastward the Richmond area extends to Camp Lee and Hopewell, Prince George County, and Roxbury, Charles City County. Westward the area includes Sabot, Goochland County, and much of Chesterfield County. This comprises a total area of 900 square miles.

The James River neatly bisects the area and tidal action extends as far up the river as lower Richmond. Two other rivers pass through the area, these being the Appomattox on the south, joining the James at City Point, and the Chickahominy on the north, emptying into the James twenty-two miles east of Hopewell. The largest body of water is found at Hopewell where the Appomattox joins the James, forming a six-mile stretch of water averaging almost a mile in width. Lakes are few and generally unproductive of waterfowl. An exception to this are the Byrd Park lakes in the West End of Richmond. Artificial feeding keeps a rather large wintering population of birds here. Two other lakes worthy of mention are Third Branch and Swift Creek Lakes in 7500-acre Pocohontas State Park (formerly Swift Creek Recreational Demonstration Area). These artificial lakes, 30 and 159 acres respectively in area, were built in 1936 and 1937. They are most productive for migrating waterfowl and summer herons. By far the best places to observe waterfowl, however, are the great tidal marshes of the James and Appomattox which reach their western terminus just east of Richmond. These are unfortunately mostly inaccessible except by boat.

Running north and south and passing through Richmond and Petersburg, the Fall Line divides the area physiographically into the Piedmont on the west and the Coastal Plain, or Tidewater, on the east. This Fall Line restricts or partially limits the distribution of a number of species of birds. Altitude extremes are sea level along the rivers on the Coastal Plain to about 400 feet in some parts of the Piedmont.

One of the outstanding areas in this region is Curles Neck Farm, a large 4000-acre dairy farm situated in a meander of the James in the eastern part of our area. Besides much farm land and typical Coastal Plain woodlands, it offers several types of marshes and wooded swamps. It is the center of a large wintering population of geese and ducks.

Much of the Coastal Plain is in cultivated and grazing land, while a lesser amount of open land is present on the Piedmont. The timber is mostly second growth and is typical of what would be expected in this section of the Carolinian Zone. The swamps are comprised of large gums and maple



with a little cypress coming into the Chickahominy and parts of the James around Hopewell. Along the flood plains are the characteristic sycamores, sweetgums, elms and willows. Hardwoods are predominantly of the oak-hickory type with a surprising amount of beech coming into certain parts of the Piedmont. Stands of pine of various species occur on former old fields throughout, and mature mixed woodlands are found in many parts of the Coastal Plain.

The climate is in the Cfa classification of Köppen, which typifies a warm, rainy, temperate climate without a specific dry season but with hot summers. The mean annual temperature is 58.4 degrees (Fahrenheit), ranging from a mean 38.6 degrees in January to 78.0 in July. Zero temperatures are usually reached once or twice each winter away from urban areas. (Minimum temperatures at Byrd Airport in winter are usually well below those recorded in Richmond). Mean annual precipitation is 41.89 inches, well distributed throughout the year. Total snow fall averages 12.7 inches annually, although recent winters have tended to reduce this mean. Average sky cover is 6.1 (based on 0 for no clouds and 10 for complete sky cover), and a mean of 100 days annually are completely cloud free. Prevailing winds are from the southwest during every month except September and October when they are from the northeast.

The first indication of bird observations for this area occurred in 1607 when Captain Christopher Newport, John Smith and others voyaged up to the Falls of the James River and named Turkey Island along the way, a name that still holds and is appropriate today. By 1611 a number of settlements had been made at the Falls, Curl's Neck, Bermuda Hundred, Henrico and other spots along the rivers. Alexander Whitaker, apparently a physician, made some early observations on Turkeys (see Auk 32: 1915, 76) and Passenger Pigeons (q.v.).

William Cabell Rives' book, A Catalogue of the Birds of the Virginias (Proceedings of the Natural History Society of Newport, R.I., 1889-1890), makes few direct references to this area. H.H. Bailey, however, makes a few general remarks on breeding herons in his Birds of Virginia (1913) that apparently apply to this region.

The first published annotated list of birds found within this area was "A List of Birds Observed at Ashland, Virginia" by G.C. Embury (Auk 27: 1910, 169-177). Embury recorded 114 species, all of which have been seen since. The second important work was that of W. Russell DeGarmo who wrote "Some Observations of Summer and Fall Birds of Chesterfield County, Virginia" (Raven 9: 1938, 19-29). One hundred twenty forms were recorded, of which only one, the Warbling Vireo, has not been seen since. Also deserving of mention is "Some Notes on the Summer Birds of Camp Lee, Virginia" by A.L. Nelson and Ray Greenfield (Raven 7: 1936, 1-6). This paper supplied some very important breeding records.

The most valuable work done in this region, however, was that of C.O. Handley, who very kindly furnished his mostly unpublished notes made between 1929 and 1938. Most of his observations were made at Curles Neck, Camp Lee and Ashland, and they constitute the real foundation upon which

this paper is based. Handley also contributed the unpublished report of E.A. Seaman who, as a student wildlife technician, made a number of bird observations at Swift Creek in the summer of 1938.

Dr. William B. McIlwaine, Jr., has supplied a considerable number of records from Petersburg, where observations were particularly lacking. Others who have given some of their personal notes are Mrs. Colgate W. Darden, Dr. John H. Grey, Jr., and Dr. James R. Sydnor. Dr. Alexander Wetmore of the U.S. National Museum has contributed a number of subspecific identifications of specimens, and especial thanks are due to him.

Unfortunately the writer, who began taking notes at Richmond in 1943, has had to be responsible for the bulk of the field work. Since no one observer can cover even a fraction of the 900 square miles in this area, there are many gaps in the knowledge of the Richmond area avifauna. For example, the writer's field work at Ashland, Petersburg and Camp Lee has been virtually nil, and he has had to depend on the work of others for these places.

One of the most serious gaps concerns the extensive tidal marshes of the James and Appomattox Rivers. Therefore, the writer is forced to draw rather tentative conclusions about the distribution of marsh birds based upon the few records and hunters' reports that he has. Further work also needs to be done during migration on the Piedmont. Birds present here at this season appear to differ considerably from those on the Coastal Plain where the writer has done most of his work. An intensive study of the breeding birds would be a fruitful area for an investigator to work. For strange as it may seem there are definite nesting records for only 76 species (excluding the Forster's Tern, q.v.) An additional 11 species are mentioned as breeding by Embury and others but without any details.

All factors considered, this should be regarded as a preliminary list, and it is hoped that it will stimulate other workers to fill in the many gaps that still exist.

The Richmond area list now totals 247 species and subspecies.

The relative abundance of a species is indicated by such terms as "common", "scarce", etc. More explicit information is given for most species by stating the maximum and normal daily counts. The maximum count is the largest number of individuals of the species recorded in any one day by a single party. The normal count is the number of individuals a single party might be expected to see in a full day without emphasizing any one habitat.

Greater Common Loon, Gavia immer immer (Brünnich). Transient; uncommon in spring, April 4, 1947 (Irvine) to May 28, 1946; quite scarce in fall, November 16, 1947 to December 27, 1949. More common at Hopewell than elsewhere. Maximum, 9 on May 9, 1950; normal, 1.



Red-throated Loon, Gavia stellata (Pontoppidan). Transient; rare. Three records: 1 on the James near Windsor Farms in Richmond, November 25, 1944; 1 at Hopewell, November 28, 1948; another at Hopewell, May 7, 1950.

Holboell's Red-necked Grebe, Colymbus grisegena holbøllii (Reinhardt). Transient; rare. Two records: a single bird at Hopewell, March 6, 1950; another picked up in Richmond on October 17, 1951, was released several days later in Byrd Park by the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries.

Horned Grebe, Colymbus auritus Linnaeus. Transient and winter visitor; fairly common; October 13, 1946 to May 8, 1946. Handley has a record of two in Richmond on August 12 and another on August 26, 1931. More frequent near Hopewell, but not over four seen in any one day. East of our area on the lower York River this species is abundant.

Northern Pied-billed Grebe, Podilymbus podiceps podiceps (Linnaeus). Transient and winter resident; common, especially in fall; August 2, 1937 (DeGarmo) to May 7, 1950. Seaman found two at Swift Creek on July 19 and 26, 1938, and I have found it in June in York County. Maximum, 21 on September 11 and November 7, 1948; normal, 8.

Northern Leach's Petrel, Oceanodromo leucorhoa leucorhoa (Vieillot). Accidental. After the heavy storm of August, 1842, Mr. S.F. Baird of Carlisle, Pennsylvania, wrote the following to J.P. Girard: "You have probably seen an account in the papers of the Petrels which had been driven inland by the storm of August. They were nearly all the Fork-tailed Petrel, Thalassidroma Leachii. I saw about half a dozen specimens killed near Washington. There (sic) were killed in Petersburg and Bedford, Virginia and many other places." (Girard Birds of Long Island New York, 1844, page 372).

Northern Double-crested Cormorant, Phalacrocorax auritus auritus (Lesson). Spring transient; fairly common at Hopewell, May 1, 1949 to June 22, 1949. Away from the Hopewell region a single bird was seen on three occasions in May, 1946, in Byrd Park. No fall records. Maximum, 18 on May 15, 1949; normal, 5.

Northern Great Blue Heron, Ardea herodias herodias Linnaeus. Permanent resident; quite common. Charles E. Stevens and I found a heronry with an estimated 150 nests in the Chickahominy Swamp in the southwestern corner of New Kent County on June 12, 1948 (Raven 19: 1948, 42-43). Maximum away from heronry, 61 on January 20, 1950, feeding in the shallows of the James near Hopewell; normal, 15.

American Common Egret, Casmerodius albus egretta (Gmelin). Summer resident; fairly common in spring becoming abundant in summer; April 25, 1950 (Grey) to November 28, 1948. Until 1948 there were only a very few spring records. Bailey mentioned it as breeding in the Chickahominy Swamp, and there have been several recent early June records there. Other May and June records at Hopewell, Shirley, Curles Neck and Jones Neck are probably of nonbreeding birds. At low tide these birds congregate in large flocks in the shallows of the James, and a normal count in August is 65. Maximum, 114, September 3, 1948.

Common Snowy Egret, Leucophoyz thula thula (Molina). Summer visitor; probably quite rare as there is only one recent record, a single bird at Curles Neck on July 27, 1948. Bailey states that they formerly bred in the Chickahominy Swamp.

Little Blue Heron, Florida caerulea caerulea (Linnaeus). Summer visitor; common; July 13, 1947 to October 23, 1949. Bailey reported them as formerly breeding in the Chickahominy region "in large rookeries", but recent searches have failed to find any breeding birds there. Immature birds are the more common, but a number of adults are seen, and the latter usually appear before the immatures in June. It is possible that some still breed nearby in the Pamunky region. Maximum, 80, summer of 1938 at Swift Creek (Seaman); normal, 25.

Eastern Green Heron, Butorides virescens virescens (Linnaeus). Summer resident; common; April 18, 1949 to October 7, 1951. Young bird just out of nest June 4, 1937 (DeGarmo). Maximum is only 3.

