

The Raven

BULLETIN OF THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY

J. J. MURRAY, EDITOR
LEXINGTON, VA.

VOL XXIII

JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 1952

NOS. 1 & 2

CONTENTS

	Page
Virginia Christmas Counts - 1951	2
Back Bay	
Yorktown	
Richmond	
Fort Belvoir	
Lynchburg	
Roanoke	
Danville	
Harrisonburg	
Ottobine (Rockingham County)	
Lexington	
Blacksburg	
Abingdon	
Mount Rogers	
Pine Grosbeak Added to the Virginia List	
By Paul G. Favour	10
The Newfoundland Hermit Thrush in Virginia	
By C.O. Handley, Jr.	10
Bald Eagle Attacks Coot	
By C.C. Steirly	11
Stalking Birds with Color Camera - A Review	11
Wildlife in Color - A Review	12

VIRGINIA CHRISTMAS COUNTS

Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Virginia (same area as in previous years, refuge area and much of mainland Princess Anne County; open farmland 20%, pine woodland 10%, deciduous woodland 20%, ocean beach 5%, marshes and inland bay 45%) - December 29; 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Partly cloudy; temp. 31° to 45°; wind E, 3-10 m.p.h.; ground bare, fresh water partially frozen. Seven observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours, 26 (22 on foot, 2 by car, 2 by motorboat); total party-miles, 130 (16 on foot, 110 by car, 4 by boat). Common Loon, 17; Red-throated Loon, 1; Horned Grebe, 55; Pied-billed Grebe, 5; Double-crested Cormorant, 1; Great Blue Heron, 6; Black-crowned Night Heron, 24; Whistling Swan, 2000 (est.); Canada Goose, 4000 (est.); Snow Goose, 7000 (est.); Mallard, 10; Black Duck, 590 (500 est., 90); American Widgeon, 40,000 (est.); Pintail, 600 (est.); Green-winged Teal, 6; Redhead, 40,000 (est.); Ring-necked Duck, 500 (est.); Canvas-back, 1000 (est.); Scaup (sp.), 6; American Golden-eye, 3; Buffle-head, 4; White-winged Scoter, 102; Surf Scoter, 7; American Scoter, 73; Ruddy Duck, 60; Hooded Merganser, 9; American Merganser, 8; Red-breasted Merganser, 8; Turkey Vulture, 4; Black Vulture, 94; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 2; Red-shouldered Hawk, 2; Bald Eagle, 5; Marsh Hawk, 25; Peregrine Falcon, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 25; King Rail, 2; American Coot, 10,000 (est.); Killdeer, 7; Black-bellied Plover, 1; Wilson's Snipe, 9; Greater Yellow-legs, 1; Sanderling, 1; Great Black-backed Gull, 23; Herring Gull, 85; Ring-billed Gull, 161; Laughing Gull, 4; Bonaparte's Gull, 6; Black Skimmer, 2 (observed both at rest and in flight by R.J.B., J.E.P., F.C.R., F.R.S.); Mourning Dove, 33; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 35; Pileated Woodpecker, 4; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 19; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 4; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 21; Red-cockaded Woodpecker, 2 (F.R.S.); Eastern Phoebe, 4; Blue Jay, 1; American Crow, 64; Fish Crow, 6; Carolina Chickadee, 55; Tufted Titmouse, 17; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 25; Brown Creeper, 5; House Wren, 1; Winter Wren, 10; Carolina Wren, 72; Long-billed Marsh Wren, 30; Short-billed Marsh Wren, 8; Mockingbird, 19; Catbird, 31; Brown Thrasher, 2; American Robin, 86; Hermit Thrush, 7; Eastern Bluebird, 29; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 6; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 9; Water Pipit, 8; Cedar Waxwing, 11; Loggerhead Shrike, 1 (C.E.S.); Common Starling, 52; Myrtle Warbler, 723; Pine Warbler, 7; Palm Warbler (Yellow), 1; Common Yellowthroat, 14; House Sparrow, 90; Eastern Meadowlark, 24; Red-winged Blackbird, 599 (400 est., 199); Purple Grackle, 2; Brown-headed Cowbird, 43; Cardinal, 54; Purple Finch, 4; American Goldfinch, 84; Eastern Towhee, 49; Savannah Sparrow, 73; Sharp-tailed Sparrow, 1; Slate-colored Junco, 74; Tree Sparrow, 2 (R.J.B., F.C.R., F.R.S.); Chipping Sparrow, 5 (C.E.S.); Field Sparrow, 46; White-throated Sparrow, 292; Fox Sparrow, 25; Swamp Sparrow, 261; Song Sparrow, 156; Snow Bunting, 2 (W.F.M., C.E.S.). Total, 108 species; about 109,867 individuals. - Mr. and Mrs. R.J. Beasley, W.F. Minor, J.E. Perkins, F.C. Richardson, F.R. Scott, C.E. Stevens. (The following additional species were seen the same day just outside the census area at Stumpy Lake by W.F. Rountrey: American Egret, 1; Shoveller, 11; Rusty Blackbird, 28.)

Yorktown, Virginia (same area as in previous years; open farmland 20%, pine woodlands 22%, deciduous woodlands 18%, marshes and river shore 40%). - December 28; 7:15 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Partly cloudy; temp. 19° - 38°; wind NW, 2-12 m.p.h.; ground bare, lakes partially frozen. Three observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours, 19 (17 on foot, 2 by car); total party-miles, 84 (9 on foot, 75 by car). Common Loon, 7; Red-throated Loon, 1; Horned Grebe, 149; Pied-billed Grebe, 56; Great Blue Heron, 21; Canada Goose, 179; Mallard, 6; Black Duck, 11; Gadwall, 36; American Widgeon, 167; Pintail, 66; Green-winged Teal, 1; Ring-necked Duck, 87; Canvas-back, 8; Scaup (sp.) 249; American Golden-eye, 289; Buffle-head, 139; Old-squaw, 1; White-winged Scoter, 153; Surf Scoter, 1; American Scoter, 184; Ruddy Duck, 632; Hooded Merganser, 56; American Merganser, 200; Red-breasted Merganser, 17; Turkey Vulture, 44; Black Vulture, 19; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 2; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 2; Red-shouldered Hawk, 4; Bald Eagle, 4; Marsh Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 7; Bob-white, 12; Clapper Rail, 3; Killdeer, 38; Wilson's Snipe 30; Greater Yellow-legs, 4; Herring Gull, 26; Ring-billed Gull, 305; Bonaparte's Gull, 10; Mourning Dove, 3; Belted Kingfisher, 11; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 17; Pileated Woodpecker, 5; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 19; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 6; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 19; Eastern Phoebe, 1; Horned Lark, 20; Blue Jay, 4; American Crow, 103; Carolina Chickadee, 57; Tufted Titmouse, 47; White-breasted Nuthatch, 7; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 4; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 5; Brown Creeper, 11; House Wren, 1; Winter Wren, 6; Carolina Wren, 64; Short-billed Marsh Wren, 3; Mockingbird, 21; Catbird, 1; Brown Thrasher, 2; American Robin, 155; Hermit Thrush, 13; Eastern Bluebird, 21; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 69; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 17; Water Pipit, 18; Cedar Waxwing, 59; Common Starling, 286 (290 est., 86); Myrtle Warbler, 490; Pine Warbler, 5; House Sparrow, 14; Eastern Meadowlark, 105; Red-winged Blackbird, 921 (650 est., 271); Brown-headed Cowbird, 250 (est.); Cardinal, 95; Purple Finch, 8; American Goldfinch, 66; Eastern Towhee, 25; Savannah Sparrow, 39; Grasshopper Sparrow, 1 (all field marks, including characteristic shape of head, median stripe on head and yellowish bend of wing, carefully noted at close range by W.F.M. and C.E.S.); Sharp-tailed Sparrow, 10; Slate-colored Junco, 377; Field Sparrow, 90; White-throated Sparrow, 254; Fox Sparrow, 15; Swamp Sparrow, 19; Song Sparrow, 94. Total, 94 species; about 7183 individuals. - W.F. Minor, F.R. Scott, C.E. Stevens.

-----000-----

Richmond, Virginia (same area as in previous years, Richmond south-east to Curles Neck; open farmland 45%, pine woodlands 13%, deciduous woodlands 23%; residential districts 3%, marshes and river shore 8%, brushy fields 8%). - December 26; 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Overcast, heavy rain and fog in forenoon; temp. 38° to 49°; wind SW to N, 4-11 m.p.h.; ground bare, water open. Five observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours, 21 (18 on foot, 3 by car); total party-miles, 88 (8 on foot, 80 by car). Great Blue Heron, 14; Canada Goose, 1900 (est.); Blue Goose, 1 (adult with Canadas - F.R.S.); Mallard, 14; Black Duck, 33; Gadwall, 8; American Widgeon, 30; Pintail, 20; Ring-necked Duck, 102; American Golden-eye, 3; Buffle-head, 19; Ruddy Duck, 10;

American Merganser, 26; Turkey Vulture, 4; Black Vulture, 11; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Red-shouldered Hawk, 3; Bald Eagle, 6; Marsh Hawk, 2; Sparrow Hawk, 10; Bob-white, 1; American Coot, 98; Killdeer, 1; Herring Gull, 5; Ring-billed Gull, 495; Mourning Dove, 72; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 29; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 14; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 4; Hairy Woodpecker, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 18; Eastern Phoebe, 3; Horned Lark, 350 (250 Northern, 100 Prairie - est.); Blue Jay, 29; American Crow, 117; Carolina Chickadee, 55; Tufted Titmouse, 44; White-breasted Nuthatch, 8; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 10; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 2 (C.E.S., T.B.); Brown Creeper, 9; House Wren, 1 (C.E.S.); Winter Wren, 1; Carolina Wren, 58; Mockingbird, 34; Brown Thrasher, 1; Hermit Thrush, 6; Eastern Bluebird, 89; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 55; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 11; Water Pipit, 50 (est.); Cedar Waxwing, 68; Loggerhead Shrike, 11; Common Starling, 226; Myrtle Warbler, 30; Pine Warbler, 11; Palm Warbler, 2 (1 Western, 1 Yellow); House Sparrow, 22; Eastern Meadowlark, 131; Red-winged Blackbird, 400 (est.); Cardinal, 133; Purple Finch, 9; American Goldfinch, 50; Eastern Towhee, 8; Savannah Sparrow, 11; Slate-colored Junco, 481; Chipping Sparrow, 2 (C.E.S., T.B.); Field Sparrow, 73; White-throated Sparrow, 399; Fox Sparrow, 1; Swamp Sparrow, 6; Song Sparrow, 81. Total, 76 species and subspecies; about 6052 individuals. (Seen in area December 30: Red-headed Woodpecker, 1.) - T. Blair, Mrs. M. Coleman, F.R. Scott, C.E. Stevens, J.R. Sydnor.

-----000-----

Fort Belvoir, Virginia (Fort Belvoir military reservation, Accotink Bay, Gunston Cove, Dogue Creek, and that part of the Potomac River adjacent to the peninsula; water 30%, bottomland woods 30%, upland woods ($\frac{3}{4}$ deciduous and pine) 20%, old fields 10%, farmland 5%, cattail marsh 3%, golf course and parade grounds 2%). - December 23, 6:40 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. High overcast in a.m., clearing at noon; temp. 28° to 45°; no wind; ground bare and frozen in the open, thin snow and ice layer in woodlands; inlets partly frozen, river ice-free. Six observers in one party. Total party-hours, 57 (45 on foot, 12 by car); total party-miles, 216 (48 on foot, 168 by car). Horned Grebe, 1; Great Blue Heron, 3; Mallard, 1; Black Duck, 16; Lesser Scaup, 6; Buffle-head, 10; Ruddy Duck, 60; American Merganser, 47; Turkey Vulture, 13; Black Vulture, 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 3; Red-tailed Hawk, 6; Red-shouldered Hawk, 4; Bald Eagle, 8; Marsh Hawk, 1; Bob-white, 32 (3 coveys); Killdeer, 10; Herring Gull, 5; Ring-billed Gull, 55; Mourning Dove, 11; Great-horned Owl, 1; Barred Owl, 1; Flicker, 12; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 8; Hairy Woodpecker, 5; Downy Woodpecker, 12; Horned Lark, 2 (Prairie); Blue Jay, 35; American Crow, 160; Black-capped Chickadee, 2 (with Carolina Chickadees; larger, noticeably more white in wing, distinctive call - E.J., G.S.); Carolina Chickadee, 37; Tufted Titmouse, 12; White-breasted Nuthatch, 11; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 5; Brown Creeper, 11; Winter Wren, 4; Carolina Wren, 16; Mockingbird, 18; American Robin, 2; Eastern Bluebird, 11; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 39; Cedar Waxwing, 30; Loggerhead Shrike, 1; Common Starling, 112; Myrtle Warbler, 12; House Sparrow, 90; Eastern Meadowlark, 74; Red-winged Blackbird, 23; Rusty Blackbird, 8; Cardinal, 20; Purple Finch, 8; American Goldfinch, 19; Eastern Towhee, 2; Slate-colored

Junco, 202; American Tree Sparrow, 30; Chipping Sparrow, 1 (with House Sparrows and Juncos - J.M.A.); Field Sparrow, 12; White-throated Sparrow, 94; Song Sparrow, 31. Total, 60 species, 1,467 individuals. - Frances E. Abbott, Jackson M. Abbott (compiler), Mr. and Mrs. Irwin C. Hoover, Enoch Johnson, Georg Sigel.

-----000-----

Lynchburg, Virginia (Timber Lake, College Lake, Airport, up Blackwater and Tomahawk Creeks to Graves' Mill, James River around Six Mile Bridge; river bottom 16 %, grassy fields 10%, pine woods 13%, deciduous woods, upland and lowland, 40%, cultivated fields 12%, brushy fields 9%). - December 26; 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Overcast to partly cloudy (K front moving in); temp. 41° to 52°; wind SSW-WSW-NNW, 2-18 m.p.h.; ground mostly bare, 2 inches crusted snow in shaded areas; lakes mostly frozen over, streams open. Six observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours, 20 (16 on foot, 4 by car); total party-miles, 89 (21 on foot, 68 by car). Pied-billed Grebe, 1; Great Blue Heron, 1; Black Duck, 19; Wood Duck, 1; American Golden-eye, 2; Buffle-head, 3; Red-breasted Merganser, 1; Turkey Vulture, 11; Black Vulture, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 2; Sparrow Hawk, 2; Bob-white, 6; Mourning Dove, 8; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 11; Pileated Woodpecker, 3; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 3; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 36; Eastern Phoebe, 6; Horned Lark, 20; Blue Jay, 6; American Crow, 296 (290 est.); Fish Crow, 2; Carolina Chickadee, 76; Tufted Titmouse, 64; White-breasted Nuthatch, 16; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Brown Creeper, 2; Winter Wren, 2; Carolina Wren, 32; Mockingbird, 4; Brown Thrasher, 1; Hermit Thrush, 1; Eastern Bluebird, 19; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 14; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 13; Cedar Waxwing, 69; Loggerhead Shrike, 1; Common Starling, 40; Myrtle Warbler, 32; House Sparrow, 10; Eastern Meadowlark, 8; Rusty Blackbird, 30; Cardinal, 77; Purple Finch, 1; Pine Siskin, 3; American Goldfinch, 22; Eastern Vesper Sparrow, 1 (M.B.T.); Slate-colored Junco, 149; Field Sparrow, 26; White-crowned Sparrow, 2; White-throated Sparrow, 37; Fox Sparrow, 1; Swamp Sparrow, 16; Song Sparrow, 59; Total, 57 species, about 1274 individuals. (Seen in area December 24, Marsh Hawk, 1; Eastern Robin, 5.) - Larry L. Farmer, Jane E. Freer, Ruskin S. Freer, Melvin A. Mitchell, Jr., Hugh A. Moore, M.B. Tillotson. (Wood Duck, Buffle-head, Fish Crow, Eastern Vesper Sparrow and White-crowned Sparrow never before recorded here on Christmas Counts.)

-----000-----

Roanoke, Virginia (Edge of City and old Lynchburg Road to Murray's Pond; fields, orchards, wood; returning on Peters Creek Road through Bennetts Springs and Salem.) December 29; 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Cloudy; no wind; ground partly covered with snow; temp. 36° at start, 40° at finish. Total, 32 miles (27 by car, 5 on foot). Black Duck, 3; Gadwall, 2; Buffle-head Duck, 3; Turkey Vulture, 2; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Bob-white, 1; Killdeer, 5; Barred Owl, 1; Flicker, 2; Pileated Woodpecker, 1;

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 4; Blue-jay, 6; Crow, 60; Chickadee, 8; Tufted Titmouse, 3; White-breasted Nuthatch, 3; Carolina Wren, 2; Mockingbird, 5; Bluebird, 6; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 5; Shirke, 1; Starling, 300 (est.); English Sparrow, 12; Meadowlark, 2; Cardinal, 8; Goldfinch, 4; Junco, 18; Field Sparrow, 2; White-crowned Sparrow, 5; White-throated Sparrow, 8; Song Sparrow, 6; Total, 34 species. - Almon and Dorothy English.

-----000-----

Danville, Virginia (Danville Airport to Mill Lodge area, Dan's Hill, Dan River, from Union Street to Schoolfield, Country Club area, Ballou Park, Frey's farm, and Danville Golf Club; lakeside 30%, open fields, 40%, woods 30%. - December 31; 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Fog in morning, clearing to heavy overcast about 11 a.m.; no wind. Temp. 50° - 54°; two observers together. Total hours, 8; total miles, 5 on foot, 42 in car. Great Blue Heron, 1; Mallard 2; Black Duck, 3; unidentified duck (probably teal), 3; Redhead, 2; Ring-necked Duck, 7; Canvasback, 12; Scaup Duck, 12; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 3; Killdeer, 1; Mourning Dove, 13; Belted Kingfisher, 2; Flicker, 3; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Red-headed Woodpecker, 2; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 3; Prairie Horned Lark, 4; Blue Jay, 10; American Crow, 32; Carolina Chickadee, 13; Tufted Titmouse, 10; White-breasted Nuthatch, 4; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Brown Creeper, 1; Carolina Wren, 16; Short-billed Marsh Wren, 1 (seen in Pillars Swamp; second county record); Mockingbird, 5; Bluebird, 11; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 18; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1; Cedar Waxwing, 65 (est.); Shrike, 1; Starling, 27; Myrtle Warbler, 2; Pine Warbler, 2; English Sparrow, 11; Meadowlark, 23; Cardinal, 4; Goldfinch, 5; Towhee, 4; Slate-colored Junco, 82; Field Sparrow, 17; White-throated Sparrow, 5; Swamp Sparrow, 2; Song Sparrow, 14. Total, 48 species, about 448 individuals. - Bob Eggleston, Royster Lyle, Jr.

-----000-----

Harrisonburg, Virginia (Waterman Wood to Tide Spring, a total distance of twelve miles including oak-hickory-cedar-pine woodlot 60%, oak-hickory woodlot 10%, a small village bordering college campus 10%, cedar-pine wasteland 5%, pasture field and fence rows 15%). Small pond in oak-hickory woodlot. Ground frozen; small pools of water covered with thin layer of ice. December 24; 8:15 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. At beginning the sky was perfectly clear; temp. 39°; calm; noon, scattering of light cirrus clouds, slight breeze from south; ground thawing; temp. 65°; at close, clear sky; calm; temp. 44°. Throughout the entire area the ground was covered with 2 to 4 inches of old ice and snow, with a scattering of bare spots. Two observers working together within calling distance. Total hours, 7½ on foot; total miles, 8 on foot. Turkey Vulture, 91; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Bob-white, 8; Flicker, 2; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 4; Horned Lark, 25;

Raven, 1; Crow, 126; Carolina Chickadee, 24; Tufted Titmouse, 23; White-breasted Nuthatch, 11; Carolina Wren, 4; Mockingbird, 9; Bluebird, 3; Starling, 120; English Sparrow, 73; Cardinal, 14; Purple Finch, 1; Goldfinch, 38; Slate-colored Junco, 82; Tree Sparrow, 15; White-throated Sparrow, 11; Song Sparrow, 2. Total, 26 species; 691 individuals. - Daniel B. Suter, D. Ralph Hostetter.

-----000-----

Ottobine (Rockingham County). Southern part of Rockingham County, within seven miles of Ottobine. Area covered included some "Transition Zone", with Mixed Appalachian Hardwood Reproduction and stands of hemlock; mostly within "Upper Austral Zone"; open country used mainly for general farming, with scattered stands of mixed hardwoods; along main stream of the area, North River, good stands of sycamore, willow, cottonwood, with alder thickets; one ten acre mill dam, fed by limestone spring. - December 23; 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; one observer, 41 miles in car, 4 miles on foot; 2 observers at feeding stations in Bridgewater. Weather mostly clear; temp. 25° to 45°; wind southwest, 0-2 m.p.h.; ground clear of snow on south side of ridges, elsewhere up to 5 inches. Pied-billed Grebe, 4; Mallard, 183; Black Duck, 18; Gadwall, 10; Baldpate, 39; Pintail, 15; Shoveller, 5; Wood Duck, 2; Ring-necked Duck, 8; Buffle-head, 1; Ruddy Duck, 2; Hooded Merganser, 1; Turkey Vulture, 36; Black Vulture, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 2; Sparrow Hawk, 4; Ruffed Grouse, 4; Bob-white, 10 (1 covey); Coot, 23; Feral Rock Dove, 19; Belted Kingfisher, 2; Flicker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Phoebe, 1; Blue Jay, 4; American Crow, 2; Fish Crow, 5; (Crow, sp. undet., 99); Carolina Chickadee, 15; Tufted Titmouse, 4; White-breasted Nuthatch, 5; Winter Wren, 1; Carolina Wren, 2; Mockingbird, 3; Bluebird, 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 1; Migrant Shrike, 3; Starling, 53; English Sparrow, 16; Meadowlark, 1; Cardinal, 14; Goldfinch, 1; Slate-colored Junco, 26; Field Sparrow, 1; White-crowned Sparrow, 14; White-throated Sparrow, 2; Song Sparrow, 5. The Phoebe was observed for about five minutes, with the aid of 7 x 50 binoculars, at a distance of about 75 feet; characteristic flight and perching habits of the species were observed, and the typical alarm note of the bird was noted. In the same area, Dec. 22, American Merganser, 6; Pileated Woodpecker, 1. Additional notes from Bridgewater area: Golden Eagle, 1; Oct. 13; seen from Shenandoah Mt., 7 miles north of Reddish Knob; Evening Grosbeak, Dec. 9, 2; Dec. 12, 20 (collected 1 male, 1 female, at Bridgewater). Total, 46 species, 673 individuals. - Harry G.M. Jopson, Hope Power Jopson, Mrs. John W. Boitnott, Bridgewater College, Bridgewater, Virginia.

-----000-----

Lexington, Virginia (same area as in previous years, with addition of lower slopes of Dale and White Rock Mountains; open pasture, oak woods, cedar woods, scrub). - December 26, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., 30 minutes out at lunch. Heavily overcast in a.m., clear in p.m.; temp. 36° to 40°; ground one-third covered with old and crusted snow; ponds frozen, river open; wind

west, then north, 5-10 m.p.h. Total party-hours 27 (3 by car, 24 on foot); total party-miles, 84 (59 by car, 25 on foot). Mallard, 3; Black Duck, 1; Turkey Vulture, 60; Black Vulture, 22; Red-tailed Hawk, 2; Duck Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 9; Ruffed Grouse, 2; Bob-white, 62 (6 coveys); Killdeer, 1; Wilson's Snipe, 5; Mourning Dove, 81; Long-eared Owl, 1; Kingfisher, 1; Flicker, 8; Pileated Woodpecker, 6; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 9; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 6; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 17; Phoebe, 4; Prairie Horned Lark, 72; Blue Jay, 11; Raven, 2; Crow, 269; Carolina Chickadee, 93; Tufted Titmouse, 28; White-breasted Nuthatch, 18; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 3; Brown Creeper, 5; Winter Wren, 4; Carolina Wren, 16; Mockingbird, 30; Robin, 2; Bluebird, 35; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 23; Cedar Waxwing, 38; Migrant Shrike, 5; Starling, 466; Myrtle Warbler, 4; English Sparrow, 101; Meadowlark, 17; Cardinal, 136; Purple Finch, 16; Goldfinch, 97; Junco, 204; Tree Sparrow, 67; Field Sparrow, 32; White-throated Sparrow, 90; Song Sparrow, 30. Total species, 50; individuals, 2227. - R.P. Carroll, Alfred Conyne, Marie Byrne, J.J. Murray, Mrs. J.J. Murray, Jan W. Owen, Robert O. Paxton, Paul Penick, Charles Ritchey, Malcolm Tenney, Joshua Womeldorf, F.M. Yellott. (Flock of about 25 Evening Grosbeaks seen in the area on Christmas Day).

-----000-----

Blacksburg (Montgomery County), Virginia. (V.P.I. Campus and farm, town and radius of 1 mile to east and north, Brush Mt. and Tom's Creek to Whitethorne Station, New River from Goodwin's Ferry to Pepper's Ferry, except through Radford Ordinance Works, Strouble's Creek and ravines between Pepper's Ferry and Price's Forks; pasture and plowed land 20%, town and suburbs 9%, virgin white oak wood lots 20%, mixed pine and oak woods 24%, river and creek bottomland 27%). - December 31, 8:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Overcast, no wind; ground bare but frozen beneath surface. Twelve observers in 7 parties. Total party-hours, 79 (76 on foot, 3 by car); total party-miles, 161 (74 on foot, 87 by car). Pied-billed Grebe, 2; Mallard, 92; Black Duck, 73; Gadwall, 15; Pintail, 12; Green-winged Teal, 7; American Widgeon, 92; Redhead, 7; Ring-necked Duck, 18; Scaup Duck, 95; American Golden-eye, 86; Bufflehead, 71; Ruddy Duck, 2; Hooded Merganser, 6; Turkey Vulture, 13; Red-tailed Hawk, 3; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Marsh Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 9; Ruffed Grouse, 3; Bob-white, 26 (5 coveys); Killdeer, 3; Wilson's Snipe, 3; Rock Dove, 60; Mourning Dove, 13; Screech Owl, 1; Belted Kingfisher, 9; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 39; Pileated Woodpecker, 12; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 12; Hairy Woodpecker, 8; Downy Woodpecker, 60; Eastern Phoebe, 3; Horned Lark, 205; Blue Jay, 32; Common Raven, 1; American Crow, 719 (part est.); Black-capped Chickadee, 1; Carolina Chickadee, 250; Tufted Titmouse, 124; White-breasted Nuthatch, 34; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 57; Brown Creeper, 11; Winter Wren, 19; Bewick's Wren, 1; Carolina Wren, 84; Mockingbird, 36; American Robin, 2; Hermit Thrush, 5; Eastern Bluebird, 40; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 81; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 2; Cedar Waxwing, 16; Loggerhead Shrike, 4; Common Starling, 1,162 (part est.); Myrtle Warbler, 2; English Sparrow, 346; Eastern Meadowlark, 44; Red-winged Blackbird, 2; Brown-headed Cowbird, 16; Cardinal, 328; Evening Grosbeak, 2; Common Goldfinch, 165; Red Crossbill, 5; Slate-colored Junco, 186; American Tree Sparrow, 88; Field Sparrow, 177; White-

crowned Sparrow, 105; White-throated Sparrow, 23; Song Sparrow, 195. Total, 70 species; about 5,427 individuals. - C.O. Handley, Jr., C.O. Handley, Sr., John M. Handley, J.W. Murray, R.J. Watson, G.M. Shear, C.W. Roane, M.C. Hale, Henry S. Mosby, C.E. Stevens, Mrs. Ellison Smyth, A.L. Dean.

-----000-----

Abingdon, Virginia (area same as last year with addition of South Holston Reservoir which had not filled last year; Farmland and pastures 20%, deciduous woodland 30%, mixed pine and deciduous woodland 30%, marsh and creek bottoms 10%, lake 10%). December 21; 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Cloudy to clear in afternoon; temp. 37° to 52°; wind SW to W, 0-35 m.p.h.; all water free of ice. One observer. Total hours, 10½ (10 by foot, ½ by car); total miles, 16 (10 on foot, 6 by car). Pied-billed Grebe, 2; Great Blue Heron, 2; Mallard, 10; Lesser Scaup Duck, 2; American Golden-eye, 3; Bufflehead, 1; Hooded Merganser, 10; Red-breasted Merganser, 3; Turkey Vulture, 12; Black Vulture, 5; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Ruffed Grouse, 1; Bob-white, 17; Ring-billed Gull, 2; Mourning Dove, 17; Belted Kingfisher, 2; Pileated Woodpecker, 3; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 7; Phoebe, 2; Blue Jay, 8; Eastern Crow, 45; Carolina Chickadee, 27; Tufted Titmouse, 28; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Brown Creeper, 2; Carolina Wren, 12; Mockingbird, 10; Bluebird, 14; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 10; Loggerhead Shrike, 1; Starling, 205; Myrtle Warbler, 1; English Sparrow, 67; Eastern Meadowlark, 3; Red-winged Blackbird, 127; Cowbird, 28; Cardinal, 83; Purple Finch, 1; Goldfinch, 59; Slate-colored Junco, 99; Field Sparrow, 5; White-crowned Sparrow, 10; Swamp Sparrow, 2; Song Sparrow, 54. Total, 46 species; 1007 individuals. Seen in area December 2, 20; Coot, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; White-throated Sparrow, 10). - Stephen M. Russell.