American Black-crowned Night Heron, Nycticorax nycticorax hoactli (Gmelin). Visitor. Handley found one in Forest Hills Park, Richmond, on March 23, 1934. DeGarmo saw several immature night herons at Swift Creek after July 3, 1937, but he was not certain of the species. Bailey reported them as formerly breeding in the Chickahominy Swamp.

American Bittern, Botaurus lentiginosus (Montagu). Transient and possibly a summer visitor; rare. Embody found one at Ashland, November 2, 1907, and DeGarmo reported a few at Swift Creek during the summer of 1937, the first definite record being July 22.

Wood Ibis, Mysteria americana Linnaeus. Visitor. Four were seen and one shot in New Kent County by W.J. Taylor, "evidently the summer of 1893"; three others were shot by two boys at Vinitarville, Goochland County, on July 18, 1896, and parts of them sent to the U.S. National Museum for identification by R.S. Allen (see William Palmer, "The Wood Ibis in Virginia and Maryland", Auk 14: 1897, 208-209).

Whistling Swan, Cygnus columbianus (Ord). Visitor; rare. Mr. Faber, custodian of the Curles Neck marsh, described several pairs of these birds which he had seen in his eighteen years residence in the area. They were usually seen following severe storms.

Eastern Canada Goose, Branta canadensis canadensis (Linnaeus). Winter resident in Tidewater, transient on Piedmont; common; October 10, 1948 to May 1, 1949, but the main body of wintering birds often does not arrive until late December, and they usually leave during the first week of April. This species migrates fairly commonly over most of our area, and large flocks often rest on the James above the Fall Line. East of Richmond there is a large wintering population centered at Curles Neck and Turkey Island which spreads out to feed over considerable parts of Henrico, Chesterfield, Charles City and Prince George Counties. This flock has reached a high of 10,000 (winter of 1946-1947), but one considers himself fortunate to see as many as 5000 at any one time.



Richardson's Canada Goose, Branta canadensis hutchinsii (Richardson). Visitor. John Irvine and I saw one of these with a large flock of Common Canada Geese at Curles Neck, April 5, 1947. It was scarcely half the size of the other birds. W.L. McAtee states (Auk 62: 1945, 461-462) that any small Canada Goose on the Atlantic Coast would be this race; "definite proof to the contrary would be required".

American Brant, Branta bernicla hrota (Miller). Accidental. Mr. Faber of Curles Neck Farm told me that two or three Brant have been shot there since he has been custodian of the marsh. The birds always appeared after a strong east wind. Mr. Faber, who is an experienced sportsman, described these birds in detail, and I see no reason to doubt the record.

Snow Goose, Chen hyperborea subsp. (Pallas). Transient and winter visitor; scarce; November 14, 1949 to March 27, 1949. I am informed by hunters that one or more winter almost every year at Curles Neck, and there are definite wintering records for most recent years. Not over two have been seen at once, but there are reports of more. No specimens.

Blue Goose, Chen caerulescens (Linnaeus). Transient and winter visitor; scarce; November 14, 1949 to April 5, 1947. All recorded at Curles Neck since 1947 except one shot at Bermuda Hundred, February 1, 1930, by Edwin M. Hasbrouch (Auk 47: 1930, 416). Maximum, 3 on a number of occasions.

Common Mallard, Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos Linnaeus. Winter resident; abundant in Tidewater, fairly common on the Piedmont; September 22, 1945 to April 18, 1949; also one at Curles Neck on May 7, 1950. Handley reports nests with eggs at "Presquile", Chesterfield County in April, 1932, and April and May, 1933. He did not see them himself but believes the reports accurate. Apparently feral birds nest also at Byrd Park each year. Maximum, 1018, December 26, 1929 (Handley), and in recent years several counts over 300 have been obtained. Normal in midwinter, 150.

Black Duck, Anas rubripes Brewster. Winter resident; abundant in Tidewater, fairly common on the Piedmont; August 31, 1949 to April 10, 1949; also two at Curles Neck May 3, 1947. Maximum, 560, December 23, 1931 (Handley), and I have several recent counts over 300; normal, 200.

Gadwall, Anas strepera Linnaeus. Transient and winter visitor; uncommon; October 29, 1949 to April 18, 1949. Most of the records are from Byrd Park. Maximum, 3; normal, 2. East of the Richmond area on the lower York River this bird is common in winter, and my maximum there is 153 on December 18, 1948.

American Pintail, Anas acuta tzitzihua Vieillot. Winter resident in tidal marshes; locally quite common but varying greatly in numbers from year to year; transient and uncommon elsewhere; October 27, 1944 to April 21, 1945. A few have wintered in Byrd Park. Maximum in migration, 3200 on March 14, 1948; in winter, 1100, January 25, 1946. Normal, 250.

Green-winged Teal, Anas carolinensis Gmelin. Transient and winter visitor; fairly common; October 23, 1949 to May 7, 1950. Formerly this duck was considered the fourth commonest at Curles Neck, exceeded only by the Mallard, Black Duck and Pintail (Handley, 1934). Apparently, it then became quite rare and has only recently been staging a comeback. Maximum, 92 on December 23, 1931 (Handley), and in recent years, 31 on April 24, 1950. One was killed at "Presquile", Chesterfield County, on December 2, 1931, with a large fresh-water mussel hanging to the left foot. Handley has a photograph of this.

Blue-winged Teal, Anas discors Linnaeus. Transient; fairly common and well distributed; March 13, 1950 to April 24, 1949, and August 22, 1938 (Seaman) to October 16, 1948. Not over eight seen in any one day.

American Widgeon, Mareca americana (Gmelin). Winter resident; common; September 18, 1948 to May 20, 1949, although the wintering birds usually depart about the middle of April. Most regular at Byrd Park. Maximum in migration, 86 on March 6, 1950; in winter, 70, December 27, 1943. Normal, 35.

Shoveler, Spatula clypeata (Linnaeus). Transient; rare. Two records of single birds: Byrd Park, March 30, 1947, and Curles Neck, December 27, 1949.

Wood Duck, Aix sponsa (Linnaeus). Permanent resident; common, but somewhat less so in midwinter. Nests commonly all along the rivers and large streams and near Swift Creek and Third Branch Lakes, as well as other lakes and ponds. Downy young as early as May 11, 1947, and DeGarmo found a family of five young about three weeks old on August 11, 1937. Many other broods between these dates. Maximum, 40, August 5, 1937 (DeGarmo) and 38, August 8, 1938 (Seaman), both at Swift Creek Lake. Normal, 15 in June, 20 in migration.

Redhead, Aythya americana (Eyton). Transient and winter visitor; scarce; October 27, 1932 (Handley) to April 2, 1948. Recorded at Byrd Park only. Not over five seen in one day. This bird is common near Yorktown.

Ring-necked Duck, Aythya collaris (Donavan). Transient and winter resident; common; October 2, 1949 to May 26, 1950, but wintering birds usually leave by mid April. Also a female at Byrd Park, August 12-13, 1931 (Shaw). Most regular in winter at Byrd Park where up to 200 have been seen, but well distributed in migration. Maximum, 321, March 6, 1950; normal, 100.

Canvas-back, Aythya valisineria (Wilson). Transient and winter visitor; usually uncommon; October 29, 1949 to March 24, 1950. Maximum, 200 at Hopewell, March 21, 1948, but this was unusual. Normal, 7.

American Greater Scaup Duck, Aythya marila nearctica Stejneger. Transient and winter visitor; uncommon; December 15, 1945, to April 21, 1945. Maximum, 11, March 29, 1945; normal, 2. Possibly more common than my records indicate.



Lesser Scaup Duck, Aythya affinis (Eyton). Transient and winter resident; abundant during migration and fairly common in winter; October 29, 1949 to May 28, 1949; also a female at Byrd Park on September 24, 1949. Maximum in migration, 206 on May 1, 1949; in midwinter, 22 on January 16, 1949. Normal, 60 in migration, 12 in midwinter.

American Common Golden-eye, Bucephala clangula americana (Bonaparte). Transient and winter resident; rather uncommon; November 12, 1933 (Handley) to April 15, 1934 (Handley). Apparently more common in past since Handley recorded a high of 62 at Byrd Park, March 4, 1934. Recent maximum, 10. Usually found on the tidal James near the 14th Street bridge in Richmond or farther east near Dutch Gap.

Bufflehead, Bucephala albeola (Linnaeus). Transient and winter resident; common at Hopewell, less so elsewhere; November 9, 1942 (Sydnor) to May 1, 1949. Maximum, 40 on January 20, 1950, and 42 on March 6, 1950; normal, 18.

Oldsquaw, Clangula hyemalis (Linnaeus). Transient and winter visitor; scarce; November 14, 1948 to April 14, 1949. Not over three seen in any one day.

Northern Ruddy Duck, Oxyura jamaicensis rubida (Wilson). Transient and winter resident; abundant on the James east of Richmond, especially near Hopewell, rather uncommon elsewhere; October 2, 1949 to May 15, 1949; also an apparently summering bird remained at Byrd Park from August 22, 1949, to the arrival of migrants. Maximum in migration, 445 on March 27, 1949; midwinter, 390, January 16, 1949. Normal for Tidewater, 200; for Piedmont, 8.

Hooded Merganser, Lophodytes cucullatus (Linnaeus). Transient and winter resident; fairly common; November 14, 1948 and 1949 to April 4, 1947; also one at Curles Neck, May 24, 1946. Maximum, 16, November 27, 1947; normal, 7.

American Common Merganser, Mergus merganser americanus Cassin. Transient and winter resident; quite common in Tidewater, less so on Piedmont; December 5, 1949 to April 16, 1949. Maximum, 121, December 26, 1948; normal, 40.

Lesser Red-breasted Merganser, Mergus serrator serrator Linnaeus. Transient; fairly common; December 5, 1948 to December 28, 1950, and March 13, 1950 to June 8, 1949. Maximum, 16 on December 28, 1950; normal, 7.

Eastern Turkey Vulture, Cathartes aura septentrionalis Wied. Permanent resident; abundant. Nesting: eggs, May 6, 1936, at Camp Lee (W.W. Bailey, vide Nelson and Greenfield); young, July 5, 1938, at Swift Creek (Seaman). Maximum, 60, October 27, 1934 (Handley); normal, 20.

Black Vulture, Coragyps atratus (Meyer). Permanent resident; abundant and well distributed. Large flocks can often be found along the rivers where they obtain their favorite food, debris from commercial fishing. Shirley on the James is one of the best spots to see them in numbers, and I have recorded over 100 here on several occasions, the maximum count being 337 on May 7, 1949. No definite nesting record. Normal daily count, 30.

Eastern Goshawk, Accipiter gentilis atricapillus (Wilson). One record: a bird carefully observed at Curles Neck, December 28, 1950.

Northern Sharp-shinned Hawk, Accipiter striatus velox (Wilson). Permanent resident, but recorded in summer only from the Piedmont; uncommon over the area as a whole, although both DeGarmo and Seaman found it more common in summer than the Cooper's Hawk at Swift Creek. Not over two seen in any one day. No definite nesting evidence.

Cooper's Hawk, Accipiter cooperii (Bonaparte). Permanent resident; fairly common, but less so in summer. Maximum, 5 on September 8, 1947; normal 2. No nests.

Eastern Red-tailed Hawk, Buteo jamaicensis borealis (Gmelin). Permanent resident; fairly common. Handley found it nesting at Camp Lee, but I have no details. Not over four seen in any one day.

Northern Red-shouldered Hawk, Buteo lineatus lineatus (Gmelin). Permanent resident; common. Nest with half-grown young, May 11, 1908 (Embody). Maximum, 4 in June and December; normal, 2.

Northern Broad-winged Hawk, Buteo platypterus platypterus (Vieillot). Summer resident on Piedmont, transient elsewhere; scarce on the whole, although Seaman in 1938 considered it the most common summer hawk at Swift Creek; March 15, 1908 (Embody) in spring, no fall dates. Other summer birds have been noted at Ashland and in Goodhland County.

American Rough-legged Hawk, Buteo lagopus sancti-johannis (Gmelin). One record: a single bird in South Richmond, December 19, 1949.

American Golden Eagle, Aquila chrysaetos canadensis (Linnaeus). Accidental. Handley watched an adult for some time at Curles Neck, December 23, 1951.

Southern Bald Eagle, Haliaeetus leucocephalus leucocephalus (Linnaeus). Permanent resident; fairly common in Tidewater, less so and irregular on Piedmont. No breeding evidence, though some nest just east of our area. Maximum, 16 on October 30, 1949; normal, 7.

American Marsh Hawk, Circus cyaneus hudsonius (Linnaeus). Transient and winter resident; fairly common; August 19, 1937 (DeGarmo) to May 12, 1946. Maximum 7, November 2, 1931 (Handley); normal, 2.



American Osprey, Pandion haliaetus carolinensis (Gmelin). Transient and summer visitor; common in migration, quite scarce in June and July; March 27, 1948 and 1950 to October 12, 1946. No definite breeding records, but it nests commonly just east of our area both on the James and the lower Chickahominy. Maximum, 10 on May 8, 1948; normal in migration, 4.

American Peregrine Falcon, Falco peregrinus anatum Bonaparte. Transient and winter visitor; rare. Four records, all single birds: Curles Neck, December 28, 1932 (Handley); Curles Neck, March 23, 1947; Fort Harrison, Henrico County, October 31, 1948; Curles Neck, January 29, 1949.

Eastern Pigeon Hawk, Falco columbarius columbarius Linnaeus. Transient; quite rare. Two records of single birds: Capitol Square, Richmond, October 26, 1931 (T.D. Burleigh); Fort Hoke, Henrico County, November 29, 1946.

Northern Sparrow Hawk, Falco sparverius sparverius Linnaeus. Permanent resident; common, especially in the fall. No nest dates, though Sydnor reports it nests each year in Ginter Park, Richmond. Maximum, 17, October 2, 1949; normal, 4.

Eastern Bobwhite, Colinus virginianus virginianus (Linnaeus). Permanent resident; abundant, even in the residential areas of Richmond. Since Camp Lee was for so long a state refuge, we have many breeding records extending from a brood on May 18, 1930 (Handley) to a nest with 9 eggs, September 21, 1931 (Gorden R. Davis, fide Handley) and a pair and four young on October 12, 1935 (Handley). During the two summers of 1935 and 1936 a total of 78 nests were found at Camp Lee (Nelson and Greenfield). Piedmont nests: 8 eggs, July 15, 1937, Swift Creek (DeGarmo); 20 eggs, May 31, 1948, Westhampton. Maximum, 6 coveys totalling 80 birds, Camp Lee, November 4, 1931 (Handley); normal, 15. According to Aldrich's revision of this species (Auk 63: 1946, 493-508), our birds would be intergrades between the races merilandicus and mexicanus.

Eastern Turkey, Meleagris gallopavo silvestris Vieillot. Permanent resident; locally common, especially at Curles Neck, Camp Lee and Swift Creek. Breeding: 12 half-grown young, Swift Creek, June 27, 1937 (DeGarmo); a female with six young, Swift Creek, July 19, 1948. Maximum, 15 at Camp Lee, February 21, 1937 (Handley); normal, 3.

Northern King Rail, Rallus elegans elegans Audubon. Probably resident, but only one definite record: 2, State Game Farm, New Kent County, May 3, 1932 (Handley). I am told by hunters that a number are shot at Shirley every fall.

Northern Clapper Rail, Rallus longirostris crepitans Gmelin. Accidental. One record: a bird picked up on 33rd Street in Richmond, on October 11, 1934, was examined and released by Handley on October 17.

Northern Virginia Rail, Rallus limicola limicola Vieillot. Exact status unknown; two records of single birds: Swift Creek, August 11, 1937 (DeGarmo); Curles Neck, May 3, 1947.

Sora, Porzana carolina (Linnaeus). Transient; apparently abundant in some of the tidal marshes, but I have only a few records; August 30, 1946 to October 15, 1930 (Handley); no spring records, although it undoubtedly occurs.

Florida Common Gallinule, Gallinula chloropus cachinnans Bangs. One record: a bird picked up on Broad Street, Richmond, in a dazed condition in the spring of 1951 (Virginia Wildlife 12 (7): 1951, 25.)

Northern American Coot, Fulica americana americana Gmelin. Winter resident; common at Byrd Park, elsewhere a fairly common transient and uncommon winter resident; September 22, 1945 and 1946 to April 24, 1949 and 1950. As many as two pairs have remained to breed either in or near Byrd Park during a single year, and downy young have been seen there from June 4, 1948 to September 13, 1948. Apparently at least two broods are raised. The only nest located was on an island in Swan Lake in a heap of dead sticks a few inches above the water line, September 13, 1948. The adults were repairing it at that time. During the years 1946-1949 a second pair appeared at Byrd Park in July or August, occasionally with immature birds, and giving evidence of having nested nearby. Maximum, 223, January 5, 1945; normal, 125.

Semipalmated Ringed Plover, Charadrius hiaticula semipalmatus Bonaparte. Transient; uncommon in spring; May 11, 1946 to June 3, 1934 (Handley); one fall record: 3 at Hopewell, October 30, 1949. Not over 5 seen in any one day.

Northern Killdeer, Charadrius vociferus vociferus Linnaeus. Permanent resident; common, becoming abundant during the fall. Breeding: two young with parents, Camp Lee, May 1, 1938 (Handley); nest with four eggs, Camp Lee, June 4, 1936 (W.W. Bailey, fide Nelson and Greenfield). Maximum, 67, September 16, 1944; normal, 15.

Black-bellied Plover, Squatarola squatarola (Linnaeus). Transient; rare. One record: a single bird, Hopewell, September 12, 1948.

American Woodcock, Philohela minor (Gmelin). Permanent resident; fairly common in migration, less so in summer and midwinter. Breeding: one egg, Camp Lee, March 20, 1931 (Gorden R. Davis, fide Handley); young bird, Camp Lee, April 2, 1931 (Handley); nest with two eggs, Camp Lee, April 2, 1934 (Handley); pair, one apparently carrying a young bird between its thighs, Swift Creek, June 17, 1937 (DeGarmo). Maximum, 5 in spring at Camp Lee (Handley); normal, 2.

Wilson's Common Snipe, Capella gallinago delicata (Ord). Transient and winter resident; quite common; October 2, 1949 to May 8, 1948. Most common in winter on the tidal marsh flats. Maximum, 37 on March 24, 1945, and 35 on December 27, 1949; normal 15.

Upland Plover, Bartramia longicauda (Bechstein). Transient; rare. One record: a single bird at Hopewell, September 3, 1948.



Spotted Sandpiper, Actitis macularia (Linnaeus). Transient; common, more so in spring than in fall; April 10, 1944 to May 26, 1950, and July 6, 1938 (Seaman) to October 12, 1948. Maximum in spring, 29, May 8, 1948; in fall, 3. Normal in spring, 15; in fall, 1.

Eastern Solitary Sandpiper, Tringa solitaria solitaria Wilson. Transient; fairly common; April 24, 1949 to May 14, 1948, and July 22, 1937 (DeGarmo) to October 2, 1949. Not over six in any one day.

Greater Yellowlegs, Totanus melanoleucus (Gmelin). Transient; quite common in spring in Tidewater; March 14, 1948 to May 8, 1948; two fall records of single birds, October 2 and 30, 1949, at Hopewell. Maximum, 58, April 24, 1950; normal in spring, 15.

Lesser Yellowlegs, Totanus flavipes (Gmelin). Transient; uncommon; April 20, 1947 to May 8, 1948, and August 31, 1949 to October 30, 1949. Maximum, 20 on May 1, 1949; normal, 2.

Pectoral Sandpiper, Erolia melanotos (Vieillot). Transient; rare. Two records: 3, Curles Neck, April 13, 1947; one, Curles Neck, May 3, 1947.

White-rumped Sandpiper, Erolia fuscicollis (Vieillot). Transient; one record: a flock of 11 birds at Curles Neck, May 26, 1950.

Least Sandpiper, Erolia minutilla (Vieillot). Transient; uncommon in spring, May 7, 1950 to June 3, 1934 (Handley); four fall records at Curles Neck in 1949: two, October 2; three, October 9; one, November 23; one, December 5. Specimens: 2 males, October 2, 1949.

Stilt Sandpiper, Micropalama himantopus (Bonaparte). Transient; one record: two collected at Hopewell on October 2, 1949.

Semipalmated Sandpiper, Ereunetes pusillus (Linnaeus). Transient; scarce in spring, May 11, 1946 to June 3, 1934 (Handley); rather uncommon in fall, August 31, 1949 to October 23, 1949. Maximum, 47, Hopewell, August 31, 1949; normal, 5. Specimens: two October 2, 1949.

Western Sandpiper, Ereunetes mauri Cabanis. Transient; rare. Four records, all at Curles Neck: 11, May 8, 1948; one, September 25, 1949; one, November 14, 1949; one, November 23, 1949.

American Herring Gull, Larus argentatus smithsonianus Coues. Winter resident; common in Tidewater, scarce on Piedmont except at Byrd Park; September 26, 1948 to April 20, 1946, but rather sporadic until November. Appears first in the Hopewell region, and my first Richmond record is not until November 23. This does not seem to migrate with the Ring-billed Gulls (q.v.) Maximum in migration, 70, March 9, 1946; in midwinter, 30 on January 31, 1950. Normal in migration, 25; in midwinter, 15.