-----000-----

Mount Rogers, Virginia (same area as last year with addition of Whitetop Mountain; elevation range 4400 to 5710 ft.; deciduous forest 45%, grassy fields 35%, spruce-fir forest 20%). December 23; 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.; cloudy to clearing; temp. 25° to 36°; wind SW, 0-15 m.p.h.; depth of snow increasing from none in Elk Garden Gap to 6 inches on top. Much ice on streams. Two observers in two parties. Total party-hours, 19½ (all on foot); total party-miles, 22. Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Ruffed Grouse, 7; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 8; Blue Jay, 8; Raven, 4; Eastern Crow, 3; Chickadee (sp.?), 11; Carolina Chickadee, 2; Tufted Titmouse, 21; White-breasted Nuthatch, 8; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 5; Brown Creeper, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 2; Goldfinch, 1; Slate-colored Junco, 23. Total, 15 species; 107 individuals. - Fred W. Behrend, Stephen M. Russell.

-----000-----

PINE GROSBEEK ADDED TO THE VIRGINIA LIST

On November 16, 1951, Park Ranger James McMillan picked up a dead Pine Grosbeak on the Skyline Drive, Shenandoah National Park, about two miles south of the entrance road to Lewis Mountain Lodge (Greene County). Realizing he had a strange bird, McMillan put the bird in his deep freezer (since I was away on vacation at the time). Last Thursday, December 5, I made the specimen, an immature male, up into a skin and added it to the Park's natural history collections. Dr. Wetmore verified the identification yesterday.

This species is a new record for the Park and, I believe, a new record for the State.

-- Paul G. Favour, Jr.
Park Naturalist

-----000-----

THE NEWFOUNDLAND HERMIT THRUSH IN VIRGINIA

Several years ago I published a note (Auk, 65 (1): 133, 1948) on subspecific identities of some Virginia birds in which I mentioned a dark-backed Hermit Thrush that resembled the population which breeds on the island of Newfoundland. The Newfoundland birds have since been described as a distinct subspecies and have been given the name Hylocichla guttata crymophila (Burleigh and Peters, Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, 61: 117; 1948). This race is the darkest of the Hermit Thrushes and is easily recognized in the hand by the chocolate-brown coloration of the upperparts. The common Eastern Hermit Thrush, H.g. faxoni, on the other hand, is characterized by reddish-brown upperparts. The specimen in question was collected near Blacksburg, Montgomery County, Virginia, on 22 October 1938. It is typical crymophila and appears to be the first example of this race to be reported for Virginia, or anywhere outside of Newfoundland for that matter. The migration routes and winter range of crymophila are still unknown, but it is probable that it migrates down the Atlantic seaboard and will be found to be a frequent visitor in Virginia. Another Hermit Thrush which was collected at Blacksburg, 15 October 1946, proves to be faxoni. Both of the above mentioned specimens are deposited in the U.S. National Museum.

-- C.O. Handley, Jr.
Washington, D.C.

BALD EAGLE ATTACKS COOT

On December 17, 1951, on the edge of Hog Island Wildfowl Refuge (James River, Surry County) I observed a bald eagle attacking a coot on the open waters of the river. For over twenty minutes the eagle made repeated attacks on the coot whose only recourse was to seek safety in diving. The eagle hardly gave its intended victim a chance to breathe, for as soon as it surfaced the eagle darted down in a long slanting approach, barely missing the coot yet arresting itself before actually contacting the water. At each downward plunge of the eagle the coot would dive and emerge perhaps twenty or thirty feet away. During the submergence the eagle made a rapid circling flight to height of about forty feet whereupon it hovered in flight, for a moment, similar to the tactics of the osprey. Apparently from this height it could follow its prey's underwater movement and in a moment sail in to attack the coot upon its surfacing.

The coot kept moving farther and farther from shore toward the deeper waters of the river. For awhile it seemed as though the eagle would have the best of it for it was giving the coot but little time above water. At the end of about twenty minutes the eagle gave up and flew back to a tall dead pine on the shore. The coot proceeded toward the center of the river where it was lost sight of.

-- C.C. Steirly
Waverly, Virginia

----000----

STALKING BIRDS WITH COLOR CAMERA - A REVIEW

Stalking Birds with Color Camera, by Arthur A. Allen, National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C., 328 pages, 331 color plates, many black and white photographs, 1951. \$7.50. This is a magnificent book, well worth the price asked for it. So far as this reviewer knows, there is nothing in its field to compare with it. The author is a pioneer in color photography. Of the 331 color plates, 264 are from his own camera. There are also dozens of striking black and white photographs, many of them stopping birds in strange and interesting flight attitudes. With the pictures go fascinating travel articles and a wealth of information about birds and their habits. Dr. Allen knows how to write as well as how to take a dramatic photograph. Most of these articles and many of these photographs have already appeared in the National Geographic Magazine, but having them massed between one pair of covers makes this a book to be treasured.

There are home birds and birds of the wildest country. The dust jacket color plate is one of a Robin coming in to the nest with food, while a black and white shows over 13,000 Lesser Snow Geese in Delaware Bay, and

one chapter tells about some of the rarest birds of the far north Alaska. There are so many unusual pictures that it is easy to point out striking features. For brilliance of color, there is a solid page of Flamingos, or a male Purple Gallinule looking at its eggs. For rarity, there is the nest and four eggs of the Bristle-thighed Curlew. For dramatic quality, the last picture, a Gannet caught in grotesque posture as it is about to stop at the nesting cliff on Bonaventure Island, cannot be surpassed, although the speed-flash photograph of a Screech Owl in flight comes close to it. The reviewer was particularly attracted by the color plate of an Emperor Goose standing above its nest. But scores of others could be named.

There are also pictures by Alfred M. Bailey, S.A. Grimes, Hal Harrison, Lewis H. Walker, and others. A chapter on "Freezing the Flight of Hummingbirds", by Harold Edgerton, Robert Niedrach, and Walker Van Riper, has some hitherto unpublished and unbelievably beautiful color plates as well as some breath-taking black and whites.

Color photography has made enormous strides within the past few years. But there is still a hazard between the color in nature and the color on the negative, and the further hazard between the color on the photographic plate and the color on the plate on the page. It is not surprising that an occasional picture even in a book as fine as this is somewhat short of perfect. There is too much rose in the female Cardinal on page 88, and too much salmon in the male of the same species on the opposite page, and too much orange in the Eastern Meadowlark on page 84; but these cases are few and even these not seriously off color. On the whole, the quality of the work in this book is amazing. It indicates that this method of illustrating books on nature is going to come more and more into use. It can scarcely take the place of the bird artist, even as an illustrator of books, but it is certainly going to cause the artist to study with more care the place of his work in so far as it is not just art but an adjunct to ornithology.

-- J.J. Murray

-----000-----

WILDLIFE IN COLOR - A REVIEW

Wildlife in Color, by Roger Tory Peterson. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston; with 453 illustrations in color by 18 leading American painters (including Peterson) and line decorations by the author, 189 pages, 1951, \$3.00 (sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation). For fourteen years, beginning in 1938, the National Wildlife Federation has published a sheet of Conservation Stamps in color. These pictures, covering birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, insects, flowers and trees, and now forming a remarkable gallery of small-scale nature paintings, are all reproduced in this book. Some of the plates show some signs of wear, but the book is a bargain at the price.

The most striking feature of the book is its ecological arrangement. Peterson has broken up the original sets and rearranged the pictures, not in groups of birds, mammals, etc., but in groups of birds and mammals and flowers, etc., according to their habitats. There are, for example, chapters on the North Woods Country, the South, the West, the Swamps, the Coast, the Desert, and other distinct types of country. Each chapter is headed by one of the author's characteristically attractive black and white sketches. Anything that Peterson does is well done, and his text makes the book a brief but rather complete survey of the natural history of our country. There is a good index.

Anyone will learn much from this book; anyone will enjoy it; it is a particularly good book to put in the hands of one who is beginning the study of nature and who wants to see nature from a broad viewpoint. Throughout there is a sound conservation emphasis.

-- J.J. Murray



The Raven

BULLETIN OF THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY

J. J. MURRAY, EDITOR
LEXINGTON, VA.

VOL. XXIII MARCH-APRIL NOS. 3 & 4

CONTENTS	Page
A Message from the President	15
Proposed Field Trip	16
Nineteenth Annual Meeting	
By Florence S. Hague	17
Annual Meeting Field Trip	19
Cooperative Bird Study Project	20
The Spring Season in Virginia - 1951	
By F.R. Scott	20
V. S. O. Field Trip to Cobb's Island	
By Charles E. Stevens, Jr.	22
Two Winter Bird Population Studies	
By Charles E. Stevens, Jr.	23
An Unusual Diet for Flickers	
By Paul Bartsch	24
The Key Deer - Will We Be Too Late?	24
Shenandoah National Park Christmas Bird Count - 1951	26
Review of <u>A Check-List of the Birds of Virginia</u>	
By F. R. Scott	26
Treasurer's Report	
By W. Edwin Miller	28
V. S. O. Membership List	29

(The Editor has asked Robert O. Paxton, Monroe Park, Lexington, Virginia, to prepare a study of the 1951-52 occurrences in Virginia of the Evening Grosbeak. All members are asked to send him by May 1 completed data on occurrences in their sections. Give earliest and latest dates, with numbers, and date and number of maximum counts. Any other data will be welcome.)

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

My election to the office of President of the Virginia Society of Ornithology on Saturday, February 16, came as a great surprise. I appreciate this recognition and especially the confidence you have placed in me. I am well aware of the responsibilities associated with this office as well as the challenges it presents to the one who is called to serve. I greatly appreciated the expressions of loyal support on the part of the membership, and I wish to assure you that I will do all in my power to maintain the high objectives and goals of the Society and of my predecessors.

I am happy to note that the Society is growing in membership; that public interest is increasing; and that there is more active participation in conservation movements. However, I feel that there is still much for us to do. We need members from those areas from which we have no representation; we must continue to stress conservation and to encourage nature education in the public schools; we should have records of birds from all areas of Virginia; we should give encouragement to more detailed study of birds in the areas of behavior and ecology. We must bridge the gaps referred to by Dr. Murray in his recent paper. This will require much effort and time, and since our Society is composed of busy people, these studies will necessarily be slow. Local bird groups, organized and active, could contribute much valuable information. The organization of such groups should be a part of our program. Lastly, the Society should exercise an active interest in all projects relating to the conservation of our wild life. We are indeed fortunate to have the support of the Forest Service, the National Park Service and the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries in our various interests and projects.

The recent publication "A Check-List of the Birds of Virginia" by Dr. J.J. Murray will undoubtedly have a great influence in arousing public interest in Virginia Ornithology. At the same time it makes a notable contribution to ornithological literature and will be used by both amateur and serious students of birds.

I solicit your suggestions, counsel, advice and whole-hearted support.

From the President's Files

Those officers of the Society and members of the Executive Committee who responded to my letter relative to field trips are favorable to the three suggested trips.

The one scheduled for May 24 in the Blue Ridge Mountains with headquarters at Skyland is now being planned by Mr. Paul G. Favour. An announcement concerning this trip will appear in The Raven. While I cannot participate in this trip, I hope that many will take "time out" for bird study and fellowship in the Blue Ridge.

The responses also carried approval for a December field trip to the Back Bay Refuge. I think we should consider this trip an annual V.S.O. feature. Mr. Jack E. Perkins will plan and supervise this trip and set the date at a time he thinks best. He will make announcement concerning this trip in The Raven in due time.

There is much sentiment for a midsummer trip similar to the one to the Eastern Shore; in fact a number have suggested that the Eastern Shore trip be repeated. Final decision relative to the midsummer trip has not been made. Plan to attend as many field trips as possible.

A Resolution relative to offering courses in Conservation in all Virginia schools was received from Mr. Eike. Two copies of the Resolution were mailed; one to Honorable E. Blackburn Moore, chairman of the Legislative Study Commission on Education, and one to John S. Battle, Governor of Virginia. Both acknowledged receipt of the resolution.

The Resolution urging protection of Hawks and Owls in Virginia was received too late to present to the General Assembly which adjourned March 8. The appointment of a Conservation Committee within the V.S.O. is under consideration. If such appointment is made, this resolution will be given to that committee for further study and presentation to the General Assembly at its next meeting.

D. Ralph Hostetter
Eastern Mennonite College
Harrisonburg, Virginia

---000---

PROPOSED FIELD TRIP - MAY 24 - TO SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK

Plans have been completed for a spring field trip this year to Shenandoah National Park. This will be an opportunity to see some of the bird-life of the Blue Ridge Mountains at elevations between three and four thousand feet, including both residents and late transients. In addition to the birds, new spring foliage and blooming azaleas, trilliums and many other wildflowers in this nationally famous scenic area will make the trip very much worthwhile. The field trip is scheduled to start in front of the new dining room at Skyland at 7 o'clock Saturday morning, May 24, and will be under the leadership of Park Naturalist Paul Favour.

Both lodging (cottages) and meals, including an early 6:30 breakfast Saturday morning, are available at Skyland. Single rates, \$2.50 - \$5.00; double, \$4.00 - \$7.00. Besides the cottage rooms, either men's or women's dormitory rooms are available at \$1.50 per person. Meals: breakfast, \$0.55 - \$1.50; luncheon, \$0.90 - \$2.50; dinner, \$1.50 - \$4.00. A la carte listings also appear on the menu.

Skyland is located along the Skyline Drive ten miles south of Thornton Gap (where U.S. 211 crosses the Drive). For those approaching the Park from the south, Skyland is 24 miles north of Swift Run Gap (where U.S. 33 crosses the Drive). A daily fee of 25¢ is charged for each car entering the Park (annual permit, \$1.00).

It is advised that those wishing to stay overnight at Skyland write the Virginia Sky-Line Company, Luray, Virginia, for reservations. When writing, identify yourself and party as members taking part in the Virginia Society of Ornithology field trip.

Accommodations at Big Meadows Lodge, located ten miles south of Skyland along the Drive, may also be secured at slightly higher rates. Those who wish to camp may do so at the campground in the Big Meadows area.

On the evening preceding the field trip, Friday, there will be a regularly scheduled illustrated lecture on the Park at Skyland, beginning at 8:30, which all are cordially invited to attend.

For any further information, write Paul Favour, Shenandoah National Park, Luray, Virginia.

---000---

NINETEENTH ANNUAL MEETING

Thirteen members of the Executive Committee met at the King and Kay Tea Room at 11:30 on February 15 for lunch and a business meeting before the opening of the Annual Meeting. Mr. Eike, on behalf of the Society, read and gave to Dr. Murray a letter of commendation and congratulation for his services to the V.S.O., particularly in editing The Raven and in preparing the Check-List. The Executive Committee expressed approval by a rising vote of appreciation. Each member of the Committee received a copy of the Check-List - for which he had previously paid - and all signed Dr. Murray's copy.

Mr. Miller reported an improved financial condition of the Society chiefly because of a greater proportion of sustaining members but also because of the increase in dues for active members. In 1951 there were 276 members, a net increase of 32 over the 1950 membership and the bank balance for 1951 was \$192.82 in contrast to \$15.46 for 1950. Mr. Miller presented his resignation as Treasurer because he is retiring from his position at the State-Planters Bank and will not have the assistance for writing letters to new members that the Bank has allowed him. Being loathe to lose such a competent officer, Dr. Murray moved that we ask Mr. Miller to continue as Treasurer as long as possible. Suggestions were made for reducing the letter writing by the use of printed cards and/or of having secretarial assistance once or twice a month. The motion was seconded and carried.

In a summary of the results of the membership work, Mrs. Darden reported that about two-thirds of those nominated become members.

The Treasurer reported that Mr. English who is managing the printing of the Check-List lacks a total of \$435.00 for the printing and delivering of the same to Roanoke. In the discussion in regard to selling the Check-List, it was stated that the cost of sending out 1000 notices would be \$35.00. It was readily agreed that members of the North Carolina, West Virginia and District of Columbia ornithological societies should be circularized at some time. After some discussion it was moved and voted that Dr. Grey should plan the advertising and selling of the Check-List and that \$70.00 or \$80.00 should be allowed for that purpose. Royster Lyle agreed to take responsibility for selling the Check-List through the Natural History Museum of Danville and Fred Scott for sending a review of the same to appropriate journals. The cost of printing, advertising and mailing each Check-List is about \$.85. The price had previously been set at \$1.00 through February and at \$1.50 thereafter.

It was further voted to sell as many as 10 copies at one dollar each to any one person or business firm.

The Nineteenth Annual Meeting of the V.S.O. was called to order by the President, Mr. James W. Eike in the Apollo Room of Phi Beta Kappa Hall on the campus of the College of William and Mary on Friday afternoon, February 15, 1952. Mrs. David Holmes in welcoming the V.S.O. to Williamsburg mentioned such items of interest to ornithologists as the Byrd House, the Wren Building and the visits of several early Naturalists to that city. In his brief review of "Fifty Years of Christmas Bird Counts" Mr. Watson included the facts that the first census at Accotink lasted 45 minutes and that the number of species seen has increased from five to 105. The censuses have been fairly well distributed over the State but Lexington leads with censuses in 22 consecutive years except for the omission of 1936.

"Red-cockaded Woodpeckers and Loblolly Pine" is a fascinating story that has been worked out by Mr. Steirly. This is a southern bird which is found as far northward in Virginia as Wakefield, the northern limit of the loblolly pine forests. Since these birds bore a three inch hole a distance of nine inches to the center of the tree where they make a nesting cavity in the decaying wood, they use only mature trees, trees that are 75 to 125 years old. The birds make notches in the tree trunk above the nest hole. From these notches resin runs down, covers the tree trunk for as much as 19 ft. and gives it a whitish color. Commercial cutting of loblolly pines is in progress but conservationists are endeavoring to have some large trees left standing for nesting sites for Red cockaded Woodpeckers.

Mr. Beasley reports a variety of bird habitats along the Peninsula, some heavily pitted with bomb holes; some the property of the Federal government and closed to bird students; but best of all the Seaford Marshes. In these marshes which are on the west side of the Bay and a mile by a mile or two in area, he has found 130 species including 14 kinds of ducks and as many kinds of sparrows. "Gaps in our Knowledge of Virginia Birds" is a paper which has resulted from Dr. Murray's work on the Check-List and is soon to appear in The Raven. A break at this point in the program allowed all to enjoy the tea and coffee served in a nearby room and to visit with friends.

Preserving the seclusion of Stumpy Lake - a long, narrow lake in a man-made swamp of 1000 acres or more which is owned by the city of Norfolk - is the concern of Mr. Rountrey. Its seclusion and consequent value as a nesting place for many birds, including the American Egret, is threatened by the approach of human habitations. It was moved, seconded and carried that Mr. Rountrey, Mr. Steirly and Dr. Grey be appointed as a Committee of the V.S.O. to talk to the Norfolk Recreation Commission concerning the protection of Stumpy Lake. Garden Clubs, the State Conservation Commission and the State Federation of Women's Clubs were mentioned as groups which are also interested in the protection of such areas.

Mr. Perkins gave some explanation of the work of the Back Bay Refuge in giving protection to and providing a favorable habitat for game birds. Grass, which was killed in the big storm of 1937 when salt water invaded much of the fresh water area, is increasing; oats is planted at the appropriate season and undesirable vegetation is controlled. During the winter of 1950-51 there were more ducks than there had been for the last ten years but most of them left as soon as the hunting season was over.

After announcements about the Saturday program, breakfast, and the Field Trip, the afternoon session adjourned. Before the Annual dinner at the King and Kay Tea Room some of the members went in search of the Evening Grosbeaks which were making an unusual visit in Williamsburg as well as in other parts of the State.

The evening program was held in a lecture room in Washington Hall on the campus of the College of William and Mary and was well attended. Before the program Mr. English sold the last of the copies of the Check-List which he had brought with him, and Mrs. Wiltshire, chairman of the Nominating committee read the list of officers for 1952-53. There was no response to a call for nominations from the floor. C.O. Handley, Jr., presented "Life in the Far North" by relating some of his experiences and showing kodachromes depicting life - human, animal and plant - and the terrain in both winter and summer. The color film, "Behind the Flyways", from the Fish and Wildlife Service explained to some disgruntled hunters why hunting is restricted to certain periods and why there are bag limits.

At the Saturday luncheon following the field trip the officers nominated the previous evening were elected. They are: President, Dr. D. Ralph Hostetter; Vice-president, Mr. Jack Perkins; Secretary, Miss Florence Hague; Treasurer, Mr. W. Edwin Miller; members of the Executive Committee, 1955, Mr. C.C. Steirly, Mr. Paul G. Favour, Mr. W.F. Rountrey.

---000---

ANNUAL MEETING FIELD TRIP

In connection with the field trip in the Williamsburg-Yorktown areas on Saturday, February 16, 1952, the following species were observed: Horned Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Canada Goose, Mallard, Black Duck, Gadwall, Baldpate, Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Canvas-back, Lesser Scaup Duck, American Golden-eye, Buffle-head, Old-squaw, White-winged Scoter, Surf Scoter, American Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Hooded Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, American Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk (dead), Copper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Bald Eagle, Marsh Hawk, Osprey, Sparrow Hawk, Bob-white, Piping Plover, Killdeer, Wilson's Snipe, Red-backed Sandpiper, Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Phoebe, Blue Jay, Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Winter Wren, Carolina Wren, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Catbird, Hermit Thrush, Bluebird, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, American Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Starling, Myrtle Warbler, Pine Warbler, English Sparrow, Meadowlark, Red-wing, Purple Grackle, Cowbird, Cardinal, Evening Grosbeak, Purple Finch, Goldfinch, Towhee, Ipswich Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Slate-colored Junco, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

---000---

COOPERATIVE BIRD STUDY PROJECT

In order to give more members of the V.S.O. the opportunity of contributing to our knowledge of the birdlife of Virginia, a cooperative project is now being established. Every year one or more species will be selected for fairly intensive study, and in general these species will be birds whose breeding distribution or migration routes are imperfectly known.

Three birds have been selected for 1952, and their ranges cover most of the state. They are the Chuck-will's-widow in Tidewater and part of the southern Piedmont, the Swainson's Warbler in the coastal areas and in the southwest, and the Yellow-throated or Sycamore Warbler covering most of the state.

Information that can be used includes daily records of individuals during the nesting season (about May 20 to July 15, or as early as May 1 for the Yellow-throated Warbler) and particularly reports of nests found, including dates, number of eggs or young and site of the nest. A report should also include a short description of the habitat in which the breeding birds were found. In the case of the Chuck-will's-widow, records will probably have to be based mainly on birds heard singing, and care should be taken that they are not confused with the Whippoorwill.

Reports are to be turned in to the Editor by August 15. They will then be correlated and interpreted, and a consolidated report will be published giving the results of the investigation. All members of the V.S.O. are urged to participate. Contributors will of course be given appropriate credit.

---000---

THE SPRING SEASON IN VIRGINIA, 1951

By F.R. Scott

The season showed remarkable deviation from recent springs in that it was quite normal in most respects. The migration was mostly on schedule or a little earlier than usual. Somewhat higher-than-average temperatures in April and May were perhaps partly responsible for this.

Pelagic Birds. Six Red-necked Grebes were found at Kiptopeke on March 24 (Dr. George A. Hall), and Horned Grebes were abundant as usual in the Yorktown area. Individual Double-crested Cormorants were seen at Danville April 28, May 9, and 10. Gannets again appeared well within Hampton Roads, and a number were found there on March 4 and 17 (Beasley and Glassell).

Hérons. The spring heron migration was quite unspectacular with no large flocks reported. A Little Blue Heron near Yorktown on May 13 was locally unusual. The Louisiana Heron may be increasing inland in the Atlantic states. Noteworthy was a record of 2 near Newport News on April 29 (B. and G.) Reports of Black-crowned Night Herons were numerous, with unusual numbers reported from Danville and near Charlottesville. The Yellow-crowned Night Heron, which has been previously suspected of breeding in the Valley, was found nesting near Dayton on April 28 by Carpenter. The nest contained four eggs, one of which hatched on May 23. Of the other three, one disappeared and two appeared to be infertile.

Geese and Ducks. The heavy spring flight of Canada Geese on the Eastern Shore occurred on March 3 to 5 (A.B. Fuller). A wintering Blue Goose left Henley's Lake, near Charlottesville, on April 17. A male European Widgeon at Henley's Lake March 24 to 30 was quite unusual and the first record for Albemarle County (Stevens). Greater Scaup were also found there for the first time: 8 males on April 2 and a female on May 6. A Blue-winged Teal near Langley Field on May 8 (B. and G.) might have been a breeding bird. At Lexington a pair of Redheads March 19 and 20 and a female Shoveller on April 4 were quite unusual locally. Hall found all three scoters on March 24 on the Kiptopeke-Little Creek ferry crossing, and the same day saw a flock of 20,000 just south of Assateague Island. This flock had previously been estimated by J.H. Buckalew to consist of about 50% White-winged, 40% Surf and 10% American. A maximum of 500 Red-breasted Mergansers was found at Newport News on March 18 (B. and G.) In the southwestern part of the state the South Holston Reservoir on the Virginia-Tennessee border is attracting a number of ducks (S.M. Russell).

Birds of Prey. A Rough-legged Hawk was seen at Norfolk on March 15 by Rountrey. A Golden Eagle at Monticello on March 30 (R.J. Middleton) is the first record for Albemarle County. On the Yorktown peninsula, where no Pigeon Hawks had been previously recorded, there were four separate records: March 11 and 15 (Beasley), April 1 (B. and G.) and May 4 (Grey). Another was found at Pine Ridge, near Alexandria, on May 12. A Long-eared Owl at Seaford on March 18 (B. and G.) is unusual.

Rails and Shorebirds. A dead Virginia Rail was found April 2 near Yorktown (Bruce McCartney) and another May 13 near Norfolk (Rountrey). Florida Gallinules were reported from both Norfolk and Seaford. Rountrey reported 4 Wilson's Plovers near Norfolk on May 28, the first record for the Cape Henry Region. Beasley and Glassell found many shorebirds at Seaford, including Ruddy Turnstones, Willets, Pectoral Sandpipers and several "peep".

Gulls and Terns. Great Black-backed Gulls continue to increase on the coast. Hall found 7 around Lynnhaven on March 24 and reported them "quite common" at Back Bay the following day. Both Danville and Lexington reported Herring and Ring-billed Gulls with numbers of the latter. Three Caspian Terns were found far inland at Danville on April 28.

Swifts to Thrushes. Individual Chimney Swifts were found on April 1 at Newport News (Pope) and Norfolk (Rountrey). A Red-cockaded Woodpecker was seen near Norfolk on March 4, the first record for this area in many years. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in Charlottesville on May 25 was the first spring record. In Rockingham County Carpenter found a Raven's nest with 3 young on March 23. A pair of Bewick's Wrens was found nest building in Arlington on May 18, probably the first breeding record for the area. Three young were raised (Renwick R. Kerr). Carolina Wrens were again found in normal numbers at Lexington after a low population during recent years (Murray). Olive-backed Thrushes were more common than usual at Danville, and Gray-checked Thrushes were reported on the Yorktown peninsula April 26 to May 17 (B. and G.)

Kinglets to Finches. A late Ruby-crowned Kinglet was seen near Yorktown on May 12. A nest of the Solitary Vireo was found near Danville, apparently at a rather low altitude (Westbrook, Lyle). The young left May 17. Beasley found a Warbling Vireo, rare in southeastern Virginia, near Newport News on May 30. E.D. Peacock saw a Philadelphia Vireo at Pine Ridge on May 12.

A Blue-winged Warbler was seen at Danville on April 30, a first record, and at Pine Ridge on April 27 and May 12. Others were noted near Norfolk April 28 to May 7, also a first record (Rountrey and Richardson). Another inland Prothonotary Warbler was found singing in a river swamp at Danville April 28 and 30 (Lyle, Eggleston, Paxton), but apparently did not remain. Tennessee Warblers were more evident than usual, with daily records in Charlottesville May 7 to 21, 2 at Lexington May 6, and first seen at Pine Ridge on May 3. A rare bird for Albemarle County was a singing Mourning Warbler near Keene on May 25 (Stevens). A Black-capped Warbler seen at Norfolk on May 23 and 24 (Rountrey) was a first record for the area. Brown-headed Cowbirds, which wintered abundantly in the Yorktown area, were still present June 1 and were almost certainly breeders (Grey). The Scarlet Tanager, whose distribution in eastern Virginia continues to be perplexing, was found at Newport News May 6 to 14 (Beasley) and at Williamsburg May 10 (Grey and Murray). An isolated flock of 50 Evening Grosbeaks appeared on March 11 at Dayton (Carpenter). Dickcissels appear to be increasing in the eastern states, and Carpenter found the species at Dayton on May 17 and 28. A Savannah Sparrow collected near Williamsburg on May 10 by Grey and Murray turned out to be the Churchill race. Watson and Stevens found a singing Lincoln Sparrow near Charlottesville, a first spring record.