Ring-billed Gull, Larus delawarensis Ord. Transient and winter resident; abundant in Tidewater and at Byrd Park, fairly common as a transient on the Piedmont; September 12, 1950 to June 3, 1934 (Handley), but my first fall record for Richmond is November 18. From late February to mid May large flocks migrate up the James River, sometimes at high altitudes, but more often flying in loose, fairly low groups. At this season they habitually descend on plowed fields to feed and occasionally appear far from the river. A large flock can usually be found at the sewer outlet near the 14th Street bridge in Richmond during the winter. Maximum in migration, 1118, March 6, 1950; in midwinter, 496 on January 16, 1950. Normal in migration, 550; in midwinter, 250.

Laughing Gull, Larus atricilla Linnaeus. Transient; abundant in fall in Tidewater, more so at Hopewell than elsewhere; September 12, 1950 to November 28, 1948; also a pair at Hopewell, July 19, 1948; one spring record, a bird at Hopewell, May 15, 1949. No Piedmont records. Maximum, 124 on September 12, 1950, and 123 on October 30, 1949. The high count on September 12 was possibly related to an off-shore hurricane. Normal fall count, 30.

Bonaparte's Gull, Larus philadelphia (Ord). Transient; common in spring in Tidewater, uncommon elsewhere; March 27, 1948 and 1950 to June 3, 1934 (Handley). Four fall and winter records of single birds: Byrd Park, November 25, 1931 (Shaw); Byrd Park, December 17, 1948; Hopewell, January 20, 1950; Byrd Park, February 6, 1949. Maximum, 57, April 24, 1949; normal, 20.

Forster's Tern, Sterna forsteri Nuttall. Transient; abundant in fall in Tidewater, more so at Hopewell than elsewhere; July 19, 1948 to October 23, 1949; no spring records. These are occasionally recorded as far west as the Falls of the James at Richmond. Surprisingly, these birds appear to be considerably more concentrated here than at Yorktown or Jamestown. On September 4, 1947, two adults were observed feeding two brown-tinged young at Curles Neck. The latter remained quietly on two poles while the adults hovered before them during the feeding process. Maximum, 167, September 12, 1950 (concurrent with a hurricane off the coast), and 78 on August 31, 1949; normal, 35.

Northern Common Tern, Sterna hirundo hirundo Linnaeus. Transient; uncommon in fall, August 31, 1949, to October 23, 1949; no spring records. Recorded only at Hopewell and Curles Neck. Maximum, 5 on October 2, 1949; normal, 2. Grey lists September 17 as the latest fall date for the Cape Henry Region (Raven 21: 1950, 72).

Caspian Tern, Hydroprogne caspia (Pallas). Transient; one record: two at Hopewell, April 24, 1949.

American Black Tern, Chlidonias niger surinamensis (Gmelin). Transient; quite scarce in fall; August 29, 1946 to October 9, 1949; no spring records. Recorded only in Tidewater. Maximum, 5, August 31, 1949.



Rock Dove, Columba livia Gmelin. Permanent resident; common. There are a number of places where feral birds breed under wild conditions. Nest with eggs on a ledge of the Capitol, April 17, 1950.

Eastern Mourning Dove, Zenaidura macroura carolinensis (Linnaeus).

Permanent resident; abundant. Nests with eggs, May 7, 1933 to June 29, 1935 (both Handley). There are reports on 18 nests, mostly from Camp Lee and about half of which were on the ground. One female was shot October 2, 1950, that contained a well-developed egg (fide John H. Grathmey). Maximum, 109 on December 29, 1944, normal, 25.

Passenger Pigeon, Ectopistes migratorius (Linnaeus). Extinct; probably formerly resident, although varying greatly in numbers throughout the year. There are many general records for Virginia, but I can find only two listed in A.H. Wright's "Other Early Records of the Passenger Pigeon" (Auk 28: 1911, 430-432) that refer specifically to this area: in 1613 Alexander Whitaker of Henrico wrote, "In winter our fields be full of Cranes... Pigeons..." (see Samuel Purchas's "Hakluytus Posthumus or Purchas His Pilgrimes", Extra Series Hakluyt Society 19: 1906, 155); "In 'A Topographical Description of the County of Prince George in Virginia', 1793, John Jones Spooner states: 'The woods afford...pigeons,...'" (see Massachusetts Historical Society Collection 3: 1794, 86). This bird's distribution in this section of the state is perhaps best described by Percy E. Freke in "On Birds Observed in Amelia County, Virginia" (Scientific Proceedings of the Royal Dublin Society 3: 1880-1882, 61-92), and I quote from his list: "The wild pigeons pass in flocks going north about the middle of March, and often remain a week or two in the districk... They pass again in larger flocks on their way south about the middle of October; but now and then you may see one at any time during the summer. I have been assured by the negroes that they occasionally nest in the districk, not in large colonies, but a single pair here and there. I have seen the young quite small, though able to fly, following their parents in August; and a friend of mine has shot them still covered with nesting down." Amelia County is, of course, well west on the Piedmont, while Henrico is in Tidewater.

Eastern Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Coccyzus americanus americanus (Linnaeus). Summer resident; common; May 1, 1949 to October 14, 1949. Embury mentioned it as breeding, but there are no recent nesting reports. Maximum, 7 in May and June; normal, 5.

Black-billed Cuckoo, Coccyzus erythrophthalmus (Wilson). Transient and irregular summer resident; fairly common in migration, April 24, 1946 to September 8, 1947. No definite breeding record but this bird was rather common during the summer of 1947, and it was recorded in June, 1944 and 1951, Maximum, 5, May 15, 1948; normal in spring, 3.

Barn Owl, Tyto alba pratincola (Bonaparte). Two records: one caught in a pole trap at Camp Lee by Gordon R. Davis in October, about 1937 (Handley); one near Bon Air, Chesterfield County, January 26, 1948.

Southern Screech Owl, Otus asio asio (Linnaeus). Permanent resident; fairly common on Piedmont, somewhat less so in Tidewater. One caught in a quail trap at Camp Lee on February 27, 1934, had killed and eaten a Cardinal but had not touched several Juncos and White-throated Sparrows that were also in the trap (Handley). Embury noted it as breeding at Ashland. Maximum, 4 (DeGarmo); normal, 1. No specimens, but this is presumably the local race.

Eastern Horned Owl, Bubo virginianus virginianus (Gmelin). Permanent resident; scarce. Seaman found an empty nest in a pine tree at Swift Creek on June 20, 1938. Never over a single bird in one day.

Snowy Owl, Nyctea scandiaca (Linnaeus). Visitor. One bird seen in South Richmond, December 7-9, 1949, by Irvine Williams. It often rested on the skylight of the Allegheny Warehouse, allowing a close approach from below.

Northern Barred Owl, Strix varia varia Barton. Permanent resident; fairly common, especially along the river bottoms. On a number of occasions in spring I have heard them calling about five o'clock in the afternoon. Young female just out of nest, May 14, 1908 (Embury). Maximum, 2 on a number of occasions.

American Long-eared Owl, Asio otus wilsonianus (Lesson). Winter visitor; probably more common than available records indicate. On December 5, 1933, Handley wrote: "Gorden R. Davis showed me a long-eared owl which he had caught a day or so before in a steel trap set on a post. He says he catches three or four of these owls each year" (at Camp Lee). Another was caught in a pole trap at Camp Lee on December 17, 1934, and the skin given to the University of Richmond.

Northern Short-eared Owl, Asio flammeus flammeus (Pontoppidan). Winter resident, apparently, in Prince George County, although I have not seen it. Handley has three definite records from Camp Lee: one, March 4, 1931, 2 taken from pole trap, one on November 25, 1934, the other several days before. Gorden R. Davis reported having taken a number of these birds in his traps, and Handley believed the species to be fairly common in the vicinity of Camp Lee.

Acadian Saw-whet Owl, Cryptoglaux acadicus acadicus (Gmelin). Winter visitor; rare. Two records: a bird taken from a pole trap at Camp Lee, February 19, 1937 (skin now in possession of C.O. Handley, Jr.); one seen and photographed in Richmond, March 15, 1950.

Chuck-will's-widow, Caprimulgus carolinensis Gmelin. Summer resident in Chesterfield County; locally fairly common; May 15, 1948 to "July", 1950 (McIlwaine), but these dates are obviously inadequate. Not recorded north of the James River. No nests. Maximum, 3; normal, 1.



Eastern Whip-poor-will, Caprimulgus vociferus vociferus Wilson. Summer resident; abundant and well distributed; March 20, 1945 to September 29, 1946 (both McIlwaine); several other March records, but the species normally arrives at Richmond the first week in April. Embury reported it as breeding. Maximum, 24, May 7, 1949, and 25 on May 25, 1950; normal in May, 12; in June, 8.

Eastern Common Nighthawk, Chordeiles minor minor (Forster). Transient and summer resident; common; May 2, 1944 to September 10, 1934 (Handley), but I feel these dates are inadequate. Nest, June 15, 1936, at Camp Lee (Nelson and Greenfield). Maximum, 50, September 1, 1931 (Handley); normal, 6.

Chimney Swift, Chaetura pelagica (Linnaeus). Transient and summer resident; common in summer, abundant in migration; April 2, 1935 (Handley) to October 19, 1947. Breeding: nests with eggs at Camp Lee, May 25, 1938 to June 29, 1935 (Handley, Nelson and Greenfield), all in deserted manholes. On the Piedmont a nest with five eggs was found in an old well near Bon Air, Chesterfield County, June 17, 1944. Many nests with young. Maximum, 2000, October 3, 1930 (Handley). Normal in summer, 25; in fall, 50.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Archilochus colubris (Linnaeus). Summer resident; fairly common; April 21, 1932 (Handley) to September 8, 1947. Breeding: nest just completed, May 15, 1948; young just leaving nest, August 20, 1937 (DeGarmo). Maximum, 11, May 7, 1950; normal, 4.

Eastern Belted Kingfisher, Megasceryle alcyon alcyon (Linnaeus). Permanent resident; uncommon, somewhat more common in winter. Breeding: nests on May 11, 1947, and June 26, 1937 (DeGarmo), both at Swift Creek. Maximum, 7 on January 27, 1945; normal, 2.

Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker, Colaptes auratus luteus Bangs. Permanent resident; common, especially in late fall. DeGarmo found two nests at Swift Creek on June 4, 1937. Maximum, 70, December 23, 1931 (Handley); normal, 15. Specimen, October 2, 1949, and this is presumably the breeding race.

Southern Pileated Woodpecker, Dryocopus pileatus pileatus (Linnaeus). Permanent resident; common in big timber. More widely distributed in migration when they may appear almost anywhere. No nests or specimens. Maximum, 9, June 12, 1949; normal, 5.

Eastern Red-bellied Woodpecker, Centurus carolinus carolinus (Linnaeus). Permanent resident; common. Breeding: nest in same tree with one of Red-headed Woodpecker, April 21, 1945; young being fed by parents, June 21, 1937 (DeGarmo); eggs, July 6, 1937 (DeGarmo). Maximum, 16, December 27, 1949; normal, 8. Specimen, Charles Neck, March 13, 1950.