Richmond, Virginia

---000---

V. S. O. FIELD TRIP TO COBB'S ISLAND, EASTERN SHORE

By Charles E. Stevens, Jr.

The V.S.O. field trip to Cobb's Island on August 11, 1951, was made by 40 people: 23 V.S.O. members, 11 guests, and 6 with the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries. The Commission arranged for the group to come at the invitation of Mr. I.T. Quinn, Executive Director, and provided the three boats which carried us out to the old resort island.

Just before embarking from the dock at Oyster, Bob Merritt of the Commission and L.G. Kesteloo, a photographer for Virginia Wildlife, made a wire recording of the proceedings and took several pictures. On the trip these two intrepid reporters were towed in their rowboat, with photographic equipment et al, by one of the larger craft.

The ride out to Cobb's Island, which takes about one and one-half hours, was sunny and warm and afforded fine views of saltmarsh and open water. The green-headed flies were only mildly annoying.

A landing was made on Bone Island, which is the name for the northern tip of Wreck Island. There a flock of about 400 Black Skimmers was encountered, as well as 17 Oyster-catchers. The party walked around the shores and dune grass of the flat sandy island watching the numerous flocks of shorebirds and lesser numbers of terns.

A second landing was made on Cobb's Island, but the visit was brief and produced fewer birds than on Bone.

Outstanding for the day were the large numbers of migrant Hudsonian Curlews everywhere in evidence. There were flocks of 15, 32, 80, and 100, plus many smaller groups. The steady southward migration of Barn Swallows, in flocks of ten to fifty, was also impressive.

A list of the 38 species seen follows:

Double-crested Cormorant, 1; Great Blue Heron, 11; American Egret, 2; Snowy Egret, 5; Louisiana Heron, 2; Little Blue Heron, 16; Green Heron, 6; Black Duck, 2 (Cobb's Island); Marsh Hawk, 1; Osprey, 2; Clapper Rail, 1; American Oyster-catcher, 23 (17 Bone, 6 Cobb); Ringed Plover, 51; Black-bellied Plover, 42; Ruddy Turnstone, 51; Hudsonian Curlew, 272; Spotted Sandpiper, 7; Willet, 15; Least Sandpiper, 110; Red-backed Sandpiper, 2 (Oyster); Dowitcher, 32; Semipalmated Sandpiper, 481; Western Sandpiper, 3; Sanderling, 9; Great Black-backed Gull, 1 (near Oyster); Herring Gull, 38; Ring-billed Gull, 26; Laughing Gull, 259; Gull-billed Tern, 4; Common Tern, 9; Least Tern, 87; Royal Tern, 3; Black Tern, 3; Black Skimmer, 491 (400 Bone, 90 Cobb, 1 Oyster); Barn Swallow, 243; Boat-tailed Grackle, 6; Seaside Sparrow, 7; Song Sparrow, 1 (Cobb).

---000---

TWO 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, Virginia. DESCRIPTION OF AREA: An upland pine stand described in Raven, May-June, 1948, and March-April, 1949. CLIMATE: January was warmer and slightly damper than usual with a daily mean temperature of 40.8° (extremes, 12° and 74°) and a total precipitation of 5.03 inches (almost all rain). On warm days Spring Peepers were heard, moths seen, and on one occasion an "angle wing" butterfly (Polygonia sp.) observed. COVERAGE: January 14, 15, 17, 27, 31; February 2, 6. Total, 7 trips, averaging 50 minutes each. CENSUS: Average number of birds in area per trip, with average number per 100 acres in parentheses. Golden-crowned Kinglet, 10.1 (22); Caroling Chickadee, 7.8 (18); Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2.8 (6); Brown Creeper, 2.4 (5); Turkey Vulture, 1.6 (4); Black Vulture, 1.6 (4); Tufted Titmouse, 1.3 (3); Downy Woodpecker, .7 (2); White-breasted Nuthatch, .6 (1); American Goldfinch, .6 (1); Mourning Dove, /; Yellow-shafted Flicker, /; Pileated Woodpecker, /; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, /; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, /. AVERAGE TOTAL: 30 birds (density, 64 birds per 100 acres). Seen flying over the area but not using it: American Crow, Fish Crow, and Horned Lark. REMARKS: A 2-6 ft. deciduous understory, consisting mostly of Southern Red Oak (Quercus falcata) and Red Maple (Acer rubrum), is becoming very noticeable in certain parts of the tract, and has advanced quite a bit since the study was begun in 1948. This deciduous development has not yet influenced the winter bird population. Again birds were dependent upon adjoining areas as part of their winter territory, and those recorded in the pines spent most of their time in the 100 ft. margin. A few vultures were seen soaring over the area on almost every trip, and as in 1948 a single dove was found roosting in the pines on several occasions.

Upland Open Field. LOCATION: 2 miles northeast of Crozet, Albemarle County, Virginia. SIZE: 33 acres. DESCRIPTION OF AREA: A generally trapezoidal tract of rolling, well-drained field, part in winter wheat and part lying fallow. The cultivated portion consists of 1-2 in. high wheat in rows about 5-6 inches apart, while the fallow portion is made up of lespedeza, an unidentified grain stubble 1-3 in. high, and some volunteer wheat. The field was grazed briefly during the fall and is strewn with manure, corn fodder, and stubble such that both parts appear homogeneous except for the greenness of the wheat blades. The cultivated part forms a rather irregular pattern. EDGE: Area surrounded by pastures, fallow (lespedeza) fields, and hedgerows. WEATHER: Same as above. COVERAGE: January 14, 15, 17, 27; February 2, 6. Total, 6 trips, averaging 40 minutes each. CENSUS: Horned Lark, 49.5(150); Turkey Vulture, .7 (2); Black Vulture $\frac{1}{4}$. AVERAGE TOTAL: 50 birds (density, 153 birds per 100 acres). American Crow and Starling seen flying over the area but not using it. REMARKS: The Horned Larks showed no preference for either the cultivated or fallow parts of the area spending about as much time in one as the other. One individual seen was unmistakably the Northern subspecies, but most others, if not all, were the Prairie. Vultures flying over were counted. Sparrow Hawk and White-crowned Sparrow were seen in the marginal hedgerows.

Charlottesville, Virginia

---000---

AN UNUSUAL DIET FOR THE FLICKERS

Three of these birds have been wintering about Lebanon, feeding extensively on our lawn. After showers and thaws their bills become quite muddy, including some of the feathers about the base of the bill.

I was interested to see what they were probing for since their usual ant diet was not available at this time. Having them close at hand and with the use of B. & L. Zephyr 8 x 30 field glasses, I was surprised to see them extract Japanese Beetle larvae and eat them.

Jap beetles are still a pest at Lebanon and we note with pleasure the Flickers' assistance in diminishing them.

Paul Bartsch, Lebanon,
Gunston Hall Road
Lorton, Virginia

---000---

THE KEY DEER - WILL WE BE TOO LATE?

Much has been written about the Florida key deer within recent months, but no writer has set his finger more solidly on the pulse of this matter than Werner O. Nagel of the Missouri Conservation Commission. His published comments are reprinted in full below.

Many Americans spend many words and much emotion bemoaning the vanished wilderness. There is breast-beating and tub-thumping about the rape of natural resources. There are cries about the murder of the passenger pigeon; tears for the giant auk; sobs for the passing of the buffalo.

Crocodile tears! How many of the mourners, magically transported back in time to the reign of the wilderness, to the hey-day of the passenger pigeon, the auk, and the buffalo, would do other than their forefathers did? How many, taken back to when the shadow was looming over these species, would write, act, cry out for their preservation?

The answer is written in the pages of Now. "Just about as many," it reads, "as are now concerned about, and acting to prevent, the passing of the Key deer." The measure of the answer is written too: In spite of the lessons of the past, in spite of the advance of conservation in spite of the progress and enlightenment we are constantly told marks the new era of civilization -- in spite of wealth and luxury and learning, and regrets and tears for the past, this country is not able, or not willing to act to save a species that is vanishing even while we mourn. Repeating the history of the queer creature that is man, we cry over the graves of the past while the diggers prepare yet another grave.

When the Key deer is gone, we will erect a monument to its passing. We will erect a monument to its passing. We will wail over the headstone, and bitterly condemn the carelessness, selfishness, and lack of understanding that brought it low. We will cast up the accounts, measuring the profits of the course that exterminated this species against the debits of its loss. We will say the loss was greater than the profit, for the profit is fleeting, the loss forever. We will think back, and say -- "This should not have happened" and we will cast about for an object to blame.

This is the pattern of the past. It is not a pretty one. Yet, each day, we make a new pattern and with each day it becomes part of the tapestry of the past. We can set today's weaving as we will; tomorrow we cannot change a thread of it. We can prevent the Key deer from joining the ghosts of the buffalo, the pigeon, and the auk by action now; tomorrow, we can only mourn.

Congress can act to make a refuge of the Key deer's last stand -- a few small keys off the Florida Coast. Congress will act to save these deer, if enough of us tell Congress we prefer to keep this species to enjoy, rather than to make a ghost of it to mourn.

The pattern we weave today becomes the unchangeable history of tomorrow. Will the pattern of our action on the Key deer be another shadow, or a bright thread in the loom?

(From March 14, 1952, issue of Outdoor News Bulletin, published by the Wildlife Management Institute.)

SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - 1951

Shenandoah National Park, Va. (7½-mile radius centering on Skyland and including Park Hq. area, Skyline Drive from Pass Mountain to Milam Gap, U.S. Route 211 from west Park boundary to east Park boundary, and Big Meadows area; deciduous woods 60%, open fields 20%, abandoned house sites 10%, pine woods 10%). -- December 28; 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. cloudy; temp. 15° to 30°; wind NE-SE, 6-10 m.p.h.; ground bare on lower slopes, up to 4 inches crusted snow in woods on ridge crest. Two observers in 1 and 2 parties. Total party-hours, 11 (8 on foot, 3 by car); total party-miles, 81 (5 on foot, 76 by car). Turkey Vulture, 19; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 2; Ruffed Grouse, 6; Bob-white, 6; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 8; Blue Jay, 1; Common Raven, 1; American Crow, 18; Carolina Chickadee, 30; Tufted Titmouse, 13; White-breasted Nuthatch, 5; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Carolina Wren, 8; Hermit Thrush, 5; Eastern Bluebird, 22; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 21; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1; Common Starling, 48; Myrtle Warbler, 3; Cardinal, 27; Evening Grosbeak, 3 (P.G.F. and J.E.L. - new Park record); Purple Finch, 48; Pine Grosbeak, 22 (J.E.L. and P.G.F. - fourth record in Park this winter); American Goldfinch, 58; Slate-colored Junco, 114; Tree Sparrow, 15; Field Sparrow, 1 (with juncos at 3500 ft. - J.E.L.); White-throated Sparrow, 38. Total, 33 species; 551 individuals. -- Paul G. Favour, Jr., James E. Liles.

---000---

A CHECK-LIST OF THE BIRDS OF VIRGINIA - A REVIEW

A Check-List of the Birds of Virginia, by Joseph James Murray. Virginia Society of Ornithology, 1952. 113 pages plus title page. \$1.50. Obtainable from Mr. A.O. English, 2803 Rosalind Avenue, S.W., Roanoke, Virginia.

Dr. J.J. Murray needs no introduction to Virginia bird students. He has been the virtual mainstay of the Virginia Society of Ornithology since its inception twenty-two years ago and has untiringly continued his outstanding editorship of The Raven during that period. His investigations into the bird fauna of the Commonwealth have extended from the coast to the high peaks of southwest Virginia and Highland County. A bibliography of his ornithological papers would include over 70 which have appeared in The Auk alone, as many others in The Wilson Bulletin, The Oologist, The Chat, Bird Lore, Audubon Field Notes, Virginia Journal of Science, Virginia Wildlife, and The Commonwealth. Some of his most outstanding work has concerned biotic zonation in the southern Appalachians, and a number of his papers on this subject have appeared in The Raven or have been presented before scientific gatherings. It would seem as though Dr. Murray has a suitable background indeed to undertake a difficult work such as this!

The first 26 pages are taken up with introductory remarks and a selected bibliography. To begin this book Dr. Murray has gone back to the works of William Strachey and Capt. John Smith to obtain their observations of Virginia birdlife in the early seventeenth century. Much of this early historical summary is taken from William Cabell Rives' book, A Catalogue of the Birds of the Virginias (1890), a check-list of the then known avifauna of

Virginia and West Virginia. Dr. Murray enlarges considerably on this, giving special attention to the oft-slighted Mark Catesby. The historical summary concludes with a brief account of the Virginia Society of Ornithology. The remainder of the introductory material is taken up with descriptions of the state's physical features, the faunal zones and the bibliography. The annotated list itself treats 398 species and subspecies, 14 hypothetical forms and two hybrids.

Often in reviewing a work the reviewer is inclined to overlook the purpose which the book is intended to serve. This is not a handbook for the identification of species, nor does it contain information relating to songs or other habits. As the author states in the preface, "it is taken for granted that those who use this book will possess some of the standard texts". It is essentially a distributional check-list and concerns itself with the seasonal distribution and abundance of the various species in different sections of the state. As such it fulfills its purpose admirably and in such detail that one is inclined to wonder at the "check-list" part of the title.

As in other works of this sort several errors have crept in, and some other criticisms may be made. There is no table of contents or index, neither is there any address with which a reader might contact the author or the VSO. In addition, the introductory section is plagued by an unfortunately large number of typographical errors. Many people will find it difficult to wade through some of the strange vernacular names, now approved by the A.O.U. Committee on Classification and Nomenclature, especially those that differ from the names approved by Audubon Field Notes. Some of the most pronounced changes are the substitution of Small-billed Waterthrush for Northern Waterthrush and Crow-blackbird for Grackle. It is surprising that the author lists Cryptoglaux as the generic name of the Saw-whet Owl instead of the presently accepted Aegolius.

Two serious errors have unfortunately gotten into the text. Two Stilt Sandpipers collected at Hopewell on October 10, 1949, are mistakenly listed under Buff-breasted Sandpiper. The Pine Grosbeak picked up on the Skyline Drive on November 16, 1951, is listed as the typical race. Examination of the specimen by Dr. A. Wetmore, however, reveals it to be Pinicola enucleator eschatosus Oberholser.

In a work of this scope it is to be expected that some published records will be overlooked. Several have been, notably records in Atlantic Naturalist and a few in The Raven. Examples are the single European Teals noted at the National Airport on five occasions from December 3, 1949, to April 2, 1950; also the numerous recent records of the Shoveller around Alexandria, which would indicate that it is far more regular there than the author states. Also omitted were two published records of this reviewer, a Raven at Seaford on June 22, 1949, and a Goshawk at Curles Neck, December 28, 1950. The Purple Finch is listed as breeding in Highland County solely on the basis of three summer records from that area, only two of which are noted; not mentioned was a single pair seen there June 11, 1949, by Sydnor and Scott. A person reading on page 19 that the Hermit Thrush is one of the "less characteristic" birds of the Canadian Zone in Virginia will be surprised to find this bird not mentioned as a summer resident in the annotated list. This reviewer knows of no State breeding record, although the species is common in certain nearby areas of West Virginia.

These few errors and omissions do not, of course, detract from the work in any way, and it should be sine qua non for all persons interested in the birds of Virginia. Dr. Murray is to be congratulated for this book, a work of the type that has already made him famous in southern ornithology. As he states in the preface, one of the aims of the book is to correct any errors that may appear and to indicate the gaps in our knowledge. "It is hoped that a revised edition will soon be required, and that such an edition may be both more accurate and more complete". This reviewer feels certain that the faster this work goes out of date, the more confident Dr. Murray will be that his efforts have been a success.

F.R. Scott

---000---

TREASURER'S REPORT

Our membership at the close of 1951 was 276. This compares with a total membership of the year before of 244, and during the year we dropped from the roll on account of non-payment of dues 26.

Our Treasury showed some improvement this year over the previous year which was due chiefly to those who have taken out Sustaining Membership, and also the increase in the annual dues for active members.

The annual report for the year 1951 follows:

Receipts

Balance on hand January 1, 1951	\$ 15.46
Received for Membership Dues	470.00
Received for back issues of "The Raven"	3.00
Received special contributions	44.50
Total	<u>\$ 532.96</u>

Disbursements

Cost of issuing "The Raven"	\$ 208.16
Postage for mailing "The Raven"	42.13
Stenographic help	10.00
Stamps	22.73
Stationery and Supplies	8.12
Printing	10.00
Annual Dues, National Audubon Society, N.Y. to 10-1-52	10.00
Expenses Annual Meeting & Executive Meeting, 10-27-51	29.00
Total	<u>\$ 340.14</u>

Balance in the State-Planters Bank and Trust Company, Richmond, Virginia, December 31, 1951	\$ 192.82
--	-----------

W. Edwin Miller
Treasurer

MEMBERS OF THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY

(s) - sustaining member

Capt. Jackson Miles Abbott	814 - 13th Street	New Alexandria, Va.
Mr. Robert Abraham	300 W. Main Street	Christiansburg, Va.
Mr. Berkley M. Adams	% State-Planters Bank & Trust Co.,	Richmond, Va.
Mr. R.P. Albergotti	7449 Hampton Blvd.	Norfolk, Va.
Mrs. Harry Allen, Jr.	Rt. 13, River Road	Richmond 26, Va.
Mr. J.E. Ames		Drivers, Va.
Miss Lena Artz		Waterlick, Va.
Mr. John Wendell Bailey (s)	606 Ridgecrest Dr.	Albuquerque, N.M.
Miss Ada Ball	4508 Forest Hill Ave.	Richmond, Va.
Mr. Cooper Barefield	108 Lake Terrace	Norfolk 2, Va.
Dr. Paul Bartch	"Lebanon", Gunston Hall Rd.,	Lorton, Va.
Miss Birdie May Baugh	Birdland Farm	Belona, Va.
Mr. Ray J. Beasley (s)	P.O. Box 117	Newport News, Va.
Mr. L.Y. Berg	P.O. Box 512	Yorktown, Va.
Mr. P.C. Bibbee, Prof. of Biology,	Concord College	Athens, West Va.
Mr. & Mrs. F.H. Blair	Rt. 3, Box 346	Hampton, Va.
Capt. R.H. Blair	East Hundred	Cobham, Va.
Rev. Thom, W. Blair		Hanover, Va.
Miss Laura Bliss	225 S. Princeton Circle	Lynchburg, Va.
Mrs. John Boatwright	Dan's Hill	Danville, Va.
Mr. & Mrs. R.W. Bobbitt	Box 245	Keysville, Va.
Mrs. John Boitnott	Bridgewater College	Bridgewater, Va.
Dr. T.C. Bradshaw	% First National Bank Bldg.,	Blackstone, Va.
Miss Ruth Bredekamp	3731 S. Second Street	Arlington, Va.
Mrs. Jessie Trube Broadhurst	2 North Lewis Street	Lexington, Va.
Mr. William Broadhurst	2 North Lewis Street	Lexington, Va.
Prof. Maurice Brooks	West Virginia University	Morgantown, West Va.
Mrs. George H. Brumble	Box 251, Rt. 3	Richmond, Va.
Mr. S. Fred Brunk	Eastern Mennonite College	Harrisonburg, Va.
Mr. Philip Burcher, Jr.	3011 Terrace Rd.	Hampton, Va.
Mr. & Mrs. L.E. Burford	108 Lake Terrace	Norfolk 2, Va.
Mrs. C.L. Burgess (s)	1900 Memorial Avenue	Lynchburg, Va.
Dr. R.K. Burns (s)	Carnegie Inst. of Wash., Dept. of Embryology Wolfe and Madison Streets	Baltimore 5, Md.
Dr. G. Edward Calvert	P.O. Box 245	Lynchburg, Va.
Mrs. Malcolm Campbell	602 Ross Road	Lexington, Va.
Mr. Max Carpenter	344 East Veterans Place	Ithaca, N.Y.
Col. Robert P. Carroll	Box 613	Lexington, Va.
Miss Caroline Dale Carter	Duke of Gloucester St.	Williamsburg, Va.
Carry Nature Sanctuary (s)		Sweet Briar, Va.
Mr. M.B. Cater	1036 McCormick Street	Clifton Forge, Va.
Mrs. Marion Charlton	R.F.D. #2, Box 485	Portsmouth, Va.
Mrs. K.S. Chase	17th Street, N.W.	Charlottesville, Va.
Mrs. R.A. Christian		Deerfield, Va.
Miss Geraldine Claiborne	508 Tyler Street	Williamsburg, Va.
Miss Martha Clark	Box 1176	Danville, Va.
Mrs. Edwin O. Clarkson	Wing Haven, 248 Ridge- wood Avenue	Charlotte 7, N.C.

Mrs. Rutledge C. Clement	208 Hawthorne Ave.	Danville, Va.
Mr. C. Francis Cocke (s)	28 Cardinal Road	Roanoke, Va.
Mrs. Hugh C. Coleman	Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs	South Hill, Va.
Mr. J. Phillips Coleman	312 St. Davids Lane Windsor Farms	Richmond 21, Va.
Mrs. Margaret H. Coleman(s)	1513 Palmyra Ave.	Richmond 27, Va.
Mrs. Helen L. Comer	113 West Main St.	Salem, Va.
Mr. Charles Conrad	1206 Warwood Ave.	Wheeling, West Va.
Mr. A.B. Cooper, Jr.	804 Fairmont Ave.	Bristol, Va.
Mrs. Grasty Crews	141 Holbrook Ave.	Danville, Va.
Mr. Frank C. Cross	9413 Second Ave.	Silver, Springs, Md.
Mrs. E.G. Currin, Jr.	Englewood Farm	Meredithville, Va.
Miss Bertha Daniel		Naruna, Va.
Mrs. Colgate W. Darden, Jr. (s)	Univ. of Virginia	Charlottesville, Va.
Mr. W.M. Davidson	1504 Bodell St.	Orlando, Fla.
Mr. W.R. De Garmo (s)		Beverly, West Va.
Mr. Cecil De LaBarre	Va. Polytechnic Inst.	Blacksburg, Va.
Miss Katrine DeWitt	Ocean Front & 12th St.	Virginia Beach, Va.
Prof. A.L. Dean (s)	Va. Polytechnic Inst.	Blacksburg, Va.
Mr. H.G. Deignan (s)	Smithsonian Institution	Washington 25, D.C.
Mrs. L.B. Dietrich	Preston Ave.	Blacksburg, Va.
Mrs. May D. Dise	426 Victoria Ave.	Lynchburg, Va.
Mr. Richard L. Dobie	North Shore Point	Norfolk, Va.
Mrs. James H. Donohue, Jr. (s)	2330 Monument Ave.	Richmond 20, Va.
Mrs. J.M. Edmunds (s)	"Creekside", Route #1	Danville, Va.
Mr. Robert Eggleston	115 Kenelworth Ave.	Danville, Va.
Mr. James W. Eike (s)	3307 N. Tuckahoe St.	East Falls Church, Va.
Dr. & Mrs. Leonard Elkins	3 Choctaw Drive	Portsmouth, Va.
Mr. A.O. English (s)	2803 Rosalind Ave., S.W.	Roanoke, Va.
Dr. Richard T. Ergenbright	214 East High St.	Charlottesville, Va.
Mr. Arthur H. Fast	4924 Rock Spring Road	Arlington, Va.
Mr. Paul G. Favour, Jr. (s)	Shenandoah National Park	Luray, Va.
Mrs. Burton E. Field (s)	#3 Cherokee Road	Richmond, Va.
Mrs. Minor Franks	2803 Laflin Pl.	Richmond 28, Va.
Mrs. Curtis Fray	331 Miller St.	Winchester, Va.
Mr. Ruskin S. Freer	Timber Lake, R.F.D. #5	Lynchburg, Va.
Mrs. Thomas Frost		Warrenton, Va.
Mrs. W.F. Gaddes	3728 Brookside Road	Richmond, Va.
Mr. Lawrence G. Gibson (s)	Box 61	Oakton, Va.
Dr. Walter Gifford	Madison College	Harrisonburg, Va.
Miss Katherine Gilbert (s)	2507 Memorial Avenue	Lynchburg, Va.
Mr. Robert H. Giles, Jr.	210 Harrison St.	Lynchburg, Va.
Mr. Raymond A. Glassel	219 46th St.	Newport News, Va.
Mrs. Keith Grant	606 Cabel Ave.	University, Va.
Mr. Walter L. Grant	104 Manchester Ave.	
	Beverstone Park	Danville, Va.
Mrs. Charles O. Gregory (s)	R.F.D. #3, Box 205D	Charlottesville, Va.
Rev. John H. Grey, Jr. (s)	Box 445	Williamsburg, Va.
Mr. C.E. Grigsby	58 Park Ave.	Newport News, Va.

Miss Alice E. Grizzard	2712 Grove Ave., Apt. 8	Richmond, Va.
Dr. Samuel B. Guss	Route 4	Lynchburg, Va.
Miss Mary Tayloe Gwathmey	Bird Point, King Fish Court,	Virginia Beach, Va.
Dr. Florence S. Hague (s)	Sweet Briar College	Sweet Briar, Va.
Mrs. Paul M. Haldeman	"Evendale", Box 74	Winchester, Va.
Mrs. James T. Hamlin, Jr.	419 West Main St.	Danville, Va.
Mr. C.O. Handley, Jr. (s)	1515 59th Ave., S.E., Apt. 304,	Washington, D.C.
Mr. C.O. Handley, Sr. (s)	6571 Roosevelt Ave.	Charleston, West Va.
Mr. John M. Handley	6571 Roosevelt Ave.	Charleston, West Va.
Mr. Leigh B. Hanes	2620 Avenham Ave.	Roanoke, Va.
Mrs. Hilery E. Hanna	901 West Cedar	El Dorado, Arkansas
Mrs. Walter Harding	11 L Copley Hill	Charlottesville, Va.
Mrs. James G. Harrison	Brandon Apts., Brandon Ave.	Charlottesville, Va.
Mr. John Davis Hatch	Norfolk Museum of Arts & Sciences, Lee Park	Norfolk, Va.
Mrs. Charles M. Hatcher	6742 Miami Ave.	Richmond, Va.
Mr. M.E. Hathaway (s)	35 Hill St.	Hampton, Va.
Mrs. W.T. Haynes (s)	Gaskin Rd., R.F.D. #13	Richmond, Va.
Miss Wintie Heatwold		Dayton, Va.
Miss Muriel Hegwood	17 Handy St.	New Brunswick, N.J.
Dr. Hollen G. Helbert (s)	338 Monticello Ave.	Harrisonburg, Va.
Mr. O.C. Hemp (s)	Box 682	Staunton, Va.
Mrs. A.H. Herrmann	3716 Brookside Rd.	Richmond, Va.
Miss Olive F. Hill	Box 311C, Route 15	Richmond, 25, Va.
Mrs. E.T. Hines		Dinwiddie, Va.
Mr. F. Wellford Hobbie		Chatham, Va.
Mrs. Percy Holladay	3810 Seminary Ave.	Richmond, Va.
Mrs. David Holmes (s)	308 Jamestown Rd.	Williamsburg, Va.
Mr. D. Ralph Hostetter	Eastern Mennonite College	Harrisonburg, Va.
Mrs. W. Willis Houston	1001 Graydon Ave.	Norfolk, Va.
Mrs. J. Southgate Hoyt	Box 54	Etna, N.Y.
Mrs. Stevens Hughes	1407 Sauer Ave.	Richmond, Va.
Miss Louisa Hunnewell	848 Washington St.	Wellesley, Mass.
Mr. John D. Hurst	4500 Forest Hill Ave.	Richmond, Va.
Mr. William S. James (s)	P.O. Box 302	Chatham, Va.
Mr. Robert M. Jeffress	421 Mutual Bldg.	Richmond, Va.
Mrs. H.E. Jenkins (s)	Fayette St.	Farmville, Va.
Mrs. J. Gordon Jennings	2114 Avenel Ave.	Roanoke, Va.
Mrs. M. Cary Johnston (s)	6310 Ridgeway Rd.	Richmond, Va.
Dr. Harry G.M. Jopson		Bridgewater, Va.
Mr. Upshur T. Joyner	168 Victoria Ave.	Hampton, Va.
Mrs. J.F.B. Jurgens	Box 92	Bon Air, Va.
Mrs. Henry T. Keeling,	Rt. 1, Box 73	Bayside, Va.
Mr. William Keeton	R.F.D. #4	Danville, Va.
Miss Ellie Wood Keith	Bollingwood Ave.	Charlottesville, Va.
Mrs. J. Frank Key		Buena Vista, Va.
Miss Louise Kizer	P.O. Box 1176	Danville, Va.
Mr. & Mrs. N.R. Lehmann (s)	2618 Crystal Spring Ave.	Roanoke, Va.
Miss Mary Leigh	415 Fairfax Ave.	Norfolk, Va.
Dr. Ivey F. Lewis	11 E. Lawn	University, Va.

Miss Katherine M. Lewis	% Mrs. C.W. Darden, Jr.	Charlottesville, Va.
Mr. & Mrs. William O. Lewis (s)	Box 22	Ivy, Va.
Miss Minnie Lifsey	% Mr. Dallas Rand	
	11 Vernon Terrace	Alexandria, Va.
Mr. James Lindsay	Wayside Place	Charlottesville, Va.
Mr. William Lord	Rocky Knob	Floyd, Va.
Mr. Royster Lyle, Jr.	Mt. View Ave.	Danville, Va.
Mrs. Royster Lyle	Mt. View Ave.	Danville, Va.
Mr. James Lyles, Jr.	Shenandoah National Park	Luray, Va.
Mrs. L.W. Machen	322 Marshall St.	Hampton, Va.
Dr. Locke L. Mackenzie (s)	829 Park Ave., Apt. 5B	New York 21, N.Y.
Mr. Claude A. Mahoney	R.F.D. #4, Box 694	Fairfax, Va.
Mrs. Emily Blayton Major		Ruthville, Va.
Mrs. Florence F. Marshall	1216 Little Bay Ave.	Norfolk, Va.
Mrs. Dorothy P. Martin (s)		Faber, Va.
Mrs. Paul Martin	Westover Gardens, Rt. #8	Richmond, Va.
Miss Anne Marvin	Box 1576, University	Charlottesville, Va.
Mr. E.V. Mathews	P.O. Box 271	Woodstock, Va.
Mr. James L. Mays	Steele's Tavern	Virginia
Mrs. Edwin B. Meade	Forest Hill	Danville, Va.
Mrs. A.H. Michie	1905 Dairy Rd.	Charlottesville, Va.
Mr. Clark Miller		Inwood, West Va.
Mr. & Mrs. W. Edwin Miller (s)	3206 Griffin Ave.	Richmond, Va.
Mr. W. Edwin Miller, Jr.	% Miller & Rhoads, Inc.	
	Broad & Sixth St.	Richmond, Va.
Mr. Dudley H. Mills (s)	58 Pine St.	New York 5, N.Y.
Mr. William F. Minor (s)	132 Cresline Dr.	Syracuse, N.Y.
Mr. Sydney Mithell	P.O. Box 160	Newport News, Va.
Miss Charlotte Moore	2815 Third Ave.	Richmond, Va.
Mr. Brent M. Morgan	109 E. Glendale Ave.	Alexandria, Va.
Mrs. E.R. Morrissey	R.F.D.	Gordonsville, Va.
Dr. Henry S. Mosby	U.S. Dept. of Interior, Fish	
	& Wildlife Ser.	Blacksburg, Va.
Dr. J.J. Murray (s)	6 White St.	Lexington, Va.
Dr. J.W. Murray	Box 1-A, Route #1	Blacksburg, Va.
Mr. R. Bruce McCartney		Norge, Va.
Mrs. John F. McGavock	"Montesano"	Charlottesville, Va.
Dr. William B. McIlwaine, Jr.	(s) Sysonby, Route 4	Petersburg, Va.
Miss Sallie R. McLain	351 Albemarle Ave., S.W.	Roanoke, Va.
Mrs. Fred Nolting	806 Park Ave.	Richmond, Va.
Mr. W.T. Norris, Jr.	Box 488	Salem, Va.
Mrs. William Northrop (s)	"Norcroft"	
	4801 Midlothian Pike	Richmond, Va.
Dr. Harry C. Oberholser	2933 Berkshire Road	
	Cleveland Heights	Cleveland 18, Ohio
Rev. Jan Owen	10 Jordan St.	Lexington, Va.
Miss Nancy T. Pace	3308 Hanover Ave.	Richmond, Va.
Mr. Robert Owen Paxton	P.O. Box 935	Lexington, Va.
Mrs. R.S. Payne		Amherst, Va.

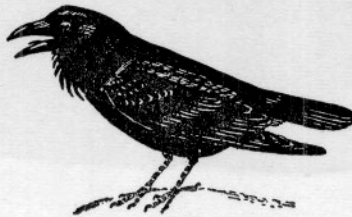
Mr. Jack E. Perkins (s)	Back Bay Refuge, P.O. Bx.269, Virginia Beach, Va.	
Prof. Olin S. Pettingill, Jr.	Carleton College	Northfield, Minn.
Miss Virginia Pickell (s)	221 West Park Dr.	Raleigh, N.C.
Mrs. R. Floyd Plank	902 Main St.	Blacksburg, Va.
Mr. Norman Pope	393 Catalpa Ave.	Hampton, Va.
Mrs. W. Arthur Porter	800 Graydon Ave.	Norfolk, 7, Va.
Miss Gertrude Prior (s)	Briar Hill	Sweet Briar, Va.
Mr. John Pruitt	Hawthorne Dr.	Danville, Va.
Mrs. Warner Pyne	Cedarcroft	Cismont, Va.
Mr. I.T. Quinn	7 North Second St.	Richmond, Va.
Mrs. Bracy A. Ragsdale		DeWitt, Va.
Redpath Library, McGill Univ.	3459 McTavish St.	Montreal 2, Canada
Mrs. A.C. Reed (s)	1519 Morris Ave.	Norfolk, Va.
Mrs. William T. Reed, Jr.	Sabot Hill	Sabot, Va.
Mrs. Robert M. Reese	219 South St. Asaph St.	Alexandria, Va.
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce D. Reynolds	1702 Burnly Avenue	Charlottesville, Va.
Mr. Lauren H. Rhineland	P.O. Box 1386	
	University Station	Charlottesville, Va.
Mrs. Louise M.R. Rhineland	P.O. Box 1386	
	University Station	Charlottesville, Va.
Mr. Frank C. Richardson	8 Sebago Dr.	Portsmouth, Va.
Mrs. Sara Hall Richardson	Pine Hall Hotel	Matthews, Va.
Mrs. E.F. Robinson	620 S. Stewart St.	Winchester, Va.
Mr. Samuel K. Roller	Box 265	Lynchburg, Va.
Mr. W.F. Rountrey (s)	113 West Berkley Ave.	Norfolk, Va.
Mrs. Alma Rowe	404 Griffin Ave.	Williamsburg, Va.
Lt. Willis C. Royall, Jr.	236 E. 75th St.	New York 21, N.Y.
Miss Katherine Rucker	1800 Key Blvd., Apt.497	Arlington, Va.
Mr. Stephen M. Russell		Abingdon, Va.
Miss Sally C. Ryan	Mayflower Apt.	Virginia Beach, Va.
Mrs. Harry M. Ryder		Ditchley, Va.
Miss Elizabeth H. Ryland	100 West Franklin St.	Richmond, Va.
Miss T.M. Sandy	University Hospital	Baltimore, Md.
Mr. R.F. Schaeffer	1368 E. Ocean View Ave.	Norfolk, Va.
Mr. Albert B. Schultz, Jr.	6 White St.	Lexington, Va.
Miss Helen Schultz	1313 Rowe St.	Fredericksburg, Va.
Mr. Frederic R. Scott (s)	4600 Coventry Rd.	Richmond 21, Va.
Mr. L. Porter Seay, Jr.	725 West 33rd St.	Richmond, Va.
Miss Frances Selliman (s)	Bridgewater College	Bridgewater, Va.
Mr. Gordon W. Shantz	Park View, Box 51A	Harrisonburg, Va.
Mrs. Charles W. Sheerin	51 Indian Springs Rd.	Williamsburg, Va.
Mr. Stanwyn G. Shetler	Eastern Mennonite College	Harrisonburg, Va.
Mr. J.J. Shomon	7 North 2nd St.	Richmond, Va.
Mrs. Carrie Showalter	337 E. Market St.	Harrisonburg, Va.
Mrs. Roxie C. Simpson	6624 1st St., N.W.	Tacoma Park 12, D.C.
Mr. Emerson Smith	509 Grayson Ave.	Richmond, Va.
Mr. & Mrs. W.P. Smith	11 Orchard Avenue	Hampton, Va.
Mr. William Day Smith	118 Washington St.	Charlottesville, Va.
Miss Sara Snook	3018 Fendall Ave.	Richmond, Va.
Mr. W.C. Snyder	1503 E. Warwick Rd.	
	"Maury Place"	Newport News, Va.

Mrs. S. Donald Southworth	701 Powell St.	Williamsburg, Va.
Mrs. Paul Stam	179 $\frac{1}{2}$ Marshall Terrace	Danville, Va.
Mr. Charles C. Steirly (s)	Virginia Forest Service	Waverly, Va.
Mr. Charles E. Stevens, Jr.	426 Second St., N.E.	Charlottesville, Va.
Mr. Raymond L. Stevens	3518 N. Delaware St.	Arlington, Va.
Mr. H. Wade Stinson (s)	520 Third St.	Bluefield, West Va.
Mr. Paul S. Stonesifer	2631 S. Jefferson St.	Roanoke, Va.
Mrs. Linden Stuart		Crozet, Va.
Mr. Daniel B. Suter	Eastern Mennonite College	Harrisonburg, Va.
Mrs. Henry Swartz	Box 214	Buchanan, Va.
Prof. James R. Sydnor	3400 Brook Rd.	Richmond 22, Va.
Mrs. J. Thomas Talbot	4201 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.	
	Apt. 5053C	Washington, D.C.
Mrs. Frank Talbott, Jr.	334 West Main	Danville, Va.
Miss May I. Tompkins	3118 Griffin Ave.	Richmond, Va.
Tompkins-McCaw Library	Medical College of Va.	Richmond 19, Va.
Mrs. Herbert D. Thompson	Algonquin Park	Norfolk 5, Va.
Mrs. Thomas P. Thompson	"Miramar", Lockhaven	Norfolk, Va.
Dr. Lillian C. Thomsen (s)	Mary Baldwin College	Staunton, Va.
Miss Laura V. Townes	4824 West Seminary Ave.	Richmond, Va.
Mr. Bruce P. Tyler	215 W. Unaka St.	Johnson City, Tenn.
Mrs. Robert S. Underwood	412 S. Stewart St.	Winchester, Va.
Dr. & Mrs. P.P. Vinson	Ridgeway Rd.	Richmond, Va.
Virginia Polytechnic Institute Library (s)		Blacksburg, Va.
Virginia Polytechnic Institute Wildlife Section		Blacksburg, Va.
Judge & Mrs. Lyttleton Waddell	Edgewood Lane	Charlottesville, Va.
Mrs. Homer Waid	2330 Sanford Ave., S.W.	Roanoke, Va.
Miss Margafet Wainwright	100 Riverside Dr.	Portsmouth, Va.
Mrs. E.K.E. Walker	Sweet Briar College	Sweet Briar, Va.
Mrs. Ashby V. Walton	R.F.D. #2, Box 216	Ashland, Va.
Miss Margaret Walton	1116 E. Main St.	Danville, Va.
Mrs. Maurice L. Ward (s)	8015 Three Chopt Rd.	Richmond, Va.
Mrs. L.M. Warren	4310 Spring Hill Ave.	Richmond 24, Va.
Miss Evelyn Watkins (s)	218 Newman Ave.	Harrisonburg, Va.
Mr. R.J. Watson (s)	Box 75	Blacksburg, Va.
Mr. Richard Weaver	Box 64, Parkview	Harrisonburg, Va.
Mr. Mangum Weeks	219 N. Royal St.	Alexandria, Va.
Mr. F.A. Wells	1816 Rosser Lane	Charlottesville, Va.
Mr. John J. Westbrook, Jr.	185 West Main St.	Danville, Va.
Dr. Alexander Wetmore	Smithsonian Institute	Washington, D.C.
Mr. W.F. White	Box 220A, Route #2	Lynchburg, Va.
Mrs. J. Harrison Whiteman	801 Third Ave.	West Point, Ga.
Mr. R.J. Wicks	225 Pear Ave.	Newport News, Va.
Miss Elsie H. Wigley	218 Newman Avenue	Harrisonburg, Va.
Dr. Myra Williams	716 West Franklin St.	Richmond, Va.
Mrs. Charles H. Wills (s)	196 Huron Ave.	Lynchburg, Va.
Mr. James W. Wiltshire, Jr.(s)	2949 Rivermont Ave.	Lynchburg, Va.
Mrs. James W. Wiltshire, Jr. (s)	Randolph Macon Woman's College	Lynchburg, Va.

Mr. Julian S. Wise	1534 Terrace Rd.	Roanoke, Va.
Mr. J.C. Womeldorf	Route #5, Box 25	Lexington, Va.
Miss Franklin Woodson	1229 Windsor Ave.	Richmond, Va.
Mrs. Landon Wyatt	862 Main St.	Danville, Va.
Mr. F.M. Yellott	Ross Haven	Lexington, Va.
Miss Sylvia Yost (s)	2618 Crystal Spring Ave.	Roanoke, Va.

Honorary Members

Mr. Harold H. Bailey	Rockbridge Alum Springs	Goshen, Va.
Mr. John B. Lewis	R.F.D., Box 36	Brodnax, Va.



The Raven

BULLETIN OF THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY

J. J. MURRAY, EDITOR
LEXINGTON, VA.

VOL. XXIII

MAY-JUNE, 1952

NOS. 5 & 6

THE BIRDS
OF
PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY, VIRGINIA

By

ROBERT B. EGGLESTON and ROYSTER LYLE, JR.

(Also "Notes from the President's Files", by D. Ralph Hostetter,
and "Cobb Island Trip", by C.C. Steirly.)

THE BIRDS OF PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY, VIRGINIA

By Robert B. Eggleston and Royster Lyle, Jr.

The title of this paper would be more accurate if it were "Birds of the Danville Area". The vast majority of the records in it are from right around Danville. The list contains 205 species of which 90 breed.

Pittsylvania County is situated in south Piedmont Virginia, touching North Carolina with its southern boundary. It is forty miles long and twenty-eight miles wide. Its area of 1,012 square miles ranks it first in size among Virginia counties.

The county has the Piedmont's characteristic rolling terrain. The mean elevation is approximately 500 feet above sea level, the lowest section being the southeastern part of the county. Danville's elevation is 425 feet. Several distinct mountains and ridges rise above the surrounding territory. The most conspicuous of these is Smith Mountain, elevation 2,000 feet, in the northwest corner of the county. White Oak Mountain, which cuts across the central portion of the county, is about 800 feet above sea level. In the north are Jasper, Farmers and Brushy Mountains, and in the west-central portion is Turkey Cock Mountain, all between 1,000 and 1,200 feet.

Pittsylvania has long, hot summers. The winters are usually not severe. The mean temperature is 78.2°F., in July and 39.5°F in January. The average annual rainfall is 42.6 inches.

As far as is known the avifauna is entirely Carolinian. The land is about one-third wooded. The predominant pines are the shortleaf and Virginia scrub. Among the oaks there are the white, red, scarlet, and chestnut. Along the rivers there are the usual swamp trees - the sycamores, beeches, willows, etc.

Because of the terrain, there are no open marshes, hence the absence of rail and marsh wren records. Along the riverbottoms, however, there are some cattail concentrations and wooded swamps; The most frequently visited are the Pillars Road Swamp and the swamp along Turpin's Lake. There are few large bodies of water. At Danville the Dan River has been dammed up at several places. The lake above the Schoolfield dam extends for about two and a half miles upstream and is about five hundred yards wide at its widest point. Above the Union Street bridge, well within the Danville city limits, the river is dammed, creating a lake about a mile long and two hundred yards wide. Along one side of this lake there are several small mud flats which have produced most of the shorebird records. Most of our waterfowl records were made at the Union Street lake.

N.H. Williams, county agent, estimates the number of farm ponds in the county at from 75 to 100. Only a few of these, however, are visited regularly. They are relatively unproductive ornithologically. Some of the ponds most frequently visited are the Mill Lodge ponds, the Dodson pond and the pond at Dan's Hill.

Besides the two writers, the person who has added most to the Pittsylvania bird picture is John Westbrook, at present head of the Danville Museum of Natural History. While he has not kept organized notes, he is constantly in the field and has the advantage of having been in Danville all his life. Lyle did not start working here until 1947 and Eggleston not until 1949. Westbrook has some records of birds likely to be seen here only once in a lifetime; for example, White-winged Crossbill. Westbrook is particularly interested in breeding birds and we owe most of our breeding bird records to him.

Only the groundwork has been laid so far. Much more needs to be done. The most obvious lack is that of subspecific identification. So far not a single bird has been collected. There are at least ten species that should be collected in winter and summer. Some of these are the Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, the Blue Jay, Crow, Carolina Chickadee, House Wren and Robin.

We have a fairly complete picture of the waterfowl and spring passerine migration, but we lack information on fall passerine migration, and especially on shorebird migration. Until the spring of 1951 we had less than ten shorebird records. Close observation of the mud strips along the Dan River has resulted in more records. It is hoped that any workers having Pittsylvania records that may be useful or anyone who has an opportunity to make observations in the county will help fill in the gaps in this paper.

The extreme dates in the paper are at the same the average arrival and departure dates.

Greater Common Loon. Gavia immer immer. Rare transient. Two records: single birds on the Dan River on November 25, 1948, and October 25, 1949.

Horned Grebe. Colymbus auritus. Rare transient. Three records: single birds on the Dan River on March 12, 1948, November 21, 1950, and December 17, 1950.

Northern Pied-billed Grebe. Podilymbus podiceps podiceps. Common spring and fall transient; fairly common winter visitor. It has been recorded each month of the year. There are three summer records. Maximum 77 (September 15, 1951), average three.

Northern Double-crested Cormorant. Phalacrocorax auritus auritus. Rare transient. Three records: single birds on November 9, 1950, April 28, 1951, and May 10, 1951.

Northern Great Blue Heron. Ardea herodias herodias. Resident, most common in migration; not known to breed.

American Common Egret. Casmerodius albus egretta. Fairly common postbreeding migrant; average three. July 20, 1951 to September 15, 1951.

Common Snowy Egret. Leucophoyx thula thula. Two birds were observed on July 25, 1951, by the Dan River. One of them until August 17, 1951.

Little Blue Heron. Florida caerulea caerulea. Late summer visitor; somewhat common. The birds are almost always in immature plumage.

Eastern Green Heron. Butorides virescens virescens. Fairly common summer resident. April 24, 1950 to September 28, 1951. Breeding: on June 2, 1950, Westbrook found two nests in a tree above the Schoolfield boat docks. They contained 4 and 5 eggs respectively.

American Black-crowned Night Heron. Nycticorax nycticorax hoactli. Very local summer resident. One transient record: three birds on October 18, 1948. On April 14, 1951, fourteen night herons were observed by the Dan River just above the Union Street bridge in Danville. The birds were noted at this spot all during early May. They usually arrived just before dusk. A rookery containing six nests was found by Charley Wells on June 15, 1951, in a pine grove about a mile and a half from the feeding grounds. The first immature birds were seen on June 25. Five immature birds were seen August 6. The birds were last seen that year on October 6. No old nests were found in the area, so it is believed that the colony was established in the year it was discovered.

American Bittern. Botaurus lentiginosus. Rare transient; three records. MacLin Choate and Westbrook observed one in the Pillars Swamp from May 10 to May 15, 1947. Breeding was suspected, but the bird finally left. Choate saw one at Toshes, Virginia, the same year. A single bird was shot near the Martinsville Road on November 7, 1951 and is mounted in the Danville Museum of Natural History.

Eastern Canada Goose. Branta canadensis canadensis. Rare spring transient. Two records: fourteen on March 9, 1945, and two on March 20, 1948.

Common Mallard. Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos. Uncommon transient. November 3, 1951 to April 8, 1951. Maximum, 10; average, 8.

Black Duck. Anas rubripes. Uncommon winter visitor and transient. November 11, 1951 to March 4, 1950. Maximum, 9; average 5.

Gadwall. Chaulelasmus streperus. Uncommon spring transient, not recorded until 1950. March 26, 1951 to April 20, 1950. Maximum, 19 (Eggleston); average, 10.

American Pintail. Anas acuta tzitzihua. Rare transient. Two records. Lyle saw one October 16, 1949, on the Dan, and Eggleston saw one November 11, 1951, at the same place.

Green-winged Teal. Anas carolinensis. Rare transient. Two records. Lyle saw one in a flock of Scaups, October 26, 1949, and Eggleston saw two above the Schoolfield dam, November 23, 1951.

Blue-winged Teal. Anas discors. Fairly common spring transient; one fall and one winter record. March 15, 1949 to May 11, 1951. One male was seen by Eggleston, December 3, 1950. An unusual flight of blue-wings was observed September 23, 1951, when a total of 14 birds was seen at various places around Danville.

American Widgeon. Mareca americana. Common spring transient; uncommon fall transient. One fall record: Lyle observed one on the Dan River from December 31, 1948 to January 20, 1949. March 25, 1950, to June 8, 1948, November 4 to November 25. Maximum, 11; average, 5.

Shoveller. Spatula clypeata. Transient. Two records. Lyle saw 5 males and 4 females on April 7, 1949, and 2 males and 2 females on November 3, 1950.

Wood Duck. Aix sponsa. Uncommon resident; more common during spring migration; no breeding evidence. Maximum, 8; average, 2.

Redhead. Aythya americana. Scarce transient. March 4, 1950, to March 13, 1951, and November 11, 1951 to December 3, 1951. Maximum, 9; average, 3.

Ring-necked Duck. Aythya collaris. Abundant fall and spring transient; common winter visitor. October 26, 1949, to April 9, 1949. Maximum, 27; average, 10.

Canvas-back. Aythya valisineria. Fairly common spring transient; uncommon fall transient; most common as a winter visitor. November 11, 1951 to March 19, 1950. Maximum, 50; average, 7.

Lesser Scaup Duck. Aythya affinis. Our most common duck. Abundant transient; common winter visitor. October 25, 1949 to May 27, 1951. Maximum, 139; average, 25. Most common from late October to late November, and from early March to late April. Most of the Scaups seen are probably the lesser, but on several occasions in the spring birds were seen which were suspected of being the greater.

American Common Golden-eye. Bucephala clangula americana. Scarce transient and winter visitor. November 26, 1949 to May 1, 1949. Average, 2. The winter of 1947-48 was very severe and Golden-eyes were abnormally common. Flocks of from 10 to 50 were seen from January 30 to April 10.

Bufflehead. Bucephala albeola. Uncommon transient; more common as winter visitor. Most birds seen are females. November 2, 1951 to April 20, 1950. Maximum, 4; average, 2.

Oldsquaw. Clangula hyemalis. One record. Lyle observed one just before a heavy snow on February 1, 1949, on the Dan.

Eastern White-winged Scoter. Melanitta deglandi deglandi. One record. A female was observed on the Dan on November 25, 1950, during a severe ice storm.

Northern Ruddy Duck. Oxyura jamaicensis rubida. Fairly common winter visitor. October 16, 1949 to May 13, 1950. Maximum, 27; average, 5.

Hooded Merganser. Lophodytes cucullatus. Uncommon transient. Three records: November 18, 1950, March 26, 1951, and November 2, 1951. Fairly common winter visitor in small numbers. December 2, 1950 to February 20, 1951. Maximum, 8; average, 2.

American Common Merganser. Mergus merganser americanus. Uncommon spring transient. March 18, 1950 to April 30, 1949. One bird, a male, spent the winter of 1948 from January 30 to March 5. Maximum, 2.

Lesser Red-breasted Merganser. Mergus serrator serrator. Occasional spring transient. Three records: one on April 7, 1949, a pair on April 24, 1950, and one on March 4, 1951.

Eastern Turkey Vulture. Cathartes aura septentrionalis. Common resident. Maximum, 50-75; average, 15. Breeding: Westbrook has several records of eggs in early April.

Black Vulture. Coragyps atratus. Resident. Not as common as the Turkey Vulture. Average, 7. Breeding: two eggs found in a nest in honeysuckle tangle near Keeling on April 7, 1946.

Northern Sharp-shinned Hawk. Accipiter striatus velox. Very scarce resident. It undoubtedly breeds here, but we have no evidence.

Cooper's Hawk. Accipiter cooperii. Fairly common resident. Only one nesting record: Lyle and Westbrook found an old crow nest containing five Cooper's eggs 55 feet up in a spruce pine near Danville on May 9, 1951. The eggs had been incubated from 10 to 14 days.

Eastern Red-tailed Hawk. Buteo jamaicensis borealis. Resident; our most common hawk. Many nesting records: eggs, March 17 to April 3.

Northern Red-shouldered Hawk. Buteo lineatus lineatus. Resident; not as common as the Red-tail. Breeding: nest, 3 eggs, April 5, 1946.

Northern Broad-winged Hawk. Buteo platypterus platypterus. Summer resident; fairly common locally. April 8, 1950 to September 24, 1950. Breeding: eggs, April 25 to May 15.

Southern Bald Eagle. Haliaeetus leucocephalus leucocephalus. Rare transient. Three records: 11 birds on October 28, 1949, one on June 8, 1949, and one on April 28, 1951.

American Marsh Hawk. Circus cyaneus hudsonius. Fairly common fall transient, August 30, 1949 to November 25, 1950; uncommon winter visitor, December 26, to January 1.

American Osprey. Pandion haliaetus carolinensis. Uncommon spring transient, March 27, 1950 to May 26, 1951; one fall record; a single bird above the Schoolfield dam on October 14, 1951.

American Peregrine Falcon. Falco peregrinus anatum. One record. A single bird was observed at Smith Mountain in April of 1948. A party found a possible nesting site on Smith Mountain on May 26, 1951. Dropings and small animal bones were found on an inaccessible ledge on a rock cliff overlooking the Staunton River.

Northern Sparrow Hawk. Falco sparverius sparverius. Uncommon resident; fairly common winter visitor. The period of greatest abundance is from October 1 to middle February. No breeding evidence.

Eastern Bob-White. Colinus virginianus virginianus. Common resident. Average winter covey, 10-14. Breeding; fresh eggs; May 22 to June 11.

Ring-necked Pheasant. Phasianus colchicus. Introduced at several places in the county. Lyle saw one, a male, in the western part of the county in the first week of August, 1951. No breeding evidence.

Eastern Turkey. Meleagris gallopavo silvestris. Formerly abundant; now scarce local resident in Banister River and White Oak Mountain areas. Several are killed each year.

Florida Common Gallinule. Gallinula chloropus cachinnans. Scarce transient. Three records: one flew into a downtown Danville building on October 14, 1948, and was identified by Westbrook; Westbrook identified a female which had been found wandering in the street at Five Forks at Danville in mid-April, 1950; one was found dead in the South Boston road in early May, 1950. Westbrook found a nest with fresh eggs in a swamp in the Banister River area on May 12, 1947. This is the only time one has been seen in summer.

Northern American Coot. Fulica americana americana. Fairly common transient. October 18, 1948 to November 9, 1950; March 11, 1950 to April 6, 1951. Maximum, 11 (on October 26, 1949); average, 3.

Semipalmated Ringed Plover. Charadrius hiaticula semipalmatus. Transient. One arrived on the mud flats by the Dan River on May 17, 1951. It was joined later by two others. The three were last seen on May 30.

Northern Killdeer. Charadrius vociferus vociferus. Very common resident. Maximum, 50 (March 15, 1949, Lyle); average, 5. Breeding: Eggleston saw three downy young on May 30, 1951, by the Dan River; Westbrook found 4 eggs near Climax on May 6, 1945.

American Woodcock. Philohela minor. Irregular. They have been recorded every month of the year. Breeding: four full-fledged young were observed by Westbrook in late June, 1947, on Wimbush Farm.

Wilson's Common Snipe. Capella gallinago delicata. Uncommon spring transient. April 1 to April 9. One fall record, November 2, 1951; Eggleston. One winter record, December 17, 1950, Eggleston. Maximum, 4; average, 2.

(Hudsonian Whimbrel. Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus. One highly hypothetical record. In April of 1916, following a period of storms and fog, a curlew was brought to Westbrook. When asked about it recently he could give no information as to identification beyond the fact that it had a long, down-curved, curlew's bill. It was probably a Hudsonian.)

Upland Plover, Bartramia longicauda. One record. Westbrook observed one on the Barker farm near Whitnell on September 6, 1950. The writers feel certain that it was this bird.

Spotted Sandpiper. Actitis macularia. Common summer resident and more common migrant. April 6, 1950 to October 26, 1949. Maximum, 25, May 2, 1948, Lyle; average, spring and fall, 5; average summer, 3. It is highly likely that it breeds here, but as yet there is no evidence.

Eastern Solitary Sandpiper. Tringa solitaria solitaria. Fairly common late spring transient, May 1, 1951 to May 17, 1951; one fall record; a single bird on September 23, 1951. Maximum, 2; average, 1.