Eastern Red-headed Woodpecker, Melanerpes erythrocephalus erythrocephalus (Linnaeus). Permanent resident; fairly common in suitable areas, but apparently less common than formerly. Breeding: nests on April 21, 1945 (in same tree with nest of Red-bellied Woodpecker), May 8, 1949, and June 4, 1937 (DeGarmo); immature bird, September 6, 1937 (DeGarmo). Maximum, 12 on

May 12 and September 8, 1934 (Handley); recent maximum, 5, December 28, 1950, Normal, 2.

Eastern Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Sphyrapicus varius varius (Linnaeus). Winter resident; fairly common; September 29, 1945 to April 29, 1944. Maximum, 10, December 28, 1950; normal, 3.

Hairy Woodpecker, Dendrocopos villosus subsp. (Linnaeus). Permanent resident; uncommon. Breeding: young ready to leave nest, Ashland, May 4, 1908 (Embody). Maximum, 5, January 27, 1947; normal, 2. No specimens, but birds in this area are probably intergrades between the races villosus (the race at Charlottesville) and auduboni (the race at Norfolk).

Northern Downy Woodpecker, Dendrocopos pubescens medianus (Swainson). Permanent resident; common, apparently more so in winter. Breeding: nest with young, June 7, 1937 (DeGarmo). Maximum in winter, 21, December 28, 1950; in summer, 16, June 12, 1948. Normal in winter, 10; in summer, 5. Specimens, Curles Neck on March 13 and June 16, 1950. Wetmore noted that these birds were definitely intergrades with the more southern race pubescens, but he considered them closer to the northern form. Embody listed his specimens from Ashland as this race also.

Northern Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Dendrocopos borealis borealis (Vieillot). Visitor; rare. In 1937 at Swift Creek DeGarmo found two on June 17 and four, including two young, the next day. He saw them again several times.





# *The Raven*

BULLETIN OF THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY

J. J. MURRAY, EDITOR  
LEXINGTON, VA.

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VOL. XXII

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER

NOS. 11 & 12

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## CONTENTS

THE BIRDS OF THE RICHMOND AREA

PART II

by

Frederic R. Scott

-63-

(We need two back issues of The Raven - Nos. 1-2 and 3-4, 1947 - for a man who wishes to bind a full set and who is willing to pay for these issues. Anyone who can supply them is requested to notify the Editor.)

Northern Red-cockaded Woodpecker. Dendrocopos borealis borealis (Vieillot). Visitor; rare. In 1937 at Swift Creek DeGarmo found two on June 17 and four, including two young, the next day. He saw them again several times.

Eastern Kingbird. Tyrannus tyrannus (Linnaeus). Transient and summer resident; common in summer, abundant during spring migration; April 17, 1948 to September 29, 1945. Breeding: nest building, May 7, 1949; nests with young, June 21, 1944, and June 26, 1937 (DeGarmo); nest with eggs, June 30, 1937 (DeGarmo). Maximum, 108, May 7, 1950; normal, 25 in spring, 10 in June.

Northern Great-crested Flycatcher. Myiarchus crinitus boreus Bangs. Summer resident; common in migration, somewhat less so in summer: April 20, 1934 (Handley) and 1947 to September 29, 1945. Breeding: young out of nest, May 26, 1950; nest with young, June 16, 1937 (DeGarmo). Maximum, 19, May 8, 1949; normal, 10 in spring, 6 in June.

Eastern Phoebe. Sayornis phoebe (Latham). Permanent resident; common, becoming uncommon in midwinter. Eggs, April 7, to June 9; young out of nest as early as May 8, 1949. Maximum, 11, May 29, 1950; normal, 6 in spring and summer, 2 or 3 in winter.

Acadian Flycatcher, Empidonax virescens (Vieillot). Summer resident; abundant; April 28, 1945 to September 12, 1948 and 1950. Breeding: nest building, June 12, 1948; nest with three eggs, June 11, 1937 (DeGarmo). Maximum, 75 along the Chickahominy, June 12, 1948; normal, 18.

Alder Traill's Flycatcher. Empidonax traillii traillii (Audubon). Transient; one record: a single bird at Camp Lee, May 13, 1936 (Handley).

Least Flycatcher. Empidonax minimus. (Baird and Baird). Transient; rare. Three records of single birds: Hopewell, April 24, 1950; Ashland, May 10, 1908 (Embody); Swift Creek, September 10, 1937 (DeGarmo).

Eastern Wood Pewee. Contopus virens (Linnaeus). Summer resident; common; May 1, 1949 to October 9, 1949. Embody recorded it as breeding. Maximum, 18, May 7, 1949; normal, 8.

Olive-sided Flycatcher. Nuttallornis borealis (Swainson). Transient; one record: a singing bird in Windsor Farms, Richmond, September 22, 1945.

Northern Horned Lark. Eremophila alpestris alpestris (Linnaeus). Winter visitor; scarce, generally, but irregularly abundant; December 26, 1945 and 1948 to January 25, 1946, but I do not consider these dates representative. Maximum, 1200, December 26, 1945; normal, 10. No specimens.

Prairie Horned Lark. Eremophila alpestris praticola (Henshaw). Permanent resident; rather common from late October to mid-February, generally scarce in spring and summer. Young bird just out of nest at Curles Neck,



May 7, 1949. Maximum, 550, Curles Neck, December 26, 1929 (Handley); recent maximum, 250 in December. Normal in late fall and winter, 125; in spring and summer, 3.

Tree Swallow. Iridoprocne bicolor (Vieillot). Transient; abundant; April 5, 1947 to May 26, 1950, and July 21, 1937 (DeGarmo) to November 3, 1931 (Handley). It has bred as close as King William County (Auk 14: 1897, 408). Maximum in spring, 1040 on April 16, 1949; in fall, 850, October 12, 1946. Normal, 160.

Common Bank Swallow. Riparia riparia riparia (Linnaeus). Transient; fairly common in spring, somewhat more so in fall; April 28, 1945 to May 29, 1949, and July 21, 1937 (DeGarmo) and 1938 (Seaman) to October 10, 1948. Maximum in spring, 56, May 29, 1949; in fall, 202, August 3, 1947. Normal in spring, 10; in fall, 25.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Stelgidopteryx ruficollis serripennis (Audubon). Transient and summer resident; rather uncommon; March 27, 1949 and 1950 to August 3, 1947; also an amazing record of five at Curles Neck, September 22, 1946. Breeding: three nests with young, Chickahominy River, June 12, 1948. Maximum, 100, April 28, 1945. Normal in migration, 20; in June, 4.

American Barn Swallow. Hirundo rustica erythrogaster. Boddaert. Transient and summer resident; abundant; April 10, 1949 to October 10, 1948. Breeding: nests abundantly under wharfs, bridges, and in barns; eggs as early as May 1, 1949; young in nest, May 20, 1949; 23 nests with young in barn at Curles Neck, June 13, 1947. Maximum, 674, May 8, 1948; normal, 40 in migration, 25 in June.

Eastern Cliff Swallow. Petrochelidon pyrrhonata pyrrhonata (Rafinesque). Transient; rare. Five records: one, Curles Neck, May 8, 1948; 9, Bermuda Hundred, May 11, 1947; one, Curles Neck, May 29, 1949; a few at Swift Creek, July 21, 1937 (DeGarmo); a number seen at Ashland in September, 1907 (Embody).

Northern Purple Martin. Progne subis subis (Linnaeus). Transient and summer resident; rather uncommon at present, formerly abundant; March 15, 1933 (Handley) to August 26, 1935 (Handley) and "fore part of September" (Embody). A number of colonies were reported by Handley and one by Seaman. At present I know of but one and that is a small one on the W.T. Reed farm at Sabot, Coochland County. Maximum, 1500, Bryan Park, Richmond, July 15, 1934 (Handley); recent maximum, 10, April 24, 1947; normal, 4.

Northern Blue Jay, Cyanocitta cristata bromia. Oberholser. Permanent resident; quite common at Richmond and westward, only fairly common along the eastern edge of the area. Breeding: nest with young, May 22, 1950; young out of nest, June 14, 1937 (DeGarmo), and June 14, 1950 (Sydnor). Maximum, 61 on December 27, 1943, and 45, April 21, 1945; normal, 20. Specimens: Curles Neck, October 9, 1949, and Charles City County, June 16, 1950.

Northern Common Raven. Corvus corax principalis. Ridgway. Visitor. Two records: one at Shirley, September 25, 1949, being harrassed by Crows; two near Midlothian, Chesterfield County, December 24, 1949.

Eastern Common Crow. Corvus brachyrhynchos brachyrhynchos. Brehm. Winter resident; abundant. Dates not separable from following race.

Southern Common Crow. Corvus brachyrhynchos paulus. Howell. Permanent resident; abundant. Many old nests and young birds, but no occupied nests. Maximum, 284, January 27, 1947; normal, 100 in winter and migration, 30 in summer.

Fish Crow. Corvus ossifragus. Wilson. Permanent resident; quite common in migration, fairly common in summer, scarce in midwinter. It is best seen in September and from mid-March to late April when good-sized flocks are occasionally found. There appears to have been some decrease in recent years, for it is not now known to occur regularly at Ashland where Embury in 1908 found it "a fairly common resident". In summer it is more apt to be found in the city parks or along the rivers. No nests. Maximum, 72, April 7, 1950; normal, 12 in migration, 4 in June.

Northern Carolina Chickadee. Parus carolinensis extimus (Todd and Sutton). Permanent resident; quite common. Nest completed, April 6, 1933 (Handley); young out of nest, May 26, 1950, and June 14, 1951 (Sydnor). Maximum, 56, December 28, 1950; normal, 20 in winter, 15 in summer. Specimen: Curles Neck, November 21, 1948.

Tufted Titmouse. Parus bicolor. Linnaeus. Permanent resident; common. Nest with eggs, May 12, 1934 (Handley); nest with young, June 30, 1937 (DeGarmo). Maximum, 40, March 30, 1946; normal, 20.

Eastern White-breasted Nuthatch. Sitta carolinensis cookei. Oberholser. Permanent resident; rather uncommon but well distributed. Nest, June 4, 1937 (DeGarmo); two young just out of nest, June 4, 1949. Maximum, 18, December 27, 1943; normal, 8. No specimens. Since Bailey stated that it did not breed in Tidewater, it may be well to record that 17 were seen along the lower Chickahominy River on June 12, 1948.

Red-breasted Nuthatch. Sitta canadensis. Linnaeus. Transient and winter visitor; uncommon and irregular; October 9, 1945 (Grey) to April 11, 1948. Maximum, 12, December 21, 1948; normal, 1.

Northern Brown-headed Nuthatch. Sitta pusilla pusilla, Latham. Permanent resident at Petersburg; rather uncommon. Elsewhere, several were seen at Swift Creek in 1937 by DeGarmo and in 1938 by Seaman, all records being in June and July. No nests.

Eastern Brown Creeper. Certhia familiaris americana. Bonaparte. Winter resident; rather common; October 14, 1949 to April 15, 1934 (Handley). Maximum, 15, December 28, 1950; normal, 8.