Greater Yellowlegs. Totanus melanoleucus. Transient, two records. On May 3, 1951, Westbrook observed a group of approximately 20 shorebirds flying along the Dan River. He wrote down the striking calls they were making and later identified them, by their notes, as Greater Yellowlegs. Eggleston observed a single bird on September 23, 1951.

Lesser Yellowlegs. Totanus flavipes. Scarce transient. Three records: a single bird on the Dan River mud flats on August 23, 1951; two birds on April 28, 1951, and September 15, 1951.

White-rumped Sandpiper. Erolia fuscicollis. One record. Eggleston observed one bird on the Dan River flats, May 30, 1951.

Least Sandpiper. Erolia minutilla. Fairly common fall transient. August 15, 1951 to September 23, 1951. One spring record, May 6, 1950.

Red-backed Dunlin. Erolia alpina pacifica. One record. Lyle observed four birds above the Schoolfield dam on October 28, 1949.

Semi-palmated Sandpiper. Ereunetes pusillus. Fairly common transient. May 1, 1950 to May 27, 1951.

American Herring Gull. Larus argentatus smithsonianus. Uncommon spring transient, February 17 to May 23; two fall records: October 26, 1949, and November 26, 1950. Maximum, 6; average, 2.

Ring-billed Gull. Larus delawarensis. Fairly common spring transient; uncommon fall transient. March 4, 1951 to May 6, 1950; November 2, 1951 to November 26, 1950. One winter record; January 30, 1949, Lyle. This is our most common gull.

Bonaparte's Gull. Larus philadelphia. Uncommon spring transient, April 6, 1949 to May 5, 1949; two fall records; November 26, 1950 and October 26, 1949; one winter record; January 30, 1949, Lyle.

Terns. Sterna Sp.? One record. Lyle observed "either a Common or a Forster's" on October 16, 1949, by the Dan River. It was decided that it was a Forster's since Grey reported the Common Tern was not seen at Cape Henry after mid-September. Lyle saw five Terns, which he took to be Common Terns, on September 8, 1951.

Caspian Tern. Hydroprogne caspia. One record. Three birds were observed flying over the Dan River above the Union Street bridge on April 28, 1951, by the VSO field trip party.

American Black Tern. Chlidonias niger surinamensis. One record. Eggleston saw a single bird, in fall plumage, flying over the Dan River on September 11, 1951, and again on September 13.

Rock Dove. Columbia livia. Some truly feral birds nest about Danville.

Eastern Mourning Dove. Zenaidura macroura carolinensis. Common resident. Gathers in large flocks in fall and winter. Many breeding records: fresh eggs, April 21 to April 26.

(Passenger Pigeon. Ectopistes migratorius. Extinct. We have no definite records of it, but it was recorded in nearby parts of North Carolina.)

(Eastern Carolina Paroquet. Conuropsis carolinensis carolinensis. Extinct. William Byrd, in surveying the Virginia - North Carolina line, recorded the paroquet as common. He did not specifically mention seeing them along Pittsylvania's section of the line, but it may be assumed that he did.)

Eastern Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Coccyzus americanus americanus. Uncommon summer resident, but more common than the Black-billed. April 29, 1951, to October 5, 1951. Breeding: carrying building material, June 5, Westbrook; carrying food, August 26, Lyle.

Black-billed Cuckoo. Coccyzus erythrophthalmus. Scarce summer resident; more common in migration. May 5, 1951 to October 2, 1949. It is probable that it breeds here, but we have no evidence as yet.

North American Barn Owl. Tyto alba pratincola. Uncommon local resident. Six, including several immature birds, were killed in the middle of Danville in the spring of 1950. Breeding: 5 eggs on April 12, 1950, at Conway Farm, Westbrook.

Southern Screech Owl. Otus asio asio. Two records. One was observed resting in a laurel thicket at the Lyle's farm, April 18, 1948. Another was found dead in Danville in late February, 1951.

Eastern Horned Owl. Gubo virginianus virginianus. Rare local resident. It has been heard but not seen in several places around Danville.

Northern Barred Owl. Strix varia varia. Common resident. This is our most common owl. Breeding: eggs, March 14, to March 19.

American Long-eared Owl. Asio otus wilsonianus. Scarce winter visitor. Westbrook has recorded it three times. He saw one January, 1946, in Forest Hills; one February, 1945, in the same place; and one January, 1944, along the Pillars Road.

Eastern Whip-poor-will. Caprimulgus vociferus vociferus. Fairly common summer resident. Arrival date, April 5, 1948. Breeding: chicks, June 5 to June 10.

Eastern Common Nighthawk. Chordeiles minor minor. Common summer resident. It is most often seen in urban areas. May 2, 1948 to October 6, 1951. Two late birds were seen October 23, 1951. Breeding: eggs, June 2-3; chicks, June 2. These birds nest every year on the same gravel roofs in downtown Danville, on almost exactly the same date.

Chimney Swift. Chaetura pelagica. Abundant summer resident. March 28, 1949 to October 10, 1951. These birds gather in huge flocks, numbering at times over 1,000, just before their departure in the second week of October. Breeding: 4 fresh eggs on May 10. We have few records because it is so difficult to get to the nests.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Archilochus colubris. Common summer resident. April 15, 1948 to September 24, 1951. Breeding: fresh eggs, May 5.

Eastern Belted Kingfisher. Megasceryle alcyon alcyon. Common resident; more common in summer. Average in winter, 2; in summer, 3. Breeding: excavating, April 9; fresh eggs, April 20.

Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker. Colaptes auratus, luteus. Common resident; most common in summer. Average in winter, 2; in summer, 3-4. Breeding: fresh eggs, May 5. Lyle recorded an albino flicker on March 20, 1948. The bird was completely white except for the red patch on the back of the head and the gold under the wing.

Southern Pileated Woodpecker. Dryocopus pileatus pileatus. Two records: one was observed by Lyle in the Kentuck area, November 4, 1950; another was observed on Smith Mountain in early April, 1948.

Eastern Red-bellied Woodpecker. Centurus carolinus carolinus. Uncommon resident. Breeding: a pair feeding young in the Pumpkin Creek area, May 12.

Eastern Red-headed Woodpecker. Melanerpes erythrocephalus erythrocephalus. Localized resident. It is almost always found in large oaks around inhabited areas. Breeding: fresh eggs, May 14. We have many feeding records in May and June.

Eastern Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Sphyrapicus varius varius. Uncommon winter visitor. October 10, 1951 to March 24, 1949. These birds were unusually common in the winter of 1948-49.

Eastern Hairy Woodpecker. Dendrocopus villosus villosus. Uncommon resident. Breeding: fresh eggs, April 6.

Northern Downy Woodpecker. Dendrocopus pubescens medianus. Resident. It is about three times more common than the Hairy. Breeding: fresh eggs, April 9-10.

Eastern Kingbird. Tyrannus tyrannus. Common summer resident. April 27, 1951 to September 3, 1951. Breeding: eggs, June 2; feeding young; June 21.

Northern Great-crested Flycatcher. Myiarchus crinitus boreus. Fairly common summer resident. Arrival date, April 28, 1951. Breeding: eggs, June 3-6.

Eastern Phoebe. Sayornis phoebe. Resident. Common in summer; scarce in winter. Breeding: first brood, building, March 24; eggs, April 4-10; second brood, nest with new young on June 19.

Acadian Flycatcher. Empidonax virescens. Fairly common resident. April 7, 1951 to September 5, 1951. Breeding: eggs, June 4-7.

Eastern Wood Pewee. Contopus virens. Common summer resident. April 27, 1950, to October 1, 1949. Breeding: eggs, June 6-9.

Prairie Horned Lark. Eremophila alpestris praticola. Uncommon resident; fairly common winter visitor. Breeding: pair and 5 young seen by Lyle at the Danville Airport, May 10, 1951. Westbrook has an egg of this species which was taken from a nest containing three eggs on March 26, 1950. These birds may be seen at any time of the year at the Danville Airport. Maximum flock, 200; average flock, 75. We have no records of the Northern Horned Lark, but careful observation in the winter might reveal their presence.

Tree Swallow. Iridoprocne bicolor. Transient. Uncommon in spring; one fall record, August 26, 1950. This bird was not recorded until 1949. March 26, to April 28.

Common Bank Swallow. Riparia riparia riparia. Former summer resident. Westbrook found a single nest containing 6 eggs in a railroad embankment near Schoolfield on May 14, 1945. He said that he had seen it once or twice before then. Eggleston has one very doubtful record on July 23, 1949, of approximately 10 birds on telephone wires in Beverstone Park.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow. Stelgidopteryx ruficollis serripennis. Fairly common summer resident, especially along the Dan River. March 26, 1950 to late July. Breeding: eggs, May 24, Westbrook.

American Barn Swallow. Hirundo rustica erythrogaster. Uncommon summer resident. April 20, 1950 to September 11, 1949. Breeding: Dr. Murray found an old nest on the VSO field trip, April 27, 1951.

Northern Purple Martin. Progne subis subis. Somewhat common local summer resident. March 19, 1949 to August 23, 1951. This bird is present around Danville in several colonies. The only breeding records we have are birds carrying food to boxes.

Northern Blue Jay. Cyanocitta cristata bromia. Fairly common summer resident. Found mostly in suburban areas around overgrown oaks. Breeding: eggs, May 12.

Southern Common Crow. Corvus brachyrhynchos paulus. Fairly common resident. Breeding: eggs, April 3; young in nest (8 days old), April 12. The Eastern Common Crow almost certainly occurs in winter.

Fish Crow. Corvus ossifragus. Uncertain. On August 5 Eggleston heard one crow in a flock of crows in the Pillars Road woods making calls that sounded like a fish crows. A week later Lyle and Eggleston returned and heard the same fish crow call. However, the bird making the un-crow-like calls was never seen.

Northern Carolina Chickadee. Parus carolinensis extimus. Resident. Fairly common in summer; very common in winter. Breeding: building, April 9; eggs, April 13-19.

Tufted Titmouse. Parus bicolor. Common resident. Breeding: building, April 8-10; eggs, April 21-23; feeding young in nest, May 4.

Eastern White-breasted Nuthatch. Sitta carolinensis cookei. Fairly common resident. Breeding: eggs, March 28.

Red-breasted Nuthatch. Sitta canadensis. Uncommon winter visitor. November 7, 1948 to April 7, 1950.

Northern Brown-headed Nuthatch. Sitta pusilla pusilla. Uncommon resident. This bird is spreading north year by year. It was first seen in this county in 1949. For a while it was extremely local; the woods beyond DTI in Danville was the only place where they could always be found. By 1951 it was spread evenly over the southern part of the county. Breeding: excavating, April 27; eggs, May 11.

Eastern Brown Creeper. Certhia familiaris americana. Uncommon winter visitor. October 8, 1949 to March 26, 1950.

Eastern House Wren. Troglodytes aedon aedon. Common summer resident. April 5, 1948 to October 24, 1951. Breeding: eggs, April 22 to June 19; feeding young, June 19.

Eastern Winter Wren. Troglodytes troglodytes hiemalis. Fairly common winter visitor. Arrival, September 20, 1948.

Northern Carolina Wren. Thryothorus ludovicianus ludovicianus. Resident. Very common in summer; fairly common in winter. Breeding: 5 eggs in a nest in a tin can on March 30, 1946.

Short-billed Sedge Wren. Cistothorus platensis stellaris. One record. Westbrook saw a single bird along the Dan River behind Forest Hills in early May, 1948.

Eastern Mockingbird. Mimus polyglottos polyglottos. Very common resident. Breeding: building, March 25; eggs, April 22. Eggleston recorded a second brood with young in middle July, 1951.

Catbird. Dumetella carolinensis. Common summer resident. April 20, 1948, to November 18, 1948. In relatively mild winters catbirds stay in the Danville area. Breeding: eggs, May 12-14.

Eastern Brown Thrasher. Toxostoma rufum rufum. Fairly common summer resident; scarce winter visitor. Common from late March to mid October. Breeding: eggs, April 21 to June 10.

Southern Robin. Turdus migratorius achrusterus. Abundant summer resident; uncommon winter visitor, becoming more common in late February. Breeding: building, April 3-7; eggs, April 11-17; young in nest, May 1; young out of nest, May 1 to August 16. The Eastern Robin probably occurs in winter.

Wood Thrush. Hylocichla ustulata mustelina. Common summer resident. April 9, 1949 to late September. Breeding: building, April 27 - May 7; eggs, May 6-16.

Eastern Hermit Thrush. Hylocichla guttata faxoni. Fairly common winter visitor. October 5, 1948 to May 18, 1950.

Olive-backed Swainson's Thrush. Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni. Uncommon spring transient; one fall record, October 7, 1949, Lyle. April 27, 1950, to May 7, 1950. During the spring of 1951 this species was unusually common. From 5-10 birds were seen on every trip to the Country Club woods.

Eastern Veery. Hylocichla fuscescens fuscescens. Scarce spring transient. Lyle has the only two records: May 7, 1948, and May 7, 1950.

Eastern Common Bluebird. Sialia sialis sialis. Common resident; more common in winter than in summer. Breeding: building, March 26; young in nest, May 2.

Eastern Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Polioptila caerulea caerulea. Fairly common summer resident. Arrival: March 26, 1949. Breeding: building, April 4-7; eggs, May 6.

Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglet. Regulus satrapa satrapa. Common winter visitor. October 16, to April 3, 1950.

Eastern Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Regulus calendula calendula. Uncommon winter visitor. September 15, 1951 to May 1, 1951.

American Water Pipit. Anthus spinoletta rubescens. Uncommon winter visitor. Until 1950 this bird had not been recorded. On February 11, 1950, a flock of 75 supposed "Horned Larks", under close observation, turned out to be pipits. Since then we have observed our Horned Larks more carefully and have found pipits to be present from mid-November to late March.

Cedar Waxwing. Bombycilla cedrorum. Resident; scarce breeder; common winter visitor. Period of abundance, in flocks averaging 100, from mid-October to early May. Breeding: 4 eggs near Averett College on June 7, 1944, Westbrook.

Southern Loggerhead Shrike. Lanius ludovicianus ludovicianus. Fairly common resident. Breeding: 5 eggs on April 13, Westbrook.

Common Starling. Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris. Abundant resident. Breeding: building, April 11-18, eggs, April 18-25.

Northern White-eyed Vireo. Vireo griseus noveboracensis. Fairly common summer resident. March 30, 1948, to October 1, 1950. Breeding: eggs, April 14 to May 24.

Yellow-throated Vireo. Vireo flavifrons. Uncommon summer resident. April 15, 1950, to October 5, 1950. Breeding: eggs, May 7.

Blue-headed Solitary Vireo. Vireo solitarius solitarius. Fairly common transient. April 2, 1950 to October 19, 1948, one early date; March 24, 1948, Lyle.

Mountain Solitary Vireo. Vireo solitarius alticola. Westbrook and Lyle found a nest with three full-fledged young on May 15, 1951. An old nest was found near by, indicating previous nesting. This is the only time a bird has been observed in the summer. Some of the transients may belong to this form.

Red-eyed Vireo. Vireo olivaceus. Common summer resident. Arrival, April 27, 1948. Breeding: building, May 6; eggs, June 2.

Eastern Warbling Vireo. Vireo gilvus gilvus. Uncommon summer resident. Arrival, April 11, 1948. Breeding: 4 eggs on May 21, 1951.

Black and White Warbler. Mniotilta varia. Common summer resident. March 22, 1948 to October 1, 1949. Breeding: 4 eggs on April 15.

Prothonotary Warbler. Protonotaria citrea. Two records. A group of the VSO field trip members on April 28, 1951, saw and heard a male singing in a wooded swamp along Turpin's Lake. The bird was watched on and off for a week to see if he might breed. He was last seen on May 2, so it was supposed that he was just passing. However, on August 21, Eggleston saw a male not over 200 yards from the same place. It is not known whether this was the same bird.

Worm-eating Warbler. Helminthos vermivorus. Rare transient. Two records: one seen in Forest Hills on April 28, 1951, and another seen on May 8, 1948.

Golden-winged Warbler. Vermivora chrysoptera. Rare transient. One record: a bird was observed by members of the VSO field trip at Dan's Hill on April 28, 1951.

Blue-winged Warbler. Vermivora pinus. One record, a singing bird observed in a swamp by Turpin's Lake on April 30, 1951.

Tennessee Warbler. Vermivora peregrina. Transient. On September 14, 1951, Eggleston observed a Tennessee warbler feeding on a worm-infested mimosa tree in Beverstone Park. It stayed and was joined by others up to a maximum of 4. They were seen every day that fall until October 15.

Nashville Warbler. Vermivora ruficapilla ruficapilla. One record. Eggleston observed a single bird in Beverstone Park on September 27, 1951.

Southern Parula Warbler. Parula americana americana. Common summer resident. April 7, 1948 to October 6, 1951. Breeding: 3 eggs and one cow bird egg on May 21, 1948, Westbrook.

Eastern Yellow Warbler. Dendroica petechia aestiva. Common summer resident. April 12, 1948 to late July. Breeding: 4 eggs on May 17, Westbrook.

Magnolia Warbler. Dendroica Magnolia. Fairly common spring transient; less common in fall. April 23, 1948 to May 16, 1950; September 12, 1949 to October 8, 1949.

Cape May Warbler. Dendroica tigrina. Fairly common spring and fall transient. April 26, 1948 to May 15, 1950; September 5, 1951, to October 14, 1951.

Northern Black-throated Blue Warbler. Dendroica caerulescens caerulescens. Fairly common transient. April 28, 1951, to May 8, 1948; September 24, 1949 to October 8, 1949.

Eastern Myrtle Warbler. Dendroica coronata coronata. Uncommon winter visitor; fairly common transient. October 9, 1949 to mid-May.

Northern Black-throated Green Warbler. Dendroica virens virens. Uncommon spring transient; one fall record. April 28, 1951 to May 7, 1948; September 24, 1949.

Cerulean Warbler. Dendroica cerulea. One record. Westbrook saw one in his yard in the middle of May, 1950.

Blackburnian Warbler. Dendroica fusca. Transient. Uncommon in fall; one spring record; April 28, 1951; September 24, 1949 to October 8, 1949.

Eastern Yellow-throated Warbler. Dendroica dominica dominica. Common summer resident. April 3, 1950 to September 30, 1948. We have one early date, March 20, 1948, Lyle. Breeding: building, April 30; eggs, April 22-30.

Chestnut-sided Warbler. Dendroica pensylvanica. Fairly common spring transient; one fall record, May 1, 1951 to May 6, 1950; October 7, 1949.

Bay-breasted Warbler. Dendroica castanea. Transient. Uncommon in fall; one spring record. May 14, 1950; September 24, 1949, to October 8, 1949.

Black-pollled Warbler. Dendroica striata. Very common late spring transient; not common in fall. May 4, 1950, to June 2, 1949; September 12, 1949 to October 8, 1949.

Northern Pine Warbler. Dendroica pinus pinus. Resident; not common in winter; common in summer and migrations. Breeding: 4 eggs on April 9, 1946.

Northern Prairie Warbler. Dendroica discolor discolor. Common summer resident. Arrival, April 2, 1949. Breeding: 2 eggs and one cowbird egg on May 20, 1951.

Palm Warbler. Dendroica palmarum, subsp.? Transient: fairly common in fall, uncommon in spring. September 24, 1951, to October 18, 1949.

Eastern Ovenbird. Seiurus aurocapillus aurocapillus. Abundant summer resident. Arrival, April 2, 1949. Breeding: 5 eggs on May 8.

Louisiana Water-thrush. Seiurus motacilla. Fairly common summer resident. March 25, 1948, to October 6, 1951. Breeding: 6 eggs on April 13, 1946.

Kentucky Warbler. Oporornis formosus. Uncommon summer resident. Arrival, April 29, 1948. Breeding: 5 eggs on May 23.

Maryland Yellowthroat. Geothlypis trichas trichas. Very common summer resident. April 7, 1948 to October 19, 1948. Breeding: eggs, May 14.

Eastern Yellow-breasted Chat. Icteria virens virens. Common summer resident. April 26, 1948, to October 19, 1948. Breeding: 4 eggs on May 14.

Hooded Warbler. Wilsonia citrina. Very common summer resident. April 21, 1948 to September 5, 1951. Breeding: eggs, May 16-22; feeding young on June 19.

Wilson's Pileolated Warbler. Wilsonia pusilla pusilla. Rare transient. Two records. Lyle saw a female at his farm on May 15, 1948. Eggleston saw one on September 30 - October 2, 1951.

Canada Warbler. Wilsonia canadensis. Uncommon spring transient. May 7, 1950 to May 16, 1951.

Southern American Redstart. Setophaga ruticilla ruticilla. Very common summer resident.. March 25, 1949 to October 1, 1949. Breeding: building, March 25; eggs, May 6-9; Lyle reports a nest with two Redstart and one Cowbird egg on May 6, 1946.

European House Sparrow. Passer domesticus domesticus. Abundant. resident;

Java Sparrow. Minia oryzivora. In late July, 1951, a Java Sparrow was observed near the mud flats along the Dan above Union Street. The bird, supposedly an escaped individual, was slate-gray, had white cheek-patches and a pink conical bill. The bird stayed the rest of the summer and was last seen on September 17. It probably died during the winter.

Bobolink. Dolichonyx oryzivorus. Uncommon spring transient. It occurs regularly in large flocks. Maximum, approximately 1000; average, approximately 200. May 5, 1951 to May 10, 1951.

Eastern Common Meadowlark. Sturnella magna magna. Resident. Very common in summer; common in winter. Breeding: eggs, April 29.

Eastern Redwing Blackbird. Agelaius phoeniceus phoeniceus. Common in summer. Arrival, March 4, 1950. Breeding: first brood, May 10-12; second brood, eggs; June 20-25.

Orchard Oriole. Icterus spurius. Scarce local resident. We have very few records. April 21, 1951 to July 13, 1949. Westbrook reports that it bred three years consecutively in Mountain View Cemetery. Eggs, May 22 - June 3; feeding young, June 14.

Baltimore Oriole. Icterus gallbula. Transient. Three records: one bird on June 9, 1949, May 4, 1950, and May 9, 1951.

Rusty Blackbird. Euphagus carolinus. Two records. Lyle collected a male in December 1950. Eggleston saw several in a flock of grackles on November 17, 1951.

Purple Crow-blackbird. Quiscalus quiscula stonei. Common summer resident; very common in migration. February 22, 1950, to November 16, 1951. Breeding: building, April 2; eggs, April 12.

Eastern Common Cowbird. Molothrus ater ater. Common summer resident; irregular in winter. Breeding. We have found the following birds to have been parasitized by the cowbird: Redstart, Prairie Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Parula Warbler and Cardinal. Eggleston and Lyle saw an albino cowbird in a flock of 5 on May 2, 1951.

Scarlet Tanager. Piranga olivacea. Fairly common transient; scarce summer resident. April 28, 1951 to October 6, 1951. Breeding: 3 eggs on May 15, 1949, in the Mule Branch Woods, Westbrook; feeding young in early June, Westbrook. This bird was unusually common in the spring of 1951.

Eastern Summer Tanager. Piranga rubra rubra. Uncommon summer resident. April 16, 1948 to October 5, 1951. Breeding: 4 eggs on May 14, 1945.

Eastern Cardinal. Richmondia cardinalis cardinalis. Common resident. Breeding: eggs, April 15-30.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Phœucticus ludovicianus. Transient. Two records: May 8, 1948 and May 8, 1951.

Eastern Blue Grosbeak. Guiraca caerulea caerulea. Fairly common summer resident. April 28, 1951, to September 15, 1951. Breeding: eggs, May 14-15. Westbrook says he has observed two broods, but lacks the records.

Indigo Bunting. Passerina cyanea. Very common summer resident. April 23, 1949 to early August. Breeding: 3 eggs on May 20.

Eastern Purple Finch. Carpodacus purpureus purpureus. Common transient; fairly common winter visitor. October 27, 1949 to April 24, 1950.

Redpoll. Acanthis flammea, subsp.? One record. Westbrook reported one in February, 1944, near Pumpkin Creek. He says that there was snow on the ground at the time and that the weather was severe.

Northern Pine Siskin. Spinus pinus pinus. Rare winter visitor. Three records. Westbrook saw a flock of from 10 to 15 at Conway Farm in the winter of 1943. Lyle and Westbrook saw a flock of about 10 in Ballou Park in the winter of 1944. Lyle and Eggleston saw 10 on May 11, 1952.

Eastern American Goldfinch. Spinus tristis tristis. Common resident. Breeding: building, July 3; eggs, July 27-29.

White-winged Crossbill. Loxia leucoptera leucoptera. One record. In January 1918 Westbrook saw a flock of from 40 to 50 Crossbills in a pine tree near the GW campus in Danville. This winter was one of the coldest on record.

Red-eyed Eastern Towhee. Pipilo erythrophthalmus erythrophthalmus. Common resident. Breeding: 4 eggs on May 12.

Eastern Savannah Sparrow. Passerculus sandwichensis savanna. Four records: single birds on April 1, 1948, April 6, 1950, April 7, 1950 and October 15, 1951.

Eastern Grasshopper Sparrow. Ammodramus savannarum pratensis. Common summer resident. April 6, 1950, to September 23, 1951. Breeding: 4 eggs on June 5.

Eastern Vesper Sparrow. Poocetes gramineus gramineus. Fairly common transient. March 20, 1949 to April 7, 1951; October 13, 1951 to November 11, 1951.

Eastern Bachman's Sparrow. Aimophila aestivalis bachmani. Uncommon local summer resident. No breeding evidence, but males are heard all during breeding season singing as if on territory.

Northern Slate-colored Junco. Junco hyemalis hyemalis. Very common winter visitor. October 16, 1948 to May 1, 1951.

Eastern Chipping Sparrow. Spizella passerina passerina. Very common summer resident. March 19, 1950 to November 7, 1951. Breeding: eggs, May 1-15.

Eastern Field Sparrow. Spizella pusilla pusilla. Very common resident. Breeding: building, April 2; eggs, June 19.

Eastern White-crowned Sparrow. Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys. Transient. Three records: October 28, 1949, May 2, 1951 and an immature on October 13, 1951.

White-throated Sparrow. Zonotrichia albicollis. Very common winter visitor. October 2, 1948 to May 8, 1948. One bird arrived in Lyle's yard on August 31, 1951, and spent the winter.

Eastern Fox Sparrow. Passerella iliaca iliaca. Scarce winter visitor. Three records: February 22, 1948 (in Danville), February 23, 1948 (Sandy River), and January 15, 1949.

Southern Swamp Sparrow. Melospiza georgiana georgiana. Uncommon winter visitor. November 11, 1950 to April 27, 1951.

Mississippi Song Sparrow. Melospiza melodia euphonia. Very common resident. Eggs, April 21.

-----0000-----

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT'S FILES

Since assuming the responsibilities of this office, the following committees and field trip sponsors have been appointed. Many of the appointments have been made after consultation with the Vice President.

The Publicity Committee consists of the following members: Robert J. Watson, Chairman, Dr. Florence Hague, Charles E. Stevens, Jr. This committee will endeavor to establish good public relations and to keep the activities of the Society before the public.

Mrs. Colgate W. Darden, Jr., with the assistance of Dr. John H. Grey and Mr. W. Edwin Miller, is assuming responsibility for increasing the Society membership.

The need for a Conservation Committee within the V.S.O. has long been felt. A committee consisting of Mr. W.F. Rountrey, Chairman, Mrs. James W. Wiltshire, and Mr. James R. Sydnor has been appointed to consider conservation projects originating within the Society or throughout the state. Resolutions calling for legislative action may be presented to the various state conservation organizations or to the General Assembly. Members should suggest to this committee conservation projects or efforts for study.

Mr. Paul G. Favour has assumed responsibility for planning the Blue Ridge field trip held on May 24. The forthcoming field trips to Eastern Shore and Back Bay will be sponsored by Mr. Charles E. Steirly and Mr. Jack E. Perkins respectively. These sponsors will choose the date for the field trips and will make appropriate announcements in due time in The Raven relative to the plans, lodging, transportation, and so forth.

Since my family and I will be leaving June 4 for a three month's period of travel, study and collecting through the southwest, west and north-west sections of the U.S., any and all matters which would naturally come to my attention should now be referred to Mr. Jack E. Perkins, Vice President, who will serve during my absence. We plan to be in Virginia again by September 1.

-- D. Ralph Hostetter

-----0000-----

COBB ISLAND TRIP

By C.C. Steirly

Through the courtesy of the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, arrangements have been made for the summer V.S.O. field trip to Wreck and Cobb Islands, off the Eastern Shore. The Commission vessels will meet the V.S.O. group at 9:00 A.M. July 19 (Saturday) at the town of Oyster. Such ornithological delights as Hudsonian Curlews, Oystercatchers, Black Skimmers, Turnstones, Plover, Sandpipers, Terns, Gulls, etc. should be waiting for the group on the island while the mudflats at Oyster might produce Clapper Rails, Herons, Egrets, etc.