Eastern House Wren. Troglodytes aedon aedon. Vieillot. Transient and summer resident; quite common; April 14, 1945 to November 4, 1931 (Handley) and 1949 (McIlwaine). A number of abnormal records: one, Hopewell, November 14, 1949; one, Petersburg, December 24, 1949 (McIlwaine); two, Dutch Gap, December 28, 1950 (Stevens and Lawless); two, Richmond, March 21, 1931 (Handley). Eggs, May 31 to June 7; young in nest, May 24, to July 19. Maximum, 47, May 1, 1949; normal, 15 in migration, 10 in summer. No specimens.

Eastern Winter Wren. Troglodytes troglodytes hiemalis. Vieillot. Winter resident; fairly common; October 14, 1934 (Handley) to April 24, 1950. Maximum, 17, December 28, 1950; normal, 4.

Northern Carolina Wren. Thryothorus ludovicianus ludovicianus. (Latham). Permanent resident; quite common. Nest with five eggs, June 24, 1950; young out of nest, June 12, 1937 (DeGarmo). Maximum, 40 December 28, 1950; normal, 15.

Long-billed Marsh Wren. Telmatodytes palustris subsp. (Wilson). Transient; quite scarce in spring; March 24, 1945 to May 7, 1950; no fall records; also a bird at Swift Creek, June 4, 1937 (DeGarmo). Not over two seen in any one day. This is a common summer resident on the lower Chickahominy just east of our area.

Short-billed Sedge Wren. Cistothorus platensis stellaris. (Naumann). Transient; rare. Two records: one, Curles Neck, May 2, 1948; three, Curles Neck, May 15, and 20, 1949.

Eastern Mockingbird. Mimus polyglottos polyglottos (Linnaeus). Permanent resident; quite common. Eggs as early as April 18, 1944; young just out of nest, August 29, 1949; many other nests and broods. Maximum, 40, May 7, 1949; normal, 20.

Catbird. Dumetella carolinensis (Linnaeus). Permanent resident on the Coast Plain; common, becoming rather scarce and secretive in mid-winter; summer resident on the Piedmont, April 24, 1949 to October 2, 1949. Eggs, May 14 to June 25. Maximum, 23, May 2, 1948; normal, 7.

Eastern Brown Thrasher. Toxostoma rufum rufum (Linnaeus). Permanent resident on the Coastal Plain; common, but much less so in mid-winter; summer resident on the Piedmont, March 13, 1948 to October 15, 1930 (Handley), and occasionally in winter at Richmond and Petersburg. Breeding: nest building as early as April 27, 1934 (Handley); eggs, May 28 to June 23. Maximum, 11, May 11, 1947; normal in spring and summer, 6.

Eastern Robin. Turdus migratorius migratorius. Linnaeus. Transient and winter resident; abundant in migration, fairly common in winter. Dates not separable from following race. Specimen: January 29, 1949.

Southern Robin. Turdus migratorius achrusterus (Batchelder). Summer resident; abundant; possibly winters to some extent. Breeding: eggs as early as April 9, 1949, and DeGarmo found a nest on August 18, 1937, Counts of over 300 are frequent in March. Normal in summer, 25.

Newfoundland Robin. Turdus migratorius nigrideus. Aldrich and Nutt. Possibly a regular winter visitor, but only one definite record, a single bird collected at Curles Neck on January 29, 1949, which was identified by Wetmore as a typical example of this race.

Wood Thrush. Hylocichla mustelina. (Gmelin). Summer resident; abundant; April 14, 1945 to October 5, 1944. Feeding young out of nest, June 18, 1937 (DeGarmo). Maximum, 76, May 8, 1949; normal, 50 in migration, 20 in summer.

Eastern Hermit Thrush. Hylocichla guttata faxoni. Bangs and Pernard. Winter resident; fairly common; October 31, 1948 to April 29, 1933 (Handley). Maximum, 28, December 28, 1950; normal, 7. No specimens.

Olive-backed Swainson's Thrush. Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni. (Tschudi). Transient; rather uncommon in spring, April 29, 1944 to May 17, 1908 (Embody) and 1950 (McIlwaine); two fall records: two, Curles Neck, October 26, 1947, and one, Petersburg, October 31, 1950 (McIlwaine). This species appears much more common both along the Blue Ridge and on the coast. No specimens have been collected and possibly other races occur.

Gray-checked Thrush. Hylocichla minima subsp. (Lafresnaye). Transient; two records of single birds: Curles Neck, October 26, 1947, and Petersburg, May 12, 1949 (McIlwaine). The former date is quite a late one. This is another bird that appears to be more common both in the mountains and along the coast.

Eastern Veery. Hylocichla fuscescens fuscescens (Stephens). Transient; scarce in spring, April 22, 1942 (Sydnor) to May 19, 1950 (McIlwaine); also three birds at Ashland, April 11, 1908 (Embody), a very early date; no fall records. Normal, 1.

Eastern Common Bluebird. Sialia sialis sialis (Linnaeus). Permanent resident; common, becoming abundant in winter. Breeding: eggs as early as April 10, 1949; young in nest, April 18, 1932 (Handley); young just out of nest, September 12, 1950; many other nests between these dates. Maximum, about 80 in January; normal, 35 in winter, 15 in summer.

Eastern Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Polioptila caerulea caerulea. (Linnaeus). Summer resident; very common; March 24, 1945 to September 12, 1948; also a bird at Curles Neck, December 28, 1932 (Handley). Breeding: nest building, April 20, 1946; young out of nest, June 4, to June 20. Maximum, 34 on May 2, 1948, and 31 on June 12, 1948; normal, 15 in spring, 8 in summer.



Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglet. Regulus satrapa satrapa. Lichtenstein. Winter resident; abundant, more some years than others; October 9, 1949 to April 14, 1944. Maximum, 71, January 27, 1947; normal, 40.

Eastern Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Regulus calendula calendula. (Linnaeus). Winter resident; common, but occasionally less so in midwinter; October 2, 1946 (McIlwaine) to May 8, 1948 and 1949. Maximum, 20 in November and April; normal, 12 in migration, 8 in midwinter.

American Water Pipit. Anthus spinoletta rubescens (Tunstall). Transient and winter resident; quite common; October 23, 1949 to April 7, 1950; also two at Curles Neck, May 5, 1930 (Handley). Apparently more common in Tidewater, especially in midwinter. Maximum, about 450; normal, 200.

Cedar Waxwing. Bombycilla cedrorum. Vieillot. Transient and winter visitor; irregularly common; August 25, 1933 (Seaman) and 1949 to May 26, 1950; also three at Swift Creek, July 5 and 7, 1937 (DeGarmo). Maximum, 80, April 8, 1945. In Prince Edward County I have often found it abundant in fall and winter.

Southern Loggerhead Shrike. Lanius ludovicianus ludovicianus. Linnaeus. Permanent resident; fairly common, occurring in summer as far east as Curles Neck. Nest with six eggs as early as April 8, 1944. Maximum, 7 in May, September and December; normal, 5. Specimen: Prince George County, early November, 1939, collected by Addy and Handley (Raven 11: 1940, 34). Breeding birds are assigned to this race by virtue of two specimens taken in Albemarle County, one by Calhoun on April 12, 1936, and the other by Grey on May 23, 1949.

Migrant Loggerhead Shrike. Lanius ludovicianus migrans. Palmer. Probably a fairly common post-breeding and winter resident, but dates not separable from preceding race. A specimen collected in Charles City County on November 26, 1949, was identified by Wetmore as a typical example of this race.

Common Starling. Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris. Linnaeus. Permanent resident; abundant. Nest building as early as April 7, 1930 (Handley). Maximum, about 3000 for migrating and roosting flocks. Embury did not record this species at Ashland in 1907-1908.

Northern White-eyed Vireo. Vireo griseus noveboracensis (Gmelin). Summer resident; very common on both Piedmont and Tidewater; April 3, 1948 to October 9, 1949. Young out of nest, June 20, 1934 (Handley). Maximum, 36, May 3, 1947; normal, 22 in migration, 13 in summer.

Yellow-throated Vireo. Vireo flavifrons. Vieillot. Summer resident; common, especially along the Chickahominy in Tidewater; April 10, 1949 to September 26, 1946 (McIlwaine). Nest, May 28, 1941 (Sydnor). Maximum, 34 along the Chickahominy, June 12, 1943; elsewhere, 15 in late April and early May. Normal, 10.

Blue-headed Solitary Vireo. Vireo solitarius solitarius (Wilson). Transient; quite uncommon; March 27, 1948 to April 26, 1950 (McIlwaine), and October 3, 1945 to October 31, 1949 (both McIlwaine). Maximum, 2. All records are from the Piedmont.

Red-eyed Vireo. Vireo olivaceus (Linnaeus). Summer resident; abundant; April 14, 1945 to October 12, 1948. Young in nest, June 18 to July 25, Maximum, 131, May 7, 1950, and June 12, 1948; normal, 90 in spring, 50 in summer.

Philadelphia Vireo. Vireo philadelphicus (Cassin). Transient; one record: a single bird found singing in Windsor Farms, Richmond, on May 5, 1944.

Eastern Warbling Vireo. Vireo gilvus gilvus (Vieillot). Visitor; one record: a singing bird at Swift Creek, June 4, 1937 (DeGarmo).

Black and White Warbler. Mniotilta varia (Linnaeus). Summer resident; common; March 26, 1948 to October 10, 1948; also a single bird in Charles City County, just east of Curles Neck, on February 6, 1949, with a flock of Pine Warblers. Young out of nest, June 9, 1937 (DeGarmo). Maximum, 18, April 22, 1944; normal, 10 in spring, 5 in summer.

Prothonotary Warbler. Protonotaria citrea (Boddaert). Summer resident in Tidewater; abundant; April 18, 1948 to September 8, 1947. Occasionally occurs along the James River in the Piedmont during migration. Breeding: 7 broods along the Chickahominy on June 12, 1948. Maximum, 133, along the Chickahominy, June 12, 1948; elsewhere, 47 at Curles Neck, May 2, 1948. Normal, 35.

Worm-eating Warbler. Helminthophila vermivorus (Gmelin). Summer resident on the Piedmont; rather common, at least at Swift Creek; April 29, 1944, in spring; no fall dates. One Tidewater record: a single bird at Hopewell, May 7, 1950. One carrying food at Swift Creek, May 26, 1950. Maximum, 8, May 26, 1950.

Blue-winged Warbler. Vermivora pinus (Linnaeus). Transient; scarce in spring, April 29, 1944 to May 15, 1949; one fall record, September 9, 1937 (DeGarmo).

Tennessee Warbler. Vermivora peregrina (Wilson). Transient in fall; rare. Two records: two, Windsor Farms, September 23, 1944; five, Byrd Park, October 14, 1949.

Eastern Nashville Warbler. Vermivora ruficapilla ruficapilla (Wilson). Transient; one record: one at Curles Neck, August 30, 1947.

Northern Parula Warbler. Parula americana pusilla (Wilson). Transient; dates not separable from the following race. Embury collected specimens of this race in 1907 and 1908 at Ashland during migration.



Southern Parula Warbler. Parula americana americana (Linnaeus). Summer resident; abundant in Tidewater, common on Piedmont; March 30, 1946 to October 13, 1946. Nest building, May 4, 1908 (Embrey). Maximum, 69, June 12, 1948; normal, 25. No specimens of this race.

Eastern Yellow Warbler. Dendroica petechia aestiva (Gmelin). Summer resident; fairly common, more so in migration; April 16, 1946 to August 11, 1931 (Handley). No nests. Maximum, 21 on May 7, 1950; normal, 12 in spring, 6 in summer.

Magnolia Warbler. Dendroica magnolia (Wilson). Transient; scarce on Piedmont; May 2, 1944 to May 22, 1951 (McIlwaine), and September 3, 1945 (McIlwaine) to October 10, 1948. No Tidewater records. Maximum, 5, Swift Creek, May 15, 1948; normal, 2.

Cape May Warbler. Dendroica tigrina (Gmelin). Transient; quite common in fall in suitable spots, September 4, 1944 to October 31, 1949 (McIlwaine); rather rare in spring, May 3, 1951 to May 11, 1950 (both McIlwaine). Maximum, 78, October 9, 1949; normal in fall, 30.

Northern Black-throated Blue Warbler. Dendroica caerulescens caerulescens (Gmelin). Transient; fairly common, more so in Piedmont; April 28, 1945 to May 18, 1946, and September 2, 1944 (McIlwaine) to October 14, 1949. Maximum, 13, May 3, 1947; normal, 7.

Eastern Myrtle Warbler. Dendroica coronata coronata (Linnaeus). Transient and winter resident; abundant; October 2, 1949 to May 15, 1948. Maximum, 233, March 13, 1950; in winter, 111, December 26, 1948. Normal, 100 in migration, 35 in midwinter. Just east of our area this species appears much more abundant.

Northern Black-throated Green Warbler. Dendroica virens virens. (Gmelin). Transient; uncommon; April 16, 1951 to May 22, 1951 (both McIlwaine), and September 3, 1945 to October 16, 1949 (both McIlwaine). Maximum, in spring, 7; in fall, 4. Normal, 3 in spring, 2 in fall.

Blackburnian Warbler. Dendroica fusca (Müller). Transient. Three fall records: one, Swift Creek, September 14, 1937 (DeGarmo); 4, Windsor Farms, September 23, 1944; one, Petersburg, October 10, 1950 (McIlwaine). Two spring records of single birds at Petersburg, May 1 and 7, 1951 (McIlwaine).

Eastern Yellow-throated Warbler. Dendroica dominica dominica. (Linnaeus). Summer resident; common in Tidewater, somewhat less so in Piedmont; March 21, 1948 to September 8, 1947. No nests. Maximum, 37, March 27, 1949 and 31, June 12, 1948. Normal, 20 in migration, 10 in summer. This bird has two distinct habitat preferences in this area. In Tidewater it is found almost exclusively in dry coniferous or mixed woodlands, while on the Piedmont it is found almost invariably in lowland deciduous woodlands along streams.

Chestnut-sided Warbler. Dendroica pensylvanica (Linnaeus). Transient; rather uncommon; April 20, 1947 to May 18, 1946, and August 31, 1949 to September 29, 1946 (McIlwaine); also one on October 10, 1949 (McIlwaine). Maximum, 6 on May 7, 1950; normal, 3.

Bay-breasted Warbler. Dendroica castanea (Wilson). Transient; two records of single birds: Curles Neck, September 8, 1947; Petersburg, May 11, 1950 (McIlwaine).

Black-poll Warbler. Dendroica striata (Forster). Transient; quite common in spring, April 26, 1939 (Sydnor) to June 8, 1949; irregularly abundant in fall (at least on the Piedmont), October 9, 1949 to October 31, 1949 (McIlwaine), but it undoubtedly arrives in early September. Maximum in spring, 64, May 26, 1950; normal, 25. Maximum in fall, 59, October 9, 1949; normal, 35. In the fall this bird often associates with large flocks of Cape May Warblers.

Northern Pine Warbler. Dendroica pinus pinus (Wilson). Permanent resident; abundant in summer and migration; irregularly common, but usually scarce, in winter. Depending upon the weather spring transients arrive anywhere from the first week in February to the first week in March, and up to 45 have been seen in one day in mid-February. Breeding: nest with young, April 18, 1949; young out of nest, May 7 to June 21. Maximum in spring, 88, March 21, 1948; in fall, 61, September 12, 1948. Normal, 45 in migration, 25 in summer.

Northern Prairie Warbler. Dendroica discolor discolor (Vieillot). Summer resident; very common; April 16, 1949 to September 12, 1948. Nests with young, June 11 and 26, 1937 (DeGarmo). Maximum, 49, May 1, 1949; normal, 30 in spring, 10 in summer.

Western Palm Warbler. Dendroica palmarum palmarum (Gmelin). Transient; three records of single birds: Petersburg, September 28 and 29, 1945 (McIlwaine); Windsor Farms, October 5, 1944; Charles City County near Curles Neck, December 27, 1949 (Lawless and Stevens).

Yellow Palm Warbler. Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea. Ridgway. Transient; scarce in spring, April 10, 1944 to April 29, 1944; quite scarce in fall, October 1, 1944 to November 18, 1944. Maximum, 4 in April and October; normal, 1.

Eastern Ovenbird. Seiurus aurocapillus aurocapillus (Linnaeus). Summer resident; common; April 7, 1950 to September 30, 1944. This bird is more common on the Piedmont than east of Richmond, and it becomes abundant as one approaches the Blue Ridge. Nest with four eggs at Swift Creek, June 12, 1937 (DeGarmo). Maximum, 29, May 7, 1949; normal, 15.

Small-billed Waterthrush. Seiurus noveboracensis subsp. (Gmelin). Transient; quite scarce in spring, April 24, 1937 (Handley) to May 10, 1951 (McIlwaine); one fall record, one in Capitol Square, Richmond, August 8, 1945 (Mrs. Darden). No specimens. Maximum, 1.



Louisiana Waterthrush. Seiurus motacilla (Vieillot). Summer resident; common; March 20, 1949 to September 12, 1950. Feeding young out of nest, May 29 to June 14. Maximum, 15, June 12, 1950; normal, 7.

Kentucky Warbler. Oporornis formosus (Wilson). Summer resident; common; April 30, 1946 (McIlwaine) to September 4, 1947. Slightly more common on the Piedmont. Nest with eggs at Swift Creek, June 22, 1937 (DeGarmo). Maximum, 12 on May 26, 1950, and June 12, 1948; normal, 7.

Connecticut Warbler. Oporornis agilis (Wilson). Transient; one record: a single bird at Curles Neck, September 26, 1948.

Northern Yellowthroat. Geothlypis trichas brachidactyla (Swainson). Transient; apparently common, but dates not separable from the following race. Specimen: Curles Neck, October 9, 1949.

Maryland Yellowthroat. Geothlypis trichas trichas (Linnaeus). Summer resident; abundant; April 7, 1945 to October 10, 1948; also one on January 1, 1951 (McIlwaine). Breeding: nest with four eggs, June 20, 1936 (Nelson and Greenfield); young out of nest, June 12, 1948. Maximum, 91, May 1, 1949; normal, 40 in migration, 15 in summer. No specimens of this race and possibly there is some intergradation with G.t. typhicola.

Eastern Yellow-breasted Chat. Icteria virens virens (Linnaeus). Summer resident; common; April 28, 1945 to October 3, 1950 (Sydnor). Nest with three young, June 19, 1936 (Nelson and Greenfield). Maximum, 41, May 8, 1948; normal, 28 in migration, 15 in summer.

Hooded Warbler. Wilsonia citrina (Boddaert). Summer resident; very common; April 16, 1949 to September 15, 1944. Breeding: nest with eggs, May 14, 1946 (McIlwaine); nest with young, June 3, 1937 (DeGarmo). Maximum, 48, May 2, 1948; normal, 25 in migration, 15 in summer.

Wilson's Pileolated Warbler. Wilsonia pusilla pusilla (Wilson). Transient; two records: one at Windsor Farms, May 13, 1946; another at Petersburg, October 8, 1949 (McIlwaine).

Canada Warbler. Wilsonia canadensis (Linnaeus). Transient; uncommon in spring, May 3, 1951 to May 22, 1951 (both McIlwaine); two fall records: August 30, 1946, and October 12, 1949 (McIlwaine). Maximum, 3; normal, 1.

Southern American Redstart. Setophaga ruticilla ruticilla (Linnaeus). Summer resident; abundant; April 11, 1948 to October 12, 1948. Young out of nest, June 12, 1937 (DeGarmo), and June 20, 1934 (Handley). Maximum, 102, May 7, 1949; normal, 50 in spring, 25 in summer.

European House Sparrow. Passer domesticus domesticus (Linnaeus). Permanent resident; abundant about Richmond and farmyards. Nests found commonly about barns and other farm outbuildings. Maximum, 600, December 28, 1932 (Handley), normal, 100.

Bobolink. Dolichonyx oryzivorus (Linnaeus). Transient; abundant in spring, April 30, 1946 to May 26, 1950; common in fall, August 3, 1947 to October 2, 1949. Maximum in spring, 2200, May 12, 1946; in fall, 500, August 30, 1946. Normal in spring, 400; in fall, 150. On the night of September 11, 1948, thousands were heard migrating over Richmond.

Eastern Common Meadowlark. Sturnella magna magna (Linnaeus). Permanent resident; abundant. Nests with eggs or young on June 8, 12, 17 and 30, 1936 (Nelson and Greenfield). Maximum, 270, January 27, 1947; normal, 100 in winter, 25 in summer. Specimen: Curles Neck, June 16, 1950, somewhat intermediate toward the southern race, argutula.

Eastern Redwing. Agelaius phoeniceus phoeniceus (Linnaeus). Permanent resident; abundant, especially in migration. Nest with four eggs, June 17, 1938 (Seaman). Maximum, 4000, September 9, 1944; normal, 250 in migration, 50 in summer.

Orchard Oriole. Icterus spurius (Linnaeus). Summer resident; fairly common; May 1, 1949 to September 9, 1931 (Handley). Nests, May 17, 1933 (Handley) to July 3, 1936 (Nelson and Greenfield). Maximum, 6, May 15, 1949; normal, 3.

Baltimore Oriole. Icterus galbula (Linnaeus). Transient; scarce in spring, May 1, 1908 (Embody) and 1946 (McIlwaine) to May 10, 1949 (McIlwaine); two fall records of single birds, August 30, 1949 (McIlwaine) and September 8, 1947. Maximum, 3.

Rusty Blackbird. Euphagus carolinus (Müller). Transient and irregular winter resident; fairly common, but often scarce in midwinter; October 10, 1948 to April 21, 1945. Maximum, 350, March 3, 1945; normal, 70.