Two routes may be taken to arrive on the Eastern Shore. The first, best and least expensive route is the Little Creek-Kiptopeke Ferry which leaves the Norfolk side at 6:30 A.M. arriving at Kiptopeke some 75 minutes later. There a truck will meet the group and carry them to Oyster at a

charge of one dollar per head! It is advised that cars be left on the Norfolk side as traffic on the ferry is rather heavy and quite frequently even early risers are left behind when the ferry is loaded with still earlier risers. Passenger fare is 75 cents one way. This is by far the best route to take as the group is together from 6:30 A.M. on, and by occupying a territory in the forward part of the ship quite a list of birds can be observed including Wilson's Petrels, Cormorants, Gulls and Terns. Breakfast can be obtained on the ferry. Within the last ten miles of Little Creek there are a number of tourist courts, motels, etc., for those who have a long way to drive.

The other route is a bit more complicated and expensive. This is on the Old Point to Cape Charles steamer (rates \$4.00 for automobile, \$1.35 for passengers, with staterooms at \$4.00 plus \$1.00 for those in excess of one). This vessel leaves Old Point at 8:40 P.M. the preceding evening. Passengers with staterooms can remain aboard until 6:30 A.M. the following morning. The return trip calls for another overnight stay on the steamer since the only afternoon departure is at 2:47 P.M. The steamer can be boarded at 10:45 P.M.; arrival at Old Point is 8:55 the next morning. It seems that the Little Creek-Kiptopeke route is by far the better.

The Little Creek-Kiptopeke return ferries leave Kiptopeke at 4:30, 5:30, 6:45, 8:00 P.M. and so on.

Everyone should bring a lunch, or the making thereof, a vial of mosquito repellent and clothing suited to the occasion, including headgear (there is no shade on either island).

Further information can be obtained from the writer and those contemplating the trip should drop a post card to him so that transportation plans can be handled smoothly. Also advise which route will be taken in arriving on the Shore.

-- Box 222
Waverly, Virginia



The Raven

BULLETIN OF THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY

J. J. MURRAY, EDITOR
LEXINGTON, VA.

VOL. XXIII

JULY-AUGUST, 1952

NOS. 7 & 8

CONTENTS

	Page
The Evening Grosbeak Invasion, 1951-52 in Virginia By Robert O. Paxton	58
Evening Grosbeaks in Northern Virginia By Arthur H. Fast	62
Notes on the Birds of Highland County, Virginia By F.R. Scott	63
The Nesting Season in Virginia, 1951 By F.R. Scott	65
The Whip-poor-will Has a Good Memory By Paul Bartsch	67
Blue-winged Teal Breeding in Sussex County, Virginia By C.C. Steirly	68
King Rail Nest in Surry County, Virginia By C.C. Steirly	68
A Naruna Fish Pond By Bertha Daniel	69
A Visit to Virginia Beach, Jamestown, and Cape Charles By Bertha Daniel	69
Eastern Shore Field Trip By J.J. Murray	70
From the President's Files By D. Ralph Hostetter	71
Balance Sheet on the 'Check-List'	73
Conservation Notes	74
A Nationwide Study of Nocturnal Bird Migration	75

THE EVENING GROSBEAK INVASION, 1951-52, IN VIRGINIA

By Robert O. Paxton

Evening Grosbeak history began in Virginia when a single bird was seen by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Graham in Alexandria in March, 1940. Continuously since that time there have been haphazard winter and spring records, mostly in northern Virginia and in the mountains. Twice since that time Evening Grosbeaks have swarmed into Virginia in mass invasions, once on a small scale in 1946, and then to unheard-of proportions in the winter and spring of 1952. In many places this spring Evening Grosbeaks were the dominant feature of bird activity.

The growing frequency of Evening Grosbeak records in Virginia and even into North Carolina and Tennessee seems to be a continuation of a process that began with a great invasion into the eastern states in 1890. Primarily a north-western bird, the Evening Grosbeak began 40 years ago to appear in New England: New York City in 1911, Portland, Maine, in 1916. It is now abundant in the East in winter, with some variation in numbers, but always tending toward increase. There is a breeding record for Vermont.

The appearance of Evening Grosbeaks has always created some excitement, on account of the large numbers that travel together, their spectacular appearance, and their fondness for yards and feeding stations. The first flocks to appear in the East forty years ago provoked newspaper stories; the same thing happened this year in Virginia. One of the Staunton Leader papers appeared in December with a puzzled description of some strange birds, "a bit too early to be referred to as harbingers of spring, but impressive enough to arouse speculation", which were visiting the feeding station of A. Vernon Keeley. The Richmond News-Leader of March 1, 1952, told of a "large flock of multicolored 'tropical-looking' birds" that "resembled parakeets" at the home of D.B. Wiltshire, 6421 Monument Avenue.

The great invasion of 1952 began with a few small flocks late in October in northern Virginia, and in early November south to Lexington and east to Norge. By Thanksgiving they were seen in Blacksburg. Thirteen localities reported Evening Grosbeaks during December, with 73 on the Christmas count in Fairfax County and 41 on the count at Charlottesville. Sixteen different groups were recorded in January with counts as high as 50 and estimates up to 70. February showed an increase to eighteen localities, and estimates up to "over 500" early in the month, between Williamsburg and Yorktown, and to "nearly 100" on February 27 in Richmond. The Washington region reported a maximum of 450 birds in late February and early March. Thirteen groups of Evening Grosbeaks were seen in March, with many areas' greatest numbers present during the first two weeks. Numbers noticeably slacked off after the 15th of March in many places. Fourteen areas still had Grosbeaks in April, when no areas had more than 30 birds counted. Since an Arlington feeding station had a surge of birds between April 15 and May 7, there was possibly a general increase at the end of the season. In seven localities they remained into May. The latest dates recorded were

May 13 at Lorton, May 17 in both Farmville and Arlington, and May 21 in Waynesboro.

In all, 38 different localities had Evening Grosbeaks at some time, and it can be assumed that many more flocks went unnoticed. Working in favor of a complete summary is the fact that the Evening Grosbeaks seem to prefer yards to uninhabited area, and swarm to feeding stations. A map of Grosbeak records almost coincides with a map of VSO membership.

Evening Grosbeaks are voracious at feeding trays. James T. Cook in Waynesboro fed them a gallon a day of sunflower seeds, while Dr. Paul Bartsch wrote from "Lebanon", near Lorton, on May 13, "I have just about finished my fifth hundred pounds of sunflower seeds at the feeding station facing my study window, to say nothing about chick feed, Kaffir corn, suet, etc., etc." Richard Pough believes that feeding stations are a real factor in the steady increase of Evening Grosbeaks, enabling more birds to survive the most crucial season. Away from artificial feeding, they seem to prefer box elder seed. Lawrence C. Gibson at Oakton noticed them eating the seeds and spent flowers of maples, and C.C. Steirly at Waverly saw them eating the fruits of hackberry (Celtis).

Most people reported more or less permanent flocks of about 50 birds, but the results of banding activities in the Washington area suggest that small flocks do not settle permanently in one location. Rather, large numbers of Grosbeaks seem to circulate in a fairly wide area. The traps of four banders near Washington form a quadrilateral with three sides of seven or eight miles, and one side of $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles. One of the banders, Arthur H. Fast, in Arlington, recovered 51 birds banded this year by the other three, whereas he trapped only 23 of his own bands over again, most of them only once. He banded one bird on February 15 which was trapped $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles away on February 18, only to be back again on April 3. Although the four banders usually had from 25 to 50 birds about, they actually banded 682 in the course of the season; of 419 trapped by Fast, a little over 75% were new birds, although 60 was his highest daily count. Most observers who seemed to have constant small flocks must have really been seeing inter-changing representatives of a large population that ranged over a broad area. Local counts are probably consistently low.

In conflict with this testimony there are numerous observations of the flocks' apparently regular "habits". The flock I watched happened to be at the SAE fraternity house every day at lunch time, and never earlier or later. Other observers said that constant numbers of the birds were always present in the morning and never in the afternoon. Probably many of these so-called "habits" simply reflect the food supply, for many said that the birds left when the feeding station was empty. C.N. Priode in Harrisonburg reported that his birds left about 10 a.m. when the sunflower seeds were gone except on Sunday when they would stay as long as he kept filling the tray.

The movements of Evening Grosbeaks this year in Virginia seem to corroborate the theory that irregular eruptions of this type are a result of population pressure upon the food supply. In the first place, the Grosbeaks became most common at the very end of winter weather, in late February and early March, when seeds, fruits and buds would be at a minimum. It is

logical that pressure for food would be greatest just before spring began, particularly in the North, and that more birds would gravitate then to the South. Moreover, local movements could often be traced to the distribution of the food supply. Finally, distribution was practically statewide, corresponding more closely to the spread of towns, feeding stations, and observers than to any climatic or geographical factors. Far from a typical migration with Fall and Spring influxes, Evening Grosbeak movement showed steady growth until March or April.

Out of 37 reports, only five were away from towns and feeding stations. Of course, the density of observers has a lot to do with this. Away from habitations, the birds were often found in river or creek bottoms, or around ponds.

Usually about one third of the birds were males. In Lexington, 10 out of 33 and 16 out of 66 were males. Out of 315 birds banded by Fast in Arlington, 104 were males. Although W. Edwin Miller estimated 12 males and 13 females in a Richmond flock, no flocks of any size had more males than females.

The only banding activities this year in Virginia on Evening Grosbeaks were carried on by four banders near Washington, Arthur H. Fast, Mrs. Michael Dreese, Mrs. M.B. Peacock, and Mrs. Mary Newlin Borton. They banded a total of 682 birds. The only Evening Grosbeaks previously banded in Virginia were 51 by Fast in 1946. The four banders picked up four birds previously banded in Connecticut, three in Massachusetts, and one in Charlesburg, Quebec. One of these birds was at least six years old.

There follows a list of 37 localities in which Evening Grosbeaks were reported, with fuller information wherever it could be obtained.

1. WASHINGTON REGION:

1) Arlington, Alexandria, Pine Ridge (Fairfax Co.) - December 10 to May 17 at four feeding stations, A.H. Fast, Mrs. Michael Dreese, Mrs. M.B. Peacock, Mrs. Mary Newlin Borton. 682 banded; recoveries of banded birds prove that one great flock filled this area. High count, 450 in late February and early March.

2) Oakton - 12 on December 26; 15 to 30 daily, March 14-April 30. Vienna (2miles away), 2 on January 11, occasionally in February.

3) Lorton - Daily, December 14 through May 13; high counts: 48 on January 20, growing to 200 regularly until April, down to 25, May 11, at sanctuary of Dr. Paul Bartsch.

4) Hunting Creek - November

2. FREDERICKSBURG - 15 on February 6, 1952; regularly through April 22; 15 on April 22; maximum, about 20 on February 26; all by Don J. Neff.

3. TIDEWATER:

1) Hampton - Recorded up to March 29; Upshur Joyner watched 25 or 30 in one city block, April 6-11.

- 2) Newport News - 25 seen in February by Ray Beasley.
- 3) Williamsburg - February; up to 100. Norge. - 6 or 8 on November 9, December 11.
- 4) Cheatham Annex, between Williamsburg and Yorktown - over 500 early in February by Claude Slausson.
- 5) Waverly - 5 on January 20 by C.C. Steirly.
- 6) Emporia
- 7) Surry
- 8) Franklin
- 9) Hopewell
- 10) Petersburg - 14 on January 22 (Dr. McIlwaine), and 6 on April 6; also reported by others throughout April.

4. RICHMOND:

- 1) Forest Hill Park - January 19 to April 30 at feeding stations of Berkeley Adams and L.P. Seay, Jr.; high count, 43 on February 29; fewer after mid-April.
- 2) Western Monument Avenue - April 11 (30) to May 5 (16); flock of 100 on February 29 at feeding station of D.B. Wiltshire.
- 3) Midlothian - several on April 4 and 5, E.L. Keirn

5. PIEDMONT:

- 1) Winchester
- 2) Boyce - between 17 and 24, December 25-January 8.
- 3) Warrenton - January 11 (2); daily, January 14-May 5 (12); up to 30 or 40 at feeding station of Mrs. Thomas Frost.
- 4) Charlottesville - 30 at Hatton, December 1; 41 on December 22; "fairly common along the river bottoms"; to April 29.
- 5) Farmville - 22 or 24 birds from December 22 to mid-March; fewer until May 17, by Mrs. H.B. Jenkins and George Jeffers.
- 6) Lynchburg - 20 or 25 February 5-7; other February dates; 6 on March 2.
- 7) Dinwiddie - 16 or 20 between February 11 and February 25, by Mrs. Edgar T. Hines.
- 8) Clarksville
- 9) Altavista - seven on January 3 and 5, Mrs. Walter Fauntleroy, and J.A. McCutchen.

6. MOUNTAINS-VALLEY AREA:

- 1) Panorama - 10 on November 10, by Nick Kerr and John Terborgh of D.C. Aud. Soc.
- 2) Shenandoah National Park Headquarters - near Luray. Seen by Paul Favour.
- 3) Harrisonburg - Regularly from two weeks after Christmas at feeding station of C.N. Priode; increased after mid-February to 48-60; still there May 8. Park View (1 mile away) 6 on March 16-20.
- 4) Bridgewater - 2 on December 9; 20 on December 12, 2 collected (Jopson).
- 5) Dayton - 2 on December 24 near Hone Quarry Picnic Area, by Max Carpenter.
- 6) Waynesboro - January to May 21; up to 80; feeder of James T. Cook.
- 7) Staunton - From about Christmas time, still there February 12. High count, 25, during December, at feeding station of A. Vernon Keeley.
- 8) Buena Vista - 25 or 30 by Mrs. J. Frank Key.
- 9) Lexington - 8 or 10 on November 7; "large flock" December 25; almost daily from January 3 to May 6; counts: 43 on February 23, 66 on March 7. Big Spring (4 miles away) 5 on March 12.
- 10) Mountain Lake - 3 or more on April 24 at Little Stony Creek, five miles north of the lake, by C.O. Handley, Jr.
- 11) Blacksburg - 40 or 50 about two days after Thanksgiving by R.J. Watson; 2 on December 31; 50 counted, 70 estimated by J.W. Murray on January 12; 40 or 50 on February 3 by A. Lawrence Dean; over 100 reported by S.M. Russel; few individuals only, April 11, 12, May 3, 6. (third straight year; former last dates: April 16, 1950, and May 3, 1951)

-- Lexington, Virginia

---000---

EVENING GROSBEAKS IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA

By Arthur H. Fast

The first Virginia record for the Evening Grosbeaks was that of a single bird seen by the Richard Grahams at Alexandria in March 1940. (1951 Va. Check-List, p. 104) During a few of the succeeding winters, occasional birds have been seen in this northern Virginia area. However, there have been but 2 invasions - the one in 1946 and the greater 1951-52 invasion.

The first birds of this last invasion were noted in late October, 1951. They gradually increased in numbers. 73 were observed for the Christmas Bird Count for Alexandria, Arlington and Falls Church. Beginning December 10 they came almost daily (up to 50) to the feeding station of Mrs. Dorothy Dreese in north Arlington. Dr. Paul Bartsch at Lebanon near Lorton had them regularly up to 200. They came in numbers up to 50, and rarely in greater numbers, to the feeding stations of Arthur H. Fast in north Arlington, Mrs. Mary Newlin Borton in Alexandria, and Mrs. M.B. Peacock in the Pine Ridge Section of Fairfax County - and to others in smaller numbers. Counts taken in late February and early March indicated at least 450 birds for this northern Virginia area. The birds maintained their numbers at most feeding stations until late April after which there was a decided decline in populations. However, Fast had a late surge of birds. During the three weeks ending May 7 these birds were very active and came to his station in numbers up to 60. On the evening of May 7, a cool north wind changed to a warmer south wind, after which he heard and saw only a few, occasional birds; the last one a female (presumably the same bird) was seen and heard at least 5 times up to 4:30 P.M. Daylight time on May 17.

Prior to this last invasion, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service informally advised that a grand total of 51 Evening Grosbeaks had been banded in Virginia - all of them by Fast in 1946 (See THE RAVEN, Vol. XVIII, page 17). During this last invasion, Mrs. Dreese banded 92 Evening Grosbeaks, 27 males and 65 females; Fast banded 315 of these birds, 104 males and 211 females - 100 of them during the two weeks ending May 7; Mrs. Borton banded 97; and Mrs. Peacock 178. Total banded 682. The banding stations of the 3 lady banders are 7 or 8 air miles from each other, roughly at the angles of an equilateral triangle, with Mrs. Dreese at the apex on the heights overlooking the Potomac River and Washington, D.C. Fast is $1\frac{1}{2}$ air miles below Mrs. Dreese. Except for Mrs. Borton, each of these banders recovered birds banded by the others. Furthermore, Mrs. Peacock recovered a bird banded in '47 by Mr. Parks at Hartford, Conn, a bird banded in '47 by Mr. Mason at East Hampton, Mass., and a bird in '51 by Cayouette at Charlesburg, Quebec; Fast recovered a bird banded in '46 by Parks and another banded in '50 by Parks, a bird banded in '50 by Mrs. Gstell at Berlin, Conn., a bird banded in '50 by Mr. Shaub at Northampton, Mass., and a bird banded in '50 by Mr. Cabat at Beverly Farms, Mass.

All data on Evening Grosbeaks should be sent to Mr. and Mrs. B.M. Shaub, 159 Elm Street, Northampton, Massachusetts, who in conjunction with Edwin A. Mason of Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, Easthampton, Mass. are making a well-worth-while effort to assemble and make available to anyone interested all possible information and data on this species.

-- 4924 Rock Spring Road
Arlington, Virginia

---OOC---

NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF HIGHLAND COUNTY, VIRGINIA

By F.R. Scott

This is essentially a report on a trip made to Highland County on June 18 and 19, 1952 by C.E. Stevens, J.R. Sydnor and the author. Some other records from a previous field trip are also included, however.

A particular search was made for breeding birds with northern affinities that had either been reported previously from Highland County or been found in neighboring West Virginia. Of the former, no sign was found of the Olive-sided Flycatcher, Tree Swallow, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Winter Wren, Mourning Warbler, or Purple Finch. Among the species found nearby in West Virginia the following were looked for in vain: Alder Flycatcher, Hermit Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Small-billed Noddy, Savannah Sparrow, and Swamp Sparrow.

Highland County is one of the most mountainous counties in Virginia, consisting of a series of ridges and valleys running northeast and southwest. The main ridge of Allegheny Mountain separates the county from Pocahontas County, West Virginia, on the northwest, and the crest of Shenandoah Mountain divides it from Augusta County on the southeast. Altitude extremes run from about 1640 feet in the low Cow Pasture River Valley to about 4470 feet on Allegheny Mountain. The fauna is mainly Alleghanian, although the lower river valleys might be termed Carolinian and the higher parts of the west and northwest are a puzzling intermediate with the Canadian Zone.

A surprising amount of red spruce (*Picea rubra*) still occurs in the county despite heavy lumbering operations. Most of this occurs in small groves in the northwestern corner of the county, mainly on Allegheny and Middle Mountains and Sapling Ridge, but smaller groves and individual trees can be found on most of the higher ridges. Apparently there is not enough left to influence the bird life as much as that found on Mt. Rogers and Whitetop in southwestern Virginia, and there is nowhere near the number of "northern" species that are found in the nearby Cheat Mountains of West Virginia.

The following list includes some of the most interesting observations made in the spring of 1952.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. *Sphyrapicus varius*. Fairly common on Allegheny Mountain near U.S. route 250 where 6 were found on June 19. One was also seen on Sapling Ridge (near Middle Mountain School) the preceding day.

Cliff Swallow. *Petrochelidon pyrrhonata*. A single pair found building a nest near Blue Grass (Crabbottom) on June 18. No others seen.

Common Raven. *Corvus corax*. Fairly common in the northwestern corner of the county. On an earlier trip on April 12 the author found 15 around Middle Mountain and Sapling Ridge.

Chickadee. *Parus* sp. The Black-capped Chickadee (*P. atricapillus*) was found quite commonly in the Middle Mountain area on June 18 and where route 250 crosses Allegheny Mountain on the 19th, the altitude ranging from 3000 to 4400 feet. Four birds were also found at Mill Gap (2350 feet) and Buckeye Post Office (2280) in southwestern Highland County on June 19. This is probably the lowest elevation at which these birds have been found in Virginia during the nesting season. A Chickadee found south of Monterey on the slope of Sounding Knob (4000 feet) on June 18 appeared to belong to the Carolina species, *P. carolinensis*, but the identification was not certain.

House Wren. *Troglodytes aedon*.

Bewick's Wren. Thryomanes bewickii. Both of these wrens were found rather commonly on Allegheny Mountain just south of route 250 at 4400 feet, the Bewick's Wren being the most common. A nest of the latter just vacated by young was found here on June 19 in an old chestnut log in a pasture. Several Bewick's Wrens were also found around Middle Mountain on the 18th. The House Wren was rather common at all elevations.

Golden-crowned Kinglet. Regulus satrapa. Since this species has not previously been found in Highland County in summer, it was of decided interest to discover it in five localities. On June 18 Sydnor and Scott found a single pair feeding young in the nest on the southern slope of Sapling Ridge at 3800 feet. The nest was in a red spruce about 35 feet from the ground. The same day Stevens found a pair feeding young in the nest, also in a spruce, on the northern shoulder of Sapling Ridge at 3900 feet. On June 19 the following birds were found: one in a small spruce grove where route 250 crosses Allegheny Mountain, 4275 feet (Stevens); 6 in a somewhat larger grove on Allegheny Mountain one mile south of route 250, 4300 feet (Scott and Sydnor); and 6 in another spruce grove just west of Red Oak Knob on route 250, 3850 feet (Scott, Stevens, Sydnor).

Golden-winged Warbler. Vermivora chrysoptera. Fairly common around Middle Mountain and Allegheny Mountain in northwestern Highland County. Also one on Sounding Knob on June 18. A nest under construction was found near route 250 just west of Red Oak Knob on June 19 (3800 feet).

Yellow-breasted Chat. Icteria virens. Rather common in the lowlands and found as high as 4250 feet near where route 250 crosses the state line (June 19).

Red-wing. Agelaius phoeniceus. Amazingly common the lower river valleys considering the availability of the usual nesting sites. It seems possible that this species may nest in ordinary dry fields to some extent, particularly in a dry year such as this. Two nests were found June 19 along Bull Pasture River south of McDowell with 1 and 3 eggs respectively. Both were in marshy grass not over two feet high.

-- Richmond, Virginia

---000---

THE NESTING SEASON IN VIRGINIA, 1951

By F.R. Scott

The weather was generally average during late June and July, although quite cool during the first part of June. High tides along the Eastern Shore destroyed many nests of marsh birds, but many birds were successful in a second attempt.

Herons. On June 30, W.F. Rountrey found a heronry of Great Blues and American Egrets covering several acres near Norfolk. A local man said

that the Great Blues had nested there for many years, but that the American Egrets had previously to his knowledge utilized a separate area about a mile away. On Assateague Island about 1500 Herons, mostly Snowy Egrets, but including numbers of American Egrets, Little Blue Herons and Louisiana Herons, occurred regularly during late July and August, attracted by extensive areas of shallow water (E.D. Mellinger). Charles Wills made the first Piedmont nesting discovery of the Black-crowned Night Heron when he found 6 nests with young on June 15 at Danville. Rountrey, however, found only one nest in the colony at Stumpy Lake, Norfolk. One Louisiana Heron was found at Petersburg near the Fall Line on August 4 (McIlwaine), a first record, and 3 immature Yellow-crowned Night Herons were reported near Hampton on July 29 (Glassell).

Ducks. Mallards were found nesting at Stumpy Lake, Norfolk, by Rountrey. Wood Ducks also had a successful season there. There were several records of unusual summering ducks in Albemarle County: a female Red-breasted Merganser on June 27 and July 2 and a female Scaup (Lesser?) in late June and most of July (Stevens).

Hawks to Shorebirds. A pair of Sparrow Hawks nested successfully in Dr. J.J. Murray's attic in Lexington, raising 2 young. Stevens was surprised to find an Osprey on the James River at Warren, Albemarle County, on July 9. Clapper Rails were very successful in their second nesting attempt near Chincoteague, and R.E. Stewart banded 742 there between July 30 and August 31. McIlwaine found a King Rail near Petersburg in early July. A Virginia Rail was seen feeding young near Fungo, Princess Anne County, on June 9 (Rountrey and Richardson). A roost of about 1000 Hudsonian Curlews was present at Chincoteague from mid-July to mid-August (Stewart), and Stevens had 252 on August 11 around Cobbs Island. Breeding Willets at Chincoteague were estimated to be at least three times as numerous as the preceding year. At least 1000 Dowitchers were seen at Oyster August 8 (Stewart and Buckalew), and Stewart banded 198 Western and 883 Semipalmated Sandpipers at Chincoteague from July 25 to August 31. Inland, the shorebird migration started off very early with Murray collecting a Western Sandpiper and seeing a Solitary Sandpiper at Lexington on July 6. Beasley had the first Western Sandpiper at Newport News on July 8 and many thereafter.

Passerine Birds. The Prairie Horned Lark nested again at Danville, and 5 young were found May 10 (R. Lyle). Singing male Winter Wrens were again found in Shenandoah National Park during July, but no nests were discovered (Favour). The nesting Bewick's Wren which were previously reported remained at Arlington all summer. Short-billed Marsh Wrens were present at Sandbridge, near Back Bay, during June and July, but no nests were found (Grey and Rountrey). At Charlottesville a very late Olive-backed Thrush was singing June 6 (Stevens). On June 21 a nine-hour, twelve-mile walk through the tulip poplar-oak-hickory woods of a low mountain range (1200-1500 feet) east of the Blue Ridge in Albemarle County yielded 180 Red-eyed Vireos, 25 Wormeating Warblers, 5 singing Black-throated Green and 37 singing Cerulean Warblers (Stevens). The Yellow-throated Warbler was found to be rather common about Stumpy Lake, Norfolk, and several nests were found (Rountrey and Richardson). A Mourning Warbler in Charlottesville on June 4 was quite late (Stevens).

Stevens found Red-wing eggs at Hatton as late as July 28, and one egg and young on August 4. Pinewoods (Bachman's) Sparrows were reported at Scottsville, Albemarle County, August 4 and 5 (Stevens) and a pair was found breeding just south of Alexandria (J.E. Johnson and others). Blue Grosbeaks continue to spread in the western part of the state. Murray found a nest near Lexington as in the previous few years, and Stevens found one in Albemarle County nearly completed on July 22. It contained 2 eggs July 28 and four on August 4 and 5. Another late spring migrant at Charlottesville was a singing White-throated Sparrow June 4 to 10.

-- 4600 Coventry Road
Richmond 21, Virginia

---000---

THE WHIP-POOR-WILL HAS A GOOD MEMORY

By Paul Bartsch

The Whip-poor-wills are all about us at Lebanon. One pair has adopted a log bench on the rim of the lawn as a courting place, and it is interesting to see Mr. Whip-poor-will assume all the strutting attitudes of the turkey in addressing his mate. Sitting within about 60 feet from the birds it became rather monotonous to have Mr. Whip-poor-will repeat his whip-poor-will 96 times in succession, so that Dr. Parker (Mrs. Bartsch) remarked, "I wish you would shoot that bird." Of course she did not mean it as she loves birds as much as I do.

The Whip-poor-wills seemed to heap insult upon injury when Mr. Whip-poor-will selected last year the window sill in Dr. Parker's bedroom for his oft repeated plaint. Not only this, but a little while later his mate joined him. By that time Dr. Parker had become not only accustomed but pleased with ^{this} nightly visitor. Lo and behold, a little later they brought their young to the window sill so that all three would spend a large part of their evening at this station. Then I woke up and found the solution for their selection, namely, we both have a reading light on our bed post and these face the window. We both rather enjoy reading in a recumbent position and Dr. Parker, keeping her light burning much longer than her mate, keeps her window lighted for a longer period. This attracts insects which, striking the window or screen would gradually flutter down to the sill, furnishing a luscious spread for the birds. The Whip-poor-wills therefore showed good sense in selecting this station.

On April 16 this year the Whip-poor-wills returned to Lebanon and on the 18th Mr. Whip-poor-will again occupied Dr. Parker's window sill where he announced his presence by his oft repeated lay.

-- "Lebanon", Gunston Hall Road
Lorton, Virginia

BLUE-WINGED TEAL BREEDING IN SUSSEX COUNTY, VIRGINIA

By C.C. Steirly

The presence of a male and female Blue-winged Teal with three of this season's young on May 4, 1952 indicated the breeding of this species in Sussex County. In the backwaters of a small timbered pond near Waverly the breeding of Blue-winged Teal was suspected when on March 20 the presence of one male and two females was noted. Later, on April 12, these same sexes were observed but no nest site could be found after a futile search along the marshy backwaters. On April 26 only a male and female were observed among the snags and many uprooted trees that litter the lower end of the pond. On May 4, in the same general vicinity the pair were observed with three young.

On this same pond, but at some distance from this area, several families of Wood Ducks have been observed; the first date on which young of this species were observed was April 26.

A male Hooded Merganser was observed with the Teal at the time of the March 20 observation.

Other birds observed near the Teal on May 4 included Spotted Sandpipers, Solitary Sandpipers, Pileated Woodpecker, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Great Blue Heron and Green Heron. The pond has a heavily wooded shoreline and lower end is quite marshy where a rather sluggish creek enters it. Throughout most of the pond are hundreds of standing dead trees and submerged trunks on many of which various species of brush are growing. During the summer the surface of the pond is covered with duck weed (*Spirodela polyrrhiza*). Several muskrat houses are present.

On May 19 a Prairie Horned Lark was observed in a large newly plowed field in northern Sussex County, one mile north of Waverley.

-- Waverly, Virginia

---000---

KING RAIL NEST IN SURRY COUNTY, VIRGINIA

By C.C. Steirly

On June 5 a companion and I were driving along the edge of a fallow field at Hog Island (Surry County) when a King Rail flew up directly in front of us. Suspecting a nest we stopped instantly and searched the area. Just as we were about to give up the search we found that the front wheel of the car was on part of the nest. By carefully backing off we avoided further damage and observed the damage done.

Of eight eggs we found that we had smashed three of them. They seemed to contain fairly well developed embryos. We pulled away the five

good eggs, withdrew the broken fragments and reconstructed the nest of dry grasses. Then we placed the good eggs in it, mentally marked the spot and hastily withdrew from the field. Several hours later we cautiously approached the area on foot and found, to our delight, that the rail had returned to the man-made nest as if nothing had happened.

This nest was on the ground, constructed of dry grass in a field of heavy weed growth about eighteen inches high. It was about twenty feet from the brush-bordered edge of a brackish pond.

-- Waverly, Virginia

---000---

A NARUNA FISH POND

By Bertha Daniel

A fish pond was built in a field a short distance from our home in Naruna last summer, 1951. It covers an acre of marshy land which contains a spring. I have had several unusual bird visitors which remained a few minutes, some a day, and one, a Common Loon, spent several days. The Loon was seen May 19, 20 and 21. I watched it at close range as it would swim back and forth across the pond, turning it's head from side to side in evident curiosity and at the least noise it would dive and come up a good distance from the place it was last seen. Solitary Sandpipers were seen from May 13 to May 20. Several ducks have visited the pond a day or two at a time but I did not identify them. A Kingfisher flew over the pond one day but soon flew back to wilder regions.

-- Naruna, Virginia

---000---

A VISIT TO VIRGINIA BEACH, JAMESTOWN, AND CAPE CHARLES

By Bertha Daniel

Virginia Beach June 3: A Herring Gull came in with the tide in front of a bather who brought it up on to the board walk where I was sitting. The Gull looked like it was nearly drowned or was sick. It disappeared under the walk and I did not see it again. June 3 and 6, Herring Gulls were sitting on beach in rows at Little Creek Ferry. Laughing Gulls were evident in every stream or lake.

Jamestown, June 5: Herring Gulls were sitting on posts of old pier at Jamestown. Some Laughing Gulls were also seen. Two Great Blue Herons were also at posts where fishing boats and nets were anchored.

Cape Charles, June 6: Hundreds of Laughing Gulls were flying over a field back of a factory. We saw them on our way to the Beach and they were still there when we came back an hour later. Laughing Gulls followed our boat over to Cape Charles and Back.

Virginia Beach, June 3 to 9: Purple Martins building nest in eaves of building on pier. The Purple Martin, Purple Grackles, Mockingbirds and Song Sparrows were the most abundant birds I saw while at the Beach.

Jamestown, June 5: Kingfishes feeding young in nest on Jamestown Island. Red-winged Black Birds were common in every meadow. Their vivid epaulets reminded me of bright hued butterflies.

-- Naruna, Virginia

---000---

EASTERN SHORE FIELD TRIP - 1952

By J.J. Murray

About thirty VSOers joined in the summer field trip to Cobb and Wreck Islands on July 19, 1952. Most of the group spent the night on the Norfolk side, taking an early ferry from Little Creek to Kiptopeke and a truck from Kiptopeke to Oyster. There Captain Ed Doughty and his assistants met the party and ferried them over to the islands in three boats. One boatload went direct to Cobb Island before coming to Wreck, while the others landed on Bone Island, as the northern tip of Wreck was formerly called. After a long stay on Wreck, the whole group made a short visit to Cobb on the way back to Oyster. Dr. John H. Grey and the writer had spent the previous day and night on Cobb Island, getting over to Wreck early in the morning, in time to locate the nesting colony of Terns and Black Skimmers before the main party reached the island.

All along the way there were interesting things to be seen: the Bald Eagle nest at Little Creek, with the old birds perched above the nest; the flocks of Laughing Gulls and the Barn Swallows all across the Bay; the Cormorants and Ospreys perched on the fish net stakes near Kiptopeke; the Herons and the flocks of Hudsonian Curlews and Dowitchers and other shore birds over the marshes between Oyster and the islands. On Cobb and Wreck a few land birds were found and a fair number of early shorebirds. The outstanding feature of the day, however, was the big colony of nesting Terns and Skimmers on Wreck Island. This was unexpected and remarkably late. The smaller colony on Cobb Island had evidently been successful in its normal nesting time, as only two or three nests with eggs or young were found, while many large young were running about the upper edge of the sand. On Wreck something had disturbed the birds at their first nesting, possibly the workmen who had been there to gather shells for the oyster beds; or high tides had washed the nests away; so that this was a second and unusually late attempt.

On Wreck Island within the space of a few acres we counted 106 Black Skimmer nests, 14 Common Tern nests, 13 Least Tern nests, and one Gull-billed Tern nest. Because of the structure of some of the medium-sized tern nests and because of the great variation in egg color, the writer first thought that some of them belonged to Forster's Terns, which normally nest in the marshes. Later thought brought the conclusion that they were all Common Tern nests. When the nests in the colony were found early in the morning, practically all had eggs, with very few small young, although many large young, from nests successful in the first attempts, were running about the beach. By the time the main party arrived, around eleven o'clock, many of the eggs were hatching. The only Gull-billed Tern nest had a single small young. Dead young skimmers, possibly a dozen, of all sizes were found among the nests, with a crab hole place conveniently near each corpse.

The party banded two young Oyster-catchers, almost able to fly, on Wreck, and 27 well-grown skimmers on the two islands. Both at Wreck and Cobb Oyster-catchers, still in pairs, were very active and noisy. They still seemed to pay some attention to territory along the beach, although at times groups gathered on mud bars to feed together. We made a rough estimate of 30 on Cobb and 10 on Wreck, in addition to young hidden in the grass.

On Cobb Island on July 18, Grey and Murray found 11 recently abandoned Green Heron nests in myrtle bushes. The young were still clambering around in the bushes near some of the nests. We also found 13 recently used Boat-tailed Grackle nests in the same thicket of low bushes. The two species often nested in the same bush. On the field trip day some of the party found young Clapper Rails on Cobb Island.

The list of species seen on the trip, including those found on Cobb on July 18, follows: Wilson's Petrel (one seen from the ferry on the return trip, by C.C. Steirly); Double-crested Cormorant; Great Blue Heron; Egret; Louisiana Heron; Little Blue Heron; Green Heron; Bald Eagle (at Kiptopeke on 18th, and at Little Creek); Marsh Hawk (Cobb Island, 18th); Osprey; Clapper Rail; Oyster-catcher; Piping Plover; Wilson's Plover; Killdeer; Ruddy Turnstone; Hudsonian Whimbrel (curlew); Spotted Sandpiper; Eastern Willet; Least Sandpiper; Dowitcher; Semipalmated Sandpiper; Herring Gull (adults and immatures); Ring-billed Gull; Laughing Gull; Gull-billed Tern; Forster's Tern; Common Tern; Least Tern; Royal Tern, Caspian Tern; Black Skimmer; Barn Swallow; Yellow Warbler (Cobb Island, 18th); Meadowlark (Wreck); Redwing; Boat-tailed Grackle; Northern Seaside Sparrow (Cobb); Atlantic Song Sparrow.

-- Lexington, Virginia

---000---

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S FILES

My family and I are enjoying the summer traveling through the western portion of our country. This is being written in Phoenix, Arizona,

July 7, with the weather very delightful. At no time during our study through Texas, New Mexico and Arizona have we found the temperature above that which we experience at Harrisonburg. Thus far the "desert heat" has not been excessive.

Our itinerary has taken us through the states bordering Lake Michigan, the central prairie and plains states and the southwest desert states. We will soon continue on into California, go north into Oregon and Washington and into the Alberta, Canada, snowfields.

The Blue Ridge Skyline-Parkway Drive, Mt. Mitchel, Blowing Rock, Smoky Mountain National Park, Mammoth Cave, Prairies, Plains, Deserts, Ozark Mountains, Canyons de Chelly, Painted Desert, Petrified Forest, Grand Canyon, all offer varied and interesting experiences. The Ozark Mountains reminded us very much of the Blue Ridge.

Whereas biological and geological phenomena are among my major interests during this trip, I believe the birds hold the chief interest for the majority of the V.S.O. members. Horned Larks, Western Meadowlarks, Dickcissels and Bob-o-links attracted our attention through the prairie states. Farther west we encountered the Scissors-tailed Flycatcher, Painted Bunting, and Plain Titmouse. In the southwest the Scaled Quail, Road-runner, Cactus Wren, Arizona Jay, Western Kingbird, White-winged Dove, White-headed Woodpecker, Band-tailed Pigeon, Bullock's Oriole are fairly common. The Mockingbird, English Sparrow and Mourning Dove are practically everywhere. I hope to add more to my list as I travel northward.

to

I invite all members who have a matter/present to the Executive Committee at its next meeting to notify me, stating the item, by September 1. The Executive Committee will probably meet in October at a place and time to be decided later. All members of the Executive Committee will be informed of place and date of meeting by the secretary in due time. A full attendance is requested. At this meeting Mr. Eike will probably be prepared to present plans for the next annual meeting.

I hope the V.S.O. membership will enjoy the summer trip to Eastern Shore as much as we are enjoying our trip throughout the west.

-- D. Ralph Hostetter

---000---

BALANCE SHEET
ON
A CHECK-LIST OF THE BIRDS OF VIRGINIA

CASH RECEIVED:

Sale of books and donations	\$1,126.10	
Loan from State-Planters Bank & Trust Co.	250.00	
Total Receipts		\$1,376.10

CASH DISBURSEMENTS:

Mrs. Virginia Rosenberg - Typing Manuscript	\$ 70.20	
Dixie Letter Shop - Typing Manuscript -		
electric typewriter	113.00	
Kirby Lithographic Company -		
Printing 2,000 copies	624.75	
Kirby Lithographic Company -		
Express charges	21.91	
Double Envelope Company -		
1,000 mailing envelopes	11.35	
Roanoke Stamp & Seal Company -		
3 stamps	2.40	
State-Planters Bank & Trust Co. -		
Note plus interest	253.79	
Postage - A.O. English	39.92	
Expenses Dr. John Grey -		
Promotion and sales of book	129.75	
Express charges - books English to Grey	7.05	
Total Disbursements		\$1,274.12
Bank Balance July 31, 1952		\$ 101.98

Copies printed - - - - - 2,000
Copies on hand - - - - - 943

Respectfully submitted,

A.O. English

MEMO:

Furnished Dr. Grey - - - - -		566
Received from Dr. Grey remittances covering 373 copies		373
		193
Dr. Grey - 193		
English - 750 (approximate)		

943

CONSERVATION NOTES

Alaskan Eagle Bounty Nullified By Federal Regulation

The claws of America's national emblem, the bald eagle, will no longer bring two dollars a pair to Alaska bounty seekers, the National Audubon Society has reported.

The society stated that a long campaign by Audubon groups and other conservation organizations has culminated in a federal regulation forbidding the killing of Alaskan bald eagles, unless they are found "committing damage" to wildlife or domestic stock.

The eagle bounty law in Alaska, which has caused bounties to be paid on more than 100,000 eagles since its enactment in 1917, will be nullified by the federal regulation just issued by Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman, the National Audubon Society believes. Provision that no part of the carcass of a bald eagle may be "possessed or transported for any purpose" will make it illegal to collect bounties on birds that may be destroyed under the terms of the regulation.

In advocating that bald eagles be protected in Alaska, as they have been since 1940 in the United States, the National Audubon Society has pointed out that the bird whose likeness appears on every dollar bill, half dollar, and quarter may make its "last stand" in Alaska.

Caution in Insecticide Use Can Avert Heavy Wildlife Toll

Widespread damage to birds and other wildlife will take place this summer unless DDT and other insecticides are used with caution, the National Audubon Society warned today.

John H. Baker, president of the Society, pointed out that applications of DDT during the nesting season have resulted in extensive mortality of young birds. He cited an article by Dr. J.P. Linduska in the May-June issue of Audubon Magazine which describes the effects on birdlife of spraying 600 acres in Pennsylvania with five pounds of DDT in oil per acre. Before spraying, the population was 3.2 birds per acre or 128 on a 40-acre study plot. On the third day following spraying only two birds could be found in the 40 acres.

Studies on a 30-acre tract in Maryland revealed that after spraying with five pounds of DDT per acre, a heavy application, the population of birds decreased rapidly. Maryland yellow-throats were reduced 63 per cent in the first 24 hours, prairie warblers were decreased by 93 per cent two days after spraying. The three commonest songbirds in the area were down in numbers by 80 per cent.

As a result of numerous surveys, the National Audubon Society recommends that spraying of insecticides, should, if possible, be done before and after the major nesting season of birds. The Society said that in cases where this has been done, harmful effects on wildlife have been reduced materially. The Society also cited Fish and Wildlife Service research which indicates that administration of DDT in oil is three times as deadly as when mixed with dry crystalline powder.

A NATIONWIDE STUDY OF NOCTURNAL BIRD MIGRATION

In the autumn of 1952, observers all over the United States will be training telescopes on the moon to obtain counts of migrating birds passing before its disc. These counts will be used to determine the volume and direction of night migration at different times and places. By the analysis of such data, it will be possible to map the flow of migration, to study the effects of weather, and to determine the hour-to-hour pattern of activity. The methods to be employed, and some of the surprising results already achieved by them, have been described in a recent paper by George H. Lowery, Jr. ("A Quantitative Study of Nocturnal Bird Migration", University of Kansas Publications, Museum of Natural History, vol. 3, no. 2, pp. 361-472).

Over 200 bird students and astronomers at 30 widely separated observation points, including three stations in Tennessee and two in Kentucky, participated in a previous cooperative effort in the spring of 1948. Virginia was not represented -- a very unfortunate circumstance, since it would have been of great value to have known whether the heavy flights encountered in Tennessee and Kentucky were continued immediately to the north and east. It is hoped, therefore, that observers in Virginia will be able to make an outstanding contribution to the forthcoming study. Everyone who has access to a small telescope or a large one is urged to devote at least a few hours of his time to the project. The observational procedure is very simple; no previous experience is necessary. Interested persons should write at once to Robert J. Newman, at the Museum of Zoology, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where the data will be mathematically processed. A set of observational instructions and further details concerning the project will be promptly furnished.



The Raven

BULLETIN OF THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY

J. J. MURRAY, EDITOR
LEXINGTON, VA.

VOL. XXIII

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, 1952

NOS. 9 & 10

CONTENTS

	Page
The Summer Birds of Prince William Forest Park By James Baird	77
The Short-billed Marsh Wren in Albemarle County By Charles E. Stevens, Jr.	85
Hog Island Waterfowl Refuge By C.C. Steirly	87
Buggs Island Field Trips By Robert B. Eggleston	89
From the President's Files By D. Ralph Hostetter	90
Sale of Our <u>Check-List</u> By John H. Grey	91
Winter Field Trip By Jack E. Perkins	92

THE SUMMER BIRDS OF PRINCE WILLIAM FOREST PARK

by Ranger Naturalist James Baird

Introduction

Prince William Forest Park, Virginia, is located in the southern portion of the county by that name. It is 35 miles south of Washington, D.C., lying west of U.S. Highway 1 between Dumfries and Triangle, and extending to Independent Hill. About 11,000 acres comprise the reservation which is administered by a manager whose address is Triangle, Virginia. It is a unit of National Capital Parks.

It is generally known that certain conditions of soil, moisture, etc., determine the flora of a given area: willows are generally found in a wet area, white oaks on dry sites. It is also known that birds have decided habitat preferences: Herons are found around water, Yellow-breasted Chats in thickets. It is with this thought in mind that the introductory paragraphs which follow have been written. Rather than to try to tell exactly where each species of bird is to be found in the park, a discussion of the ecological units within the park is given below. With this knowledge, the birder can plan his walk so that several types of terrain are traversed and thus he is assured of having an interesting and varied walk.

Generally speaking, these ecological types can be broken down into five main groups. Of these five the mixed hardwoods, and the ponds and streams can be considered permanent ecological types. The three remaining are transitory.

The Mixed Hardwood type is by far the dominant and most extensive of all. It is the forest. It contains a wide assortment of oaks, hickories, maples, and the American beech. This type extends from one end of the park to the other and is, so to speak, the matrix within which the units are contained. The mixed hardwoods give succor to most of the flora and fauna of the park.

Ponds and Streams. It is indeed fortunate that both branches of Quantico Creek flow through the park. At suitable and appropriate spots along these streams dams were constructed and three artificial ponds now exist. These are periodically drained to insure healthful swimming conditions. This means that the plant and animal life of the ponds are killed off. When the ponds are again refilled aquatic life returns.

Included in the Master Plan of the park is a rather extensive pond which will, in all probability, be maintained permanently, and will therefore attract new and different plants and animals and offer them a more stable environment.

The next three are transitional types:

Virginia Pine. Virginia Pine requires a lot of light. It needs large open areas such as abandoned fields where the soil is generally poor. In these circumstances, often all the trees are of the same age group. As

the stand of pine approaches decadence after a period of about eighty years of growth, it is replaced by hardwoods. Indeed, the pines are often killed off by the hardwoods invading the stand before the pines have reached maturity. There are many such stands of Virginia Pine within the park in the process of being crowded out by the more dominant hardwoods.

In those areas where pines have been planted, they are usually Austrian or Red Pine. Unlike the scrawny, short-lived Virginia Pine, these pines will grow into tall, handsome-foliaged, rather long-lived trees. Although small now, they will, in a few decades, be the favorite winter roosting spot for the Long-eared Owl and will provide excellent nesting cover in the summer for many small birds.

Over-grown cellarholes and formerly cultivated areas.

With the cessation of sub-marginal farming, the fields lay fallow and the farm houses were razed. No longer restrained by the scythe and the plow, grasses, weeds, seedlings, honeysuckle, and briars choked the fields and clustered around the cellarholes. The peach, apple, and persimmon trees grew lustily without the guiding and restraining hand of the farmer.

This is the stage that now exists in certain areas in the center of the park. The White-eyed Vireo and the Brown Thrasher, the House Wren, and the Field Sparrow find this an ideal habitat. It is here that they raise their families.

But this condition is an extremely unstable one, for already amongst the weeds are the progenitors of the forest-to-be. Young oaks and hickories are casting their shadows in the sun. From these beginnings an even more expansive shadow, 25 or 50 years from now, will keep the life-giving rays of the sun from reaching the dense ground cover. Then, the habitat of the Brown Thrasher will be gone and future generations of Thrashers will have to cast an eye about for more suitable quarters.

Second Growth. The forests of the Eastern Seaboard have been lumbered constantly since the settlers cut the first logs for their cabin. While no lumbering now takes place in the park, it was not always so and there is no patch that has escaped lumbering in the past hundred years. In the areas that have been lumbered most recently, there is now to be found the transition type known as second growth. Here grows the mountain laurel, cherry, and blueberry. These smaller trees and bushes are sparsely foliated and the ground beneath is littered with honeysuckle and briars. This makes ideal cover for the Prairie Warbler, the Red-eyed Towhee, the Indigo Bunting and the Field Sparrow. But like the above, this second growth is short-lived and the area will gradually develop into mixed hardwood forest.

There are over one hundred miles of trails in the park. Thus, it is possible to plan a hike that will traverse several types of birding areas. Along these same trails the botanist may find a great variety of plant life.

Checklists can be obtained at the Park office. It would be greatly appreciated if a list of the birds seen during your trip could be left there. By making estimates or actual counts of the number of each species seen during the day your observations would become more than just

a list and would be of inestimable value to ornithologists in establishing population trends and migration routes.

The following is an annotated list of the birds seen in Prince William Forest Park during the summers of 1949 and 1950.

Eastern Green Heron. Butorides virescens virescens (Linnaeus). Nesting. Several pairs nesting in the park, often seen at all three ponds during the summer.

Eastern Turkey Vulture. Carthartes aura septentrionalis. Wied. Permanent resident. Probably nesting within the park boundaries, although no nest has been found.

Black Vulture. Coragyps atratus (Meyer). Permanent resident. Not often seen in the early summer, but commonly seen in the late summer. 1949, August 17, several seen with TV soaring overhead. 1950, three seen, July 13.

Eastern Red-Tailed Hawk. Buteo jamaicensis borealis (Gmelin). Nesting and transient in small numbers. 1949. Pair often seen in the center of the park throughout the summer. 1950. Pair seen during summer in park. One migrant high overhead September 6.

Northern Broad-winged Hawk. Buteo platypterus platypterus (Viellot) Nesting in the park. 1949. At least two pairs nesting in the park, a young bird seen in August. 1950. Again nesting within the park area. Four seen on September 5.

American Osprey. Pandion haliaetus carolinensis. Summer resident. While not found nesting within the confines of the park it is found nesting, as is the Bald Eagle, along the Potomac River. 1949. One seen, August 17. 1950. One, July 13, and one, September 5.

Northern Sparrow Hawk. Falco sparverius sparverius Linnaeus. Possible nester. 1949. Not seen until the late summer, but was seen in a little used portion of the park and may have been overlooked. Seven migrants seen, September 1. 1950. Not seen during the summer. Two seen, September 5.

Ruffed Grouse. Bonasa umbellus subsp.? The status of this bird presents somewhat of a mystery. Its normal range and areas of greatest abundance is of a more northern latitude. But the ruffed grouse does occur in the country west and south of Washington. They are few and widely scattered and the exact nature of the bird as to subspecies is not known.

Eastern Bob-white. Colinus virginianus virginianus (Linnaeus). Permanent resident and common nester. 1949. Several males heard calling at the beginning of the summer; no coveys seen. 1950. Several coveys seen during the summer.

Eastern Turkey. Meleagris gallopavo silvestris Viellot. Nesting. There is at least one family of this newly re-introduced species in the park area. On August 21 two gobblers were seen flying across the road several miles north of Camp #5; several weeks later, in approximately the same area, a family of eight young and two females were seen crossing the road. 1950. Several turkeys seen during the year by park personnel.

1951. One seen, June 21.

Spotted Sandpiper. Actitis macularia (Linnaeus). Nesting.
1949. A pair nesting at pond at Camp #2. 1950. Pair present at same pond.

Eastern Mourning Dove. Zenaidura macroura carolinensis (Linnaeus).
Common summer resident. Often seen along the edges of the dirt roads.

Eastern Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Coccyzus americanus americanus
(Linnaeus). Common summer resident - more often heard than seen. 1949.
Heard often during the summer. 1950. Four heard and seen, August 21.
Heard often throughout the summer.

Black-billed Cuckoo. Coccyzus erythrophthalmus (Wilson).
Summer resident? 1949. Several times during the summer a call was heard
that was attributed to this bird, but attempts to trace the bird were un-
successful, and it was not until September 1 that a sight record of this
shy bird was made. It is certain that this is the rarer of the two cuckoos
found in the park and it may be that it occurs here only during migration.

Eastern Horned Owl. Bubo virginianus virginianus (Gmelin).
1949. A feather (primary) belonging to this species was found, but the
bird was neither seen nor heard since.

Northern Barred Owl. Strix varia varia Barton. Permanent
resident. This large woodland owl is common within the park and may be
heard almost any night during the summer. They were often found hooting
and the young were seen in the vicinity of Camp #3. On one occasion four
owls were heard hooting at one time.

Eastern Whip-poor-will. Caprimulgus vociferus vociferus (Wilson).
Nesting. 1949. Often heard in the early part of the summer. 1950. Same
as above.

Chimney Swift. Chaetura pelagica (Linnaeus). Summer resident.
While there are no suitable chimneys within the park, the swifts undoubt-
edly nest in the houses on the edges of the park, and are commonly seen
flying over. 1950. September 5, 100± seen.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Archilochus colubris (Linnaeus).
Nesting. Seen throughout the summer at all the camps. 1949. Seen through-
out all the camps. 1950. Three seen, August 22. Three seen, September 5.

Eastern Belted Kingfisher. Megasceryle alcyon alcyon (Linnaeus).
Nesting. 1949. Most frequently seen at Camp #2, apparently nesting near-
by. 1950. Seen several times during the summer.

Northern Yellow-shafted Flicker. Colaptes auratus luteus. Bangs.
Nesting. 1949. Several pairs nesting in the center of the park. 1950.
Seen through the summer. Three seen, August 22.

Southern Pileated Woodpecker. Dryocopus pileatus pileatus
(Linnaeus). Nesting. 1949. Seen five times during the course of the sum-
mer and at a different place each time. 1950. One seen, August 21.

Eastern Red-bellied Woodpecker. Centurus carolinus carolinus. (Linnaeus). Nesting; permanent resident. 1949. Seen most often during the summer at Camp #3. 1950. Two seen, August 22. One seen, October 13.

Eastern Hairy Woodpecker. Dendrocopus villosus villosus (Linnaeus). Permanent resident. Seen throughout the park and most commonly found in the small wandering flocks in the late summer. 1949. Commonly found. 1950. Four on August 21.

Northern Downy Woodpecker. Dendrocopus pubescens medianus (Swainson). Permanent resident. More common than the Hairy Woodpecker. 1949. Common. 1950. Common, three, August 22; one, October 13.

Eastern Kingbird. Tyrannus tyrannus (Linnaeus). Nesting. Commonly found wherever there is an open field. Most frequently this is on the periphery of the park. 1949-1950. Common summer resident.

Northern Great-crested Flycatcher. Myiarchus crinitus boreus Bangs. Summer resident. Uncommon. 1949-1950. Several pairs in the park.

Eastern Phoebe. Sayornis phoebe (Latham). Common summer resident, probably common during migration. 1949. Found nesting in the vicinity of Camp #1, #2, and #4. 1950. Found again in the above sites, plus several others found scattered throughout the park.

Acadian Flycatcher. Empidonax virescens (Viellot). A very common resident found throughout the wooded areas of the park. 1949-1950. Found in the vicinity of all the camp areas and throughout the park.

Eastern Wood Pewee. Contopus virens (Linnaeus). Common summer resident. 1949-1950. Found around all the camp areas and throughout the park.

American Barn Swallow. Hirundo rustica erythrogaster Boddaert. Common summer resident. 1949. Nest not found in the park, but frequently seen flying over. 1950. Same as above.

Northern Purple Martin. Progne subis subis (Linnaeus). Summer resident. 1949-1950. Commonly found nesting in the martin houses found in the backyard of most houses outside the park.

Northern Blue Jay. Cyanocitta cristata bromica (Linnaeus). Uncommon summer resident. 1949-1950. A few scattered pairs through the park, probably quite abundant in migration and winter.

Southern Common Crow. Corvus brachyrhynchos paulus Howell. Permanent resident. 1949-1950. Commonly found throughout the park.

Northern Carolina Chickadee. Parus carolinensis extimus (Todd and Sutton). Permanent resident. 1949. One of the more common summer residents. 1950. Same: August 21, thirty seen. 1951. Ten seen, March 2.

Tufted Titmouse. Parus bicolor Linnaeus. Permanent resident. 1949. Common summer resident most frequently seen in company with other birds in small flocks in late August; less common in winter. 1950. Same: fifteen seen, August 22.

Eastern White-breasted Nuthatch. Sitta carolinensis cookei. Oberholser. Permanent resident. 1949. Found nesting at all the camps. 1950. The same.

Eastern House Wren. Troglodytes aedon aedon Viellot. Summer resident. 1949. Most commonly found in the center of the park, in some of the overgrown cultivated areas, but this is a highly transitory situation and before many more years pass the house wren will not be found as a nester in these areas. 1950. Same as above.

Northern Carolina Wren. Thryothorus ludovicianus ludovicianus (Latham). Permanent resident. 1949-1950. One of the commonest of resident birds.

Eastern Mockingbird. Mimus polyglottos polyglottos (Linnaeus). Permanent resident. 1949-1950. The Mockingbird is not commonly found within the park, but rather is most frequently found outside the park area where it is very common. One pair reported by the manager at his residence, but it is not known whether they nested or not.

Catbird. Dumetella carolinensis (Linnaeus). Summer resident. 1949-1950. Found nesting in the old cultivated areas, around the administration building and the manager's home.

Eastern Brown Thrasher. Toxostoma rufum rufum (Linnaeus). Summer resident. 1949-1950. Found in the same areas as the Catbird; also along the roadsides.