Purple Grackle. Quiscalus quiscula subsp. (Linnaeus). Permanent resident; abundant, becoming scarce in winter. Breeding: nest with eggs, April 19, 1931 (Handley); nest with young, May 30, 1930 (Handley); other records between these dates. Maximum, 2000, October 27, 1934 (Handley); normal in migration, 150. Breeding birds are probably Q. a. stonei Chapman, but no specimens have been taken.

Eastern Common Cowbird. Molothrus ater ater (Boddaert). Permanent resident; rare in summer (Embody), abundant in migration and irregularly common in winter. No breeding evidence. Maximum, 1100, October 23, 1949; normal in migration, 250.

Scarlet Tanager. Piranga olivacea (Gmelin). Transient and summer resident; rather common in summer at Swift Creek, essentially a fairly common transient elsewhere; April 29, 1908 (Embody) to October 1, 1945 (McIlwaine). Summer birds have also been noted at Richmond, Hanover (Sydnor) and Ashland (Handley), and three singing males were found along the Chickahominy east of Richmond on June 12, 1948. No nests. Maximum in spring, 20, May 15, 1948; in summer, 14 at Swift Creek, June 10, 1948. Normal, 12 in May on Piedmont.



Eastern Summer Tanager. Piranga rubra rubra (Linnaeus). Summer resident; common; April 18, 1949 to September 21, 1947. Nest with young, Richmond, June 28, 1933 (Handley). Maximum, 21, May 7, 1950; normal, 12 in migration, 6 in summer.

Eastern Cardinal. Richmondia cardinalis cardinalis (Linnaeus). Permanent resident; abundant. Breeding: eggs, April 8 to August 7; young out of nest as late as August 21, 1935 (Handley). Maximum, 97, December 26, 1948; normal, 50.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Pheucticus ludovicianus (Linnaeus). Transient; scarce in spring, April 29, 1944 to May 14, 1946 (McIlwaine); one fall record, September 25, 1949 (McIlwaine). Maximum, 2.

Eastern Blue Grosbeak. Guiraca caerulea caerulea (Linnaeus). Summer resident; fairly common; May 1, 1949 to September 12, 1948 and 1950. Breeding: nest with four eggs at Camp Lee, June 13, 1936 (Nelson and Greenfield); two immatures, Swift Creek, August 7, 1937 (DeGarmo). Maximum, 8, August 30, 1947; normal, 3.

Indigo Bunting. Passerina cyanea (Linnaeus). Summer resident; abundant; April 24, 1947 (Sydnor) to October 4, 1946 (McIlwaine), but scarce after second week in September. Nest with young, June 4, 1937 (DeGarmo). Maximum, 68, May 7, 1950; normal in May and June, 35.

Dickcissel. Spiza americana (Gmelin). Formerly a summer resident; now a spring and summer visitor; quite scarce and local; May 7 to June 30. The first recent record was of a singing male near the northern outskirts of Richmond on May 31, 1917, seen by Drs. H.H. Knight and A.H. Wright (Auk 36: 1919, 575). From 1946 to 1949 a number of observations were made at Curles Neck. Two males and one female were present there from May 12 to 24, 1946. One singing male was observed June 2 to 13, 1947. A single singing male was seen June 30, 1948. One to three individuals were present from May 7 to 20, 1949. The bird failed to reappear in 1950 and 1951. The only nesting evidence is two sets of eggs taken near Richmond by Capt. Wirt Robinson, one on May 31, 1879, the other on June 15, 1870. These are now in the collection of the U.S. National Museum.

Eastern Purple Finch. Carpodacus purpureus purpureus (Gmelin). Winter resident; usually common but varying greatly from year to year; October 16, 1945 (McIlwaine) to May 11, 1908 (Embody), but the next latest date is April 25, 1931 (Handley). This bird is neither as common nor as regular here as farther west on the Piedmont. Maximum, 83, March 27, 1950; normal, 20.

Northern Pine Siskin. Spinus pinus pinus. (Wilson). Transient and winter visitor; three records: seven, 2 collected, Ashland, January 16, 1908 (Embody); six, just west of Curles Neck, February 9, 1947; one, Richmond, February 26, 1942 (Sydnor). This is another species that appears to be more common both on the coast and in the mountains than at Richmond.

Eastern American Goldfinch. Spinus tristis tristis (Linnaeus). Permanent resident; abundant, but less so in summer. Embury recorded it as breeding at Ashland. Maximum, 500, April 20, 1946; normal, 100.

Red-eyed Eastern Towhee. Pipilo erythrophthalmus erythrophthalmus (Linnaeus). Permanent resident; abundant in migration, common in summer, fairly common in winter. No nests. Maximum, 64, May 7, 1950; normal, 40 in migration, 20 in winter. Specimens: January 29, 1949, and October 2, 1949.

Eastern Savannah Sparrow. Passerculus sandwichensis savanna (Wilson). Transient and winter resident; abundant in migration, uncommon in midwinter; October 9, 1949 to May 8, 1948. Occasionally this species floods the fields with numbers that defy estimation. Such a day was April 5, 1947, when 415 were counted in one small field. Normal, 125 in migration, 5 in midwinter. Specimens: October 9 and 30, 1949.

Labrador Savannah Sparrow. Passerculus sandwichensis labradorius Howe. Transient; dates not separable from preceding race; one specimen taken at Curles Neck, October 30, 1949.

Eastern Grasshopper Sparrow. Ammodramus savannarum pratensis (Vieillot). Summer resident; very common; April 10, 1949 to September 21, 1947. Breeding: nest with eggs and nest with young at Camp Lee, June 29, 1935 (Handley); one juvenile at Camp Lee, August 13, 1935 (Handley); Handley has a number of other records between these dates, and Nelson and Greenfield found a number of nests in 1936. Maximum, 41, May 7, 1949 and 1950; normal, 28 in spring, 15 in summer.

Eastern Henslow's Sparrow. Passerherbulus henslowii susurrens Brewster. Summer resident; locally fairly common, both in Tidewater and on the Piedmont; April 16, 1949 to August 19, 1938 (Seaman); but it probably remains into October. Breeding: nest with eggs at Camp Lee, June 13, 1939 (A.L. Nelson, vide Handley); one juvenile at Camp Lee, June 10, 1936 (Handley); six nests found in 1936 (Nelson and Greenfield). Maximum, 12, April 26, 1936 (Handley); normal, 8.

Eastern Vesper Sparrow. Pooecetes gramineus gramineus (Gmelin). Transient and possibly a summer resident; uncommon in spring, March 10, 1945 to April 24, 1950; scarce in fall, October 10, 1948 to November 9, 1942 (Sydnor); four summer records: a singing bird June 5 and another July 21, 1937, at Swift Creek (DeGarmo); one just west of Curles Neck, June 30, 1948; one at Petersburg, August 14, 1946 (McIlwaine). Maximum, 7; normal, 3.

Eastern Bachman's Sparrow. Aimophila aestivalis bachmani (Audubon). Summer resident in central and southern Chesterfield County; irregularly and locally common, although McIlwaine has it regularly at Petersburg; April 3, 1946 (McIlwaine) to September 9, 1938 (Seaman). One record north of the James River: Varina, Henrico County, April 24, 1949; this is also the only record east of the Fall Line. DeGarmo reported a bird carrying food at Swift Creek on June 21, 1937.



Northern Slate-colored Junco. Junco hyemalis hyemalis (Linnaeus). Winter resident; quite common and irregularly abundant; October 12, 1947 and 1948 to May 3, 1934 (Handley), but the next latest date is April 22, 1948. Maximum, 639, December 28, 1950; normal, 180.

Eastern Tree Sparrow. Spizella arborea arborea (Wilson). Winter visitor. Embury termed it "not common" at Ashland in 1907-1908, but there have been only three records since, all by Handley: two, Camp Lee, December 12, 1935; one, Curles Neck, December 28, 1932; one, Ashland, January 1, 1933.

Eastern Chipping Sparrow. Spizella passerina passerina (Bechstein). Transient and summer resident; quite common, though somewhat less so in summer; March 13, 1949 and 1950 to November 21, 1948. Eggs, May 17 to June 29. Maximum, 90, April 10, 1944; normal, 40 in migration, 12 in summer.

Eastern Field Sparrow. Spizella pusilla pusilla (Wilson). Permanent resident; quite common, but less so in summer. Nest with two eggs and two young, May 26, 1950. Maximum, 116, April 10, 1944; normal, 65 in migration and winter, 10 in summer.

Eastern White-crowned Sparrow. Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys (Forster). Transient; Embury called it "an uncommon transient and rare winter visitant" at Ashland in 1907-1908. Since then there have been only a few records: in fall, six on October 18, 1950 (McIlwaine); in spring, April 28, 1950 (McIlwaine) to May 7, 1945 (McIlwaine) and 1950.

White-throated Sparrow. Zonotrichia albicollis (Gmelin). Winter resident; abundant; October 5, 1945 (McIlwaine) to May 15, 1949. Maximum, 375, December 27, 1949; normal, 100 in midwinter, 80 in spring.

Eastern Fox Sparrow. Passerella iliaca iliaca (Merrem). Transient and winter visitor; irregularly common but usually scarce in migration, rather rare in midwinter; October 20, 1907 (Embury) to March 29, 1931 (Handley). Maximum, 57, February 29, 1948; normal, 6. This bird appears to be more common both on the coast and farther west toward the Blue Ridge.

Southern Swamp Sparrow. Melospiza georgiana georgiana (Latham). Winter resident; common in Tidewater, especially in the marshes along the south bank of the James, less common on the Piedmont; October 10, 1948 to May 7, 1950; also one on May 17, 1946 (McIlwaine). Maximum, 44, December 28, 1950; normal, 10.

Eastern Song Sparrow. Melospiza melodia melodia (Wilson). Transient and winter resident; dates not separable from following race. Specimen: Curles Neck, October 23, 1949.

Mississippi Song Sparrow. Melospiza melodia euphonia Wetmore. Permanent resident; abundant in migration and winter over entire area; common in summer in Richmond and in Tidewater, but occurs uncommonly in summer on the Piedmont away from Richmond, and then only along watercourses - "apparently rare or absent in uplands" (Handley). DeGarmo had only two records at Swift Creek in the summer of 1937. Young out of nest, May 9, to August 1. Maximum, 178, December 28, 1950; normal, 40 in winter, 20 in

June (Tidewater and Richmond). Specimens: Curles Neck, March 13, 1950; Boshers' Dam, June 16, 1950; Hopewell, June 17, 1950; Curles Neck, October 9, 1949 (two). Breeding birds are slightly intermediate towards the race atlantica.

Eastern Snow Bunting. Plectrophenax nivalis nivalis (Linnaeus). Visitor; one record: Capt. Wirt Robinson collected one in Chesterfield County on November 12, 1881, (Auk 6: 1889, 195).

NOTE: Latin names agree with the latest decisions of the Committee on Nomenclature of the American Ornithologists' Union. Vernacular names are those which will appear in the forthcoming Fifth Edition of the A. O. U. Checklist of North American Birds.

Richmond, Virginia