Southern Robin. Turdus migratorius achrusterus Linnaeus. Summer resident, transient, and in winter. Note that the Robin population has been broken up into three groups: those that nest in the summer (that are resident in the summer) and leave in the fall; the migrants that pass through in the spring and the fall; those that spend the winter in the vicinity of the park. Many of the winter birds are probably the Eastern form. 1949. Found at all of the camps and a few scattered pairs in the woods. 1950. Same as 1949, plus 200 seen feeding on dogwood berries on October 13.

Wood Thrush. Turdus mustelina (Gmelin). Summer resident. 1949-1950. Common summer resident.

Eastern Common Bluebird. Sialia sialis sialis (Linnaeus). Permanent resident. 1949-1950. Found nesting around the administration building. 1951. Five seen on March 2.

Eastern Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Polioptila caerulea caerulea (Linnaeus). Summer resident. 1949-1950. A common summer resident often found in the company of Chickadees and Titmice.

Cedar Waxwing. Bombycilla cedrorum Viellot. Permanent resident. 1949. Presumably nesting. Seen in the beginning of the summer (June), but not seen again until the latter part of August, when on August 31 a flock of twenty and a flock of nine were seen. 1950. A few seen during the summer.

Common Starling. Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris Linnaeus. Permanent resident. Casual. Fortunately this avian "toughie" is not nesting in the park, but it is often seen in the evenings flying to nearby roosts.

Northern White-eyed Vireo. Vireo griseus noveboracensis (Gmelin). Summer resident. 1949. Several pairs nesting in the over-grown cultivated area in the center of the park. 1950. Again found in the center of the park nesting and two migrants seen, August 21.

Yellow-throated Vireo. Vireo flavifrons Viellot. Summer resident. 1949-1950. Common throughout the park.

Red-eyed Vireo. Vireo olivaceus (Linnaeus). Common summer resident. 1949. The commonest bird nesting in the park. 1950. The commonest bird nesting in the park.

Black and White Warbler. Mniotilta varia (Linnaeus). Common summer resident and abundant transient. 1949. Found in most of the park area. 1950. Found in most of the park area, 15 seen, August 21; 2 seen September 5.

Southern Parula Warbler. Compothlypis americana americana (Linnaeus). Common summer resident and transient. 1949. Common throughout the park. 1950. Twenty-five seen, August 22.

Northern Pine Warbler. Dendroica pinus pinus (Wilson). Local summer resident. Wherever there is a stand of the Virginia Pine to be found is to be found the Pine Warbler. 1949. Locally common throughout the park. 1950. Locally common throughout the park; August 21, five seen.

Northern Prairie Warbler. Dendroica discolor discolor (Viellot). Summer resident. 1949-1950. Found throughout the park in any of the secondary growth areas.

Eastern Ovenbird. Seiurus aurocapillus aurocapillus (Linnaeus). Summer resident and abundant transient. 1949-1950. Common throughout the park.

Louisiana Waterthrush. Seiurus motacilla (Viellot). Uncommon summer resident. 1950. One heard singing and seen on July 3.

Maryland Yellow-throat. Geothlypis trichas trichas. (Linnaeus). Summer resident. 1949-1950. Several pairs found nesting along waterways and pond edges.

Eastern Yellow-breasted Chat. Icteria virens virens (Linnaeus). Summer resident. 1949-1950. A few pairs within the park; only found nesting in the overgrown areas (cultivated).

Hooded Warbler. Wilsonia citrina (Boddaert). Summer resident (common). 1949-1950. Common woodland Warbler.

Southern American Redstart. Setophaga ruticilla ruticilla (Linnaeus). Summer resident and abundant transient. 1949. Common woodland nester; three seen, August 22. 1950. Common woodland nester; August 22, ten seen.

European House Sparrow. Passer domesticus domesticus (Linnaeus). Permanent resident. 1949-1950. While there are no sparrows nesting within the exact limits of the park's boundaries, they are common nesters in and

around the houses in Triangle and the houses around the park, and are often seen flying over the park.

Eastern Common Meadowlark. Sturnella magna magna (Linnaeus). Summer resident. 1949-1950. Not found strictly within the park boundaries, but often seen in the fields outside the park.

Eastern Redwing-Blackbird. Agelaius phoeniceus phoeniceus (Linnaeus). Casual. 1949-1950. Seen flying over the park; often seen in the late evening flying to the roost.

Purple Crow-Blackbird. Quiscalus quiscula stonei Chapman. Permanent resident. Casual. 1949-1950. Seen flying over the park.

Eastern Common Cowbird. Molothrus ater ater (Boddaert). Summer resident and abundant transient. 1949-1950. Often seen flying about the park.

Scarlet Tanager. Piranga olivacea (Gmelin). Summer resident and abundant transient. 1949. Both the summer and the scarlet tanager are found in the park, but the scarlet is the commoner of the two. 1950. August 22, twenty birds seen (one flock of eleven).

Eastern Summer Tanager. Piranga rubra rubra (Linnaeus). Uncommon summer resident. 1949-1950. Several pairs nesting near Camp #1 and #4. Four transients seen, August 22, 1950.

Eastern Cardinal. Richmondia cardinalis cardinalis (Linnaeus). Permanent resident. 1949-1950. To be found nesting near all the camps.

Indigo Bunting. Passerina cyanea (Linnaeus). Abundant summer resident. 1949-1950. Common nester. Found along roadsides and small clearings.

Eastern American Goldfinch. Spinus tristis tristis (Linnaeus). Abundant summer resident and common transient. 1949-1950. Found nesting throughout the cleared areas of the park.

Red-eyed Eastern Towhee. Pipilo erythrophthalmus erythrophthalmus (Linnaeus). Common summer resident. 1949-1950. Found in the overgrown cleared areas.

Eastern Chipping Sparrow. Spizella passerina passerina (Bechstein). Common summer resident. 1949-1950. Found nesting at all the camps and around the administration area.

Eastern Field Sparrow. Spizella pusilla pusilla (Wilson). Common summer resident. 1949-1950. Found around the administration building and around open fields.

Eastern Song Sparrow. Melospiza melodia melodia (Wilson). Permanent resident and abundant transient. 1949-1950. Found commonly in park area. 1951. Thirty seen, March 2 (one flock).

THE SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN IN ALBEMARLE COUNTY

by Charles E. Stevens, Jr.

The Short-billed Marsh Wren was first recorded in Albemarle County when two birds were flushed from a wet meadow beside the James River on May 1, 1948. The meadow is located about four miles upriver from Scottsville near the small post office of Hatton. Here in former years the flooded James cut across one of its meanders, creating a 20-acre washed out portion on its floodplain. This low-lying poorly drained area, interspersed with small permanent and intermittent pools, was used as grazing land and came up in grasses, weeds, bulrushes, and sedges. Although a few very small wet meadows, supporting Red-wing colonies, occur elsewhere in Albemarle, the Hatton meadow is the only sizeable one, and it has produced almost all of the county's rail records to date.

Migrant Short-bills were again seen at Hatton in September of 1948 and May of 1949. In 1949 William F. Minor, now of Syracuse, New York, and I discovered a singing Short-bill in the wet meadow on July 20, a rather unusual date for its occurrence. Another visit on July 23 revealed four singing birds and one, presumably, a female. Later, on August 3, Dr. John H. Grey and I counted nine singing males well distributed over the meadow. Several birds were seen carrying nesting material, so that after patiently watching them for a period of time Dr. Grey lined up three nests from his point of observation. When we found the nests they were situated in tussocks of grass about 4-8 inches above the ground. All of the little hollow balls of grass appeared to be completed except for a downy lining which Bent (1948) and Walkinshaw (1935) show is absent in the dummy, or false, nests. Constructed almost entirely of small unidentified grasses and being rather green in appearance, the nests were difficult to see. The long grass stems of the clump in which they were placed were woven down into the nest helping to conceal it. There was no standing water under the nests. Knowing the Short-bill's habit of building dummy nests we assumed these to be such when they were found still empty and without lining on subsequent trips. Our high count of birds for the summer of 1949 was twelve individuals on August 24, nine of which were singing. We never found over nine singing birds during that summer.

As autumn arrived, wrens were not heard singing after August 24, but small numbers were found through October 22. On December 26, while taking the Warren Christmas Count, I discovered one Short-bill in the Hatton meadow, an extraordinary record for Piedmont, Virginia. The bird could not be found later in the winter although it was a mild season.

In 1950 a colony of wrens was again found at Hatton from August 6 to September 9, with a maximum of twelve singing on August 19. The birds had not been found on a July 23 trip. A flood on September 10 drove them from the area.

In the summer of 1951 a dry spell and the beginning of ditching operations to drain the area destroyed the habitat. Consequently the wrens and whatever migrant rails might occur have not been found there since.

The plants growing in the Hatton meadow during the occurrence of the Short-bills were: various bulrushes (Scirpus), many unidentified grasses, several rushes (Juncus), a Polygonum which is probably common smartweed (P. hydropiper), several sedges (Carex), Joe-pye weed (Eupatorium purpureum), New York ironweed (Veronia noveboracensis), several goldenrods, broad-leaved arrowhead (Sagittaria latifolia), lizard's tail (Saururus cernuus), monkey flower (Mimulus ringens), Ageratum, false nettle (Boehmeria cylindrica), seedbox (Ludwigia alternifolia), buttonbush (Cephalanthus occidentalis), some crimson-eyed rose mallow (Hibiscus oculiroseus), with a few willow, sycamore, and ash seedlings. Cattails grew around some of the pools. The summer bird life of the habitat was comprised of an abundance of Red-wings, with small numbers of the Yellow-throat, Meadowlark, Song Sparrow, and occasionally the Least Bittern, King Rail, Grasshopper Sparrow (in the drier and more grazed parts), and Henslow's Sparrow. From late July to September the meadow was covered with spider webs, especially those of the golden garden spider.

Light grazing kept the vegetation down during the spring and early summer, but by mid-summer the herbaceous growth had attained a height of 2-3½ feet. It was then that the wrens made their appearance in the meadow, singing and establishing territories. A similar observation was made by Meanley (1952) in the rice fields near Stuttgart, Arkansas, where Short-bills moved into the rice to nest when it reached a suitable height in mid-July.

It is most interesting to conjecture where the Hatton wrens came from before they appeared singing in July and August. There is no similar habitat anywhere nearby that I have been able to discover, and one is given to believe either that, (1) these little birds must have migrated some distance in midsummer before breeding, or that (2) they had bred somewhere else and came to Hatton as southward bound migrants or post-breeding wanderers, and the males still having enlarged testes, sang, set up territories, and constructed dummy nests. This last supposition is a rather unlikely one except that we never found eggs or young so as to definitely substantiate breeding. Meanley's evidence in Arkansas tends to support the first explanation, as his birds appear in the rice fields in mid-July "presumably from nearby grassy canal banks and fallow fields".

A parallel case is Burleigh's (1938) observation in Clarke County, Georgia, where for several years he found Short-bills appearing in a creek bottom in late July or early August and singing vigorously. He never found a nest and states that their presence aroused "the suspicion that it nested close by, although there was also the possibility that it was a much earlier fall migrant than was generally believed". Clarke County, in the northern Piedmont of Georgia, is quite a bit south of the presently accepted breeding range of the Short-bill.

As far as I can find, Burleigh and Meanley are the only two observers who recorded the midsummer arrival and (apparent) breeding of this species.

Occurrence in Migration

Since 1949 transient Short-bills have occurred from May 1 to June 2 at two locations in the western part of the county, singing persistently in clover and orchard grass (Dactylis glomerata) fields, particularly in the latter, which are usually rather dry in character and located on rolling ground, in contrast to the birds' choice of breeding habitat. Extreme dates for the Short-bills arrival and departure in Albemarle are May 1, 1948 and 1950, to June 2, 1952, and July 20, 1949, to October 22, 1949, with the one winter record of December 26, 1949.

Literature Cited

Bent, A.C.

1948 Life histories of North American nuthatches, wrens, thrashers and their allies. U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 195, pp. 265-276.

Burleigh, Thos. D.

1938 The birds of Athens, Clarke County, Georgia. Occasional Paper No. 1 of the Georgia Ornithological Society.

Meanley, Brooke

1952 Notes on the ecology of the Short-billed Marsh Wren in the lower Arkansas rice fields. Wilson Bull., vol. 64, pp. 22-25.

Walkinshaw, L.H.

1935 Studies of the Short-billed Marsh Wren (Cistothorus stellaris) in Michigan. Auk, vol. 52, 362-369.

-- Charlottesville, Virginia

-----000-----

HOG ISLAND WATERFOWL REFUGE

By C.C. Steirly

The Hog Island State Waterfowl Refuge on the James River in northeast Surry County provides a most interesting place for bird study, both in summer and in winter. This newly created refuge includes 1,100 acres of marsh and open water, 120 acres of brush land, 380 acres of timberland and 200 acres of fields and crop land. The area is characterized by its low-lying flat lands which are separated by numerous ponds and extensive marshes. Several tidal creeks cut through portions of the marshes and lagoons making much of the area accessible by small boat. A fairly good road runs along the west shore of the river and very close to it. Formerly much of the area was really an island but years ago a causeway was constructed connecting it with the mainland, a two hundred foot strip of the highland portion of which is part of the refuge.

The marsh areas are of several different ecological types, making the refuge an excellent place for the study of aquatic botany. There are vast sedgey areas (short-billed sedge wrens), cat-tail swamps (long-billed marsh wrens), areas of pickerel weed, which in bloom are like seas of purple, and areas containing all sorts of marsh grasses, rushes and other plants.

The open waters are for the most part not deep and with the fluctuating tides there are considerable expanses of mud flats with the attendant sandpipers, herons and American egrets. Part of the shore line consists of stretches of sandy beach. This is broken up by sections where the sedge growth and hummocks extend right to the river's edge. Just off shore numerous fish net or pound poles provide suitable perches for a seasonal variation of birds, including gulls, terns, ospreys, cormorants, bald eagles, etc.

The bushland areas range from small patches and hedgerows along the roads and pond edges to rather extensive areas. Here of course are to be found all sorts of passerine birds. Extensive brush cover is provided by myrtle, Baccharis, buttonbush and small trees that are beginning to slowly convert much of the habitat to forest.

The timbered portion consists for the most part of loblolly pine in varying age classes from dense thickets of sapling up to stands of saw-log size. These forested areas are not too extensive as they occur as long highland points and islands jutting into the marshes. There are scattered hardwood areas composed of various oaks, persimmon, sweet gum, black gum, black cherry, holly and other broadleaved trees. Scattered cypress are to be found along the river shores. The strip along the mainland consists for the most part of a mixed pine and hardwood forest.

The cropland is generally kept in field crops thus providing one more distinctive habitat especially since much of the edge of the fields are of brushy vegetation.

Acquired in 1951 by the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, the Hog Island Refuge is the state's first waterfowl refuge. Under a resident manager who is an aquatic biologist the area is being developed to better accommodate the wintering waterfowl population. The planting and development of various duck food plants is being undertaken; however, this control work in no way interferes with the naturalness of the refuge.

In winter a sizeable flock of Canada geese occupies the open fields, the ponds will be found to contain green winged teal, blackducks, mallards, etc. while offshore there are large flocks of ruddys and other ducks of the deeper waters, and now and then, loons, cormorants and grebes.

In summer the visitor crossing the causeway will see great blue, little blue and green herons and American egrets. Common and least terns will be observed over the ponds and just offshore. Now and then the king rail, a bald eagle or an osprey or two might be seen, and the Louisiana heron has been seen on the edges of the ponds. Redwings, kingfishers, spotted sandpipers, laughing gulls, the marsh wrens and all sorts of small passerine birds are sure to be seen.

Of mammal life the following might be observed by the visitors: deer, otter, mink, muskrat, grey fox, raccoon, opossum and the usual hosts of small rodents and insectivores.

V. S. O. members visiting the refuge should identify themselves as such. The resident manager, Mr. C.P. Gilchrist, is a most congenial fellow and an able field naturalist.

To reach the refuge, take the road north from the village of Bacon's Castle on Highway 10 between Surry and Smithfield. This road goes past the castle itself (built 1655). Much of it is paved, however, the last two miles might be a bit rough but it is always passable.

-- Waverly, Virginia

---000---

BUGGS ISLAND FIELD TRIPS

By Robert B. Eggleston

With the flooding of the Buggs Island Reservoir in Mecklenburg County, a new and interesting area for bird study has been created. In order to throw some light on the ornithological situation in this part of Virginia, two field trips to the area were made this fall by Royster Lyle, Jr., Walter McMann, Jr. and the writer.

The land to be covered by water, 82,000 acres, had been cleared of trees and flooded to within approximately thirty-five feet of the final height by the first of October. Bushes, weeds, and small trees protruded above the surface of most of the water and a great deal of debris floated about.

On September 6 Royster Lyle and the writer camped at a point about seven miles below Clarksville on the lake and set out the next morning to explore the surrounding area by canoe.

Two species, the Horned Owl and Pileated Woodpecker, which are rare at Danville, were observed. Herons were abundant, 22 American egrets, 12 Great Blue Herons, four Little Blue Herons, eight Green Herons and three Snowy Egrets being seen. Approximately 25 Blue-winged Teal and two migrating Tree Swallows were also observed during the day.

On October 4 Walter McMann and the writer made a return trip. A canoe was put into the lake about five miles below Clarksville and paddled up to Clarksville and back.

Most of the trip was made through bushes, clumps of trees and floating logs. A great number of birds, especially Flickers, which had been displaced were flying about. Myrtle Warblers were abundant in the trees.

Flocks of ducks ranging from pairs to groups of 40 and 50 flew over and were flushed from the water. These were especially unusual, considering the early date.

More and more surprises turned up during the day. An immature Yellow-crowned Night Heron, a Double-Crested Cormorant, a Red-backed Sandpiper and three Bald Eagles, were some of the more unusual species.

A complete list of birds seen on the lake and the immediate shoreline is as follows:

Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, American Egret, Green Heron, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Black Duck, Gadwall, Baldpate, Blue-winged Teal, Wood Duck, Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Bald Eagle, Marsh Hawk, Bob-white, Coot, Spotted Sandpiper, Red-backed Sandpiper, Mourning Dove, Barred Owl, Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Downy Woodpecker, Wood Pewee, Blue Jay, Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Catbird, Robin, Bluebird, Cape May Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Pine Warbler, Yellowthroat, Meadowlark, Cardinal, Goldfinch, Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow and Song Sparrow.

The reservoir will probably be more attractive to waterfowl this winter than at any other time, due to the cover offered on the water. It will pay anyone who can make the trip to visit the area this winter. A Christmas Census should certainly be made.

-- 115 Kenilworth Avenue
Danville, Virginia

---000---

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S FILES

By D. Ralph Hostetter

On August 28 we returned to the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia after having driven 16,700 miles during our three-month period of study. We are glad to be at home and we hope to live closer to the activities of the V.S.O. than we have during the past summer. Mr. Jack Perkins, Vice President, has very willingly served in my stead while I was out of the state.

Geologically, I have added to the College Museum five bushels of rocks and minerals; ornithologically, my list includes over one hundred species of western birds; botanically, I was not so fortunate as I soon learned that to stop, collect and press all the unfamiliar western wildflowers required more time than I could give to this interesting phase of botany. We had to abandon this practice and keep moving on. Zoologically, we missed seeing the Rocky Mountain sheep and Mountain lion; the other larger animals were seen in the National parks and elsewhere.

I was very glad to note in the July-August issue of the Raven that a group of thirty participated in the Eastern Shore field trip. Shall this become an annual feature of the V.S.O.? Spring, mid-summer and late fall field trips in addition to the one associated with the annual meeting; Are these too many for such a large and active organization?

By the time you receive this issue of The Raven the Executive Committee of the V.S.O. will have had its meeting in Richmond at which time plans and policies whereby we can render still greater services to the state

of Virginia were presented and discussed.

Mr. Jack E. Perkins has announced a trip to the Back Bay Wildlife Refuge in December. I hope that many members will take advantage of this very interesting trip.

-- Eastern Mennonite College
Harrisonburg, Virginia

-----000-----

SALE OF OUR CHECK-LIST

When A Check-List of The Birds of Virginia by Murray was about to be published it was decided by the Executive Committee of the V.S.O. to offer the book to neighboring bird clubs at the pre-sale price of \$1.00, just as it had been offered to our own members. It was felt that the book would be most useful to students of ornithology in the middle Atlantic states in comparing their own observations with those in Virginia. Also, it was hoped that many of them would be in our State and would send in their observations to fill in gaps in our knowledge.

Four clubs readily agreed to help us mail out the offer by running envelopes through their addressographs and thus giving us the addresses of their members. From these over 2,500 letters were mailed. There were 342 replies and sales of 373 books. This is considered an excellent return for any sale by mail.

The clubs and the men who did the work are due our hearty thanks for their help in getting such a wide distribution to the book within such a short time of its publication. The clubs and the men are:

Carolina Bird Club, Harry T. Davis
Brooks Bird Club of West Virginia, Charles Conrad
Maryland Ornithological Society, Orville W. Crowder
District of Columbia Audubon Society, The Atlantic Naturalist,
Irston Barnes

An analysis of the returns is interesting and is as follows:

<u>Club</u>	<u>Letters mailed</u>	<u>Replies</u>	<u>Books sold</u>
Carolina	900	133	141
West Virginia	165	21	21
Maryland	650	75	79
Washington	<u>800</u>	<u>113</u>	<u>132</u>
Totals	2,515	342	373

-- John H. Grey
Williamsburg, Virginia

WINTER FIELD TRIP

The winter field trip to the Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge is planned for Saturday, December 6, 1952. As usual the group will meet at Sandbridge at 7:00 a.m. for the trip down the beach to the refuge. Lunch will be served at the Tabernacle Methodist Church by the Pungo Home Demonstration Club at about 2:00 p.m.

Indications are that we will have a very large winter population of waterfowl on the refuge this year. The breeding season in the north has been a good one and food conditions in this area are the best we have had in years. The trip has been planned to coincide with the peak concentrations of birds on the refuge.

With the growth of the V.S.O., transportation along the beach and out on the bay has become an increasing problem. For this reason, although all who can make the trip are urged to do so, it is necessary that reservations for transportation and lunch be made as early as possible. Lunch will cost \$1.00 and it may be necessary to charge as much as \$1.00 for transportation.

It will be up to the individuals to make their own reservations for lodging for the night of December 5. Winter rates will be in effect at Virginia Beach. Suggestions are "The deWitt Cottage", Ocean and 12th St. or the "Essex House", Ocean and 16th St.

Members planning to make the trip are urged to wear plenty of warm clothing, gloves or mittens and waterproof footwear. It can get mighty cold riding in open trucks along the beach.

-- Jack E. Perkins
P.O. Box 269
Virginia Beach



The Raven

BULLETIN OF THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY

J. J. MURRAY, EDITOR
LEXINGTON, VA.

VOL. XXIII

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER, 1952

NOS. 11 & 12

CONTENTS

	Page
Gaps in Our Knowledge of Virginia Birds By J.J. Murray	94
The 1951 Fall Migration in Virginia By F.R. Scott	96
The 1951-1952 Winter Season in Virginia By F.R. Scott	98
Late Black-billed Cuckoos By C.C. Steirly	101
Cooperative Bird Study Project	101
From the President's Files By D. Ralph Hostetter	102
Index to Volume XXIII - 1952	104

CHRISTMAS COUNT DATES, DECEMBER 21-27

GAPS IN OUR KNOWLEDGE OF VIRGINIA BIRDS

By J.J. Murray

In the preface to the recent Virginia Society of Ornithology publication, "A Check-List of the Birds of Virginia", it was stated that one of the aims of the book was to indicate the gaps in our knowledge in order that an effort might be made to fill them. It is hoped that another edition may be required within a few years. Such an edition should be made both more accurate and more complete.

Increasing knowledge about the birdlife of the State results in the opening up of new questions to which we do not have the answers. If we are going to be honest, we have to speak in the language of the old bit of doggerel:

"I used to think I knew I knew;
But now I must confess,
The more I know I know I know,
I know I know the less".

At the 1938 Annual Meeting at Lexington the writer presented a paper, "Recent Records and New Problems in Virginia Ornithology" (Raven, 1938, Vol. 9, pp. 39-43), in which some of the gaps in our knowledge at that time were indicated. Some of the questions then asked have been answered and the gaps filled, at least in part. We have learned that there is at present only one form of the Ruffed Grouse in the State, although there may have been two in earlier days. We have learned that the Southern Flicker does breed in southeastern Virginia. The question was raised as to whether the Southern Downy occurs in Virginia; and the answer seems to be that it does not occur in fully typical form, although the Downy Woodpeckers of extreme southeastern Virginia are never this race. The Fish Crow has been ascertained to breed in western Virginia, since summer specimens have been taken in the Valley and a nest discovered at Charlottesville. The Southern Carolina Chickadee has been taken in the Norfolk area. The ranges of the two forms of Robins and of the Eastern and Mississippi Song Sparrows have been fairly well worked out, although we still need more detailed information. As indicated in our book, new problems have opened up as to the overlapping of the ranges of the two races of the Robin. We know a good deal more than we then did as to the distribution of Henslow's Sparrow.

However, it is not too greatly to our credit that certain questions then asked are still after fourteen years unanswered. We still do not know much about the breeding of the Woodcock in Virginia, although additional records have turned up. We do not know much more than we then did about the boundaries between the breeding ranges of the races of the Screech Owl, the Flicker, the Pileated Woodpecker, the Hairy Woodpecker, the House Wren, the Shrike, and the Parula Warbler. We do not know whether the Florida Blue Jay occurs in eastern Virginia, although strangely enough, Wetmore has collected breeding specimens on White Top Mountain. We do not know whether the southern forms of the Brown Creeper and the Winter Wren occur along with the typical races in winter in eastern Virginia, as they do in the mountains. We do not know how widely the Sycamore Warbler occurs in Southwest Virginia; nor how widely is the Bachman's Sparrow distributed in the State. We do not know whether, as

seems the case, Bachman's Sparrow is much less common in its former range from Charlottesville to Lynchburg, or whether it has spread out from that territory. We know little about the breeding of the Sharp-tailed Sparrow, and other marsh birds, along the Western shores of Chesapeake Bay. Someone should search there for possible breeding Swamp and Savannah Sparrows.

There are a number of birds which we have admitted to our Virginia list on perfectly good evidence but for which we do not yet have specimens. Among them are the Brown Pelican, Gannet, Anhinga, Atlantic Common Cormorant, White Ibis, Black-necked Stilt, Pomarine Jaeger, Glaucous, Iceland, Great Black-backed Gulls, Sycamore and Wayne's Warblers. Birds on our hypothetical list, of which we hope sometime to secure specimens, are the Reddish Egret, Glossy Ibis, Mississippi Kite, Skua, Kittiwake, Southern Black Guillemot, and Painted Bunting.

In this connection it may be of interest to point out that the Virginia list compares favorably with those of the adjoining States. We have 398 forms, plus 14 hypothetical species, all of which are probably valid entries on our list. Maryland, according to the best count I know, has around 350; West Virginia, according to Brooks' list, has 311; and North Carolina, in 1942, had 396. South Carolina lists 454 in the recent State book.

There are still certain areas in Virginia where little work has been done and where we need a careful survey of the bird life. This is the case with the Eastern Shore, in spite of the fact that naturalists have been visiting the islands for 100 years. In the past thirty years the status of many water birds has so changed that our records for the Eastern Shore are out of date. We have a lot of information, but it is scrappy and unsystematic. The land birds of that area are not too well known. We would like for instance, to know a lot more about the status of the House Wren, Bewick's Wren, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Scarlet Tanager, Baltimore Oriole, Boat-tailed Grackle, Black Vulture, and other birds. We need month by month data over a period of several years for the Eastern Shore.

Other neglected areas in Virginia are as follows: the territory along the North Carolina line from Danville to Suffolk; the southern foothill counties of Franklin, Henry, and Patrick; Southwest Virginia, with detailed systematic lists from Wytheville, Marion, and Abingdon, and particularly from Lee County, where the influence of the Mississippi Valley might show some interesting consequences; the western border counties touching West Virginia and Kentucky; Winchester and the lower end of the Valley. And we need migration and winter data from the higher ridges in the mountains.

Among the things that should be done and the questions that should be answered are the following:

1. A Barred Owl should be collected in the Dismal Swamp, as the bird of that area may possibly be the Southern Barred Owl. This form, which has the legs feathered to the toe, has been collected in central eastern North Carolina.
2. Observers in the lower Piedmont should watch for the Chuck-will's-widow, as we do not know enough about the upper limits of its range.
3. We need more information as the status of the Appalachian Black-capped Chickadee in the higher parts of the Blue Ridge.
4. We need specimens to indicate the upper limits of the range of the Southern Carolina Chickadee in southeastern Virginia.
5. If specimens of the Bewick's Wren could be obtained on the Eastern Shore or

- anywhere in Tidewater, they may turn out to be the typical form. We do not even know whether Bewick's Wren now breeds in this region, as it formerly did.
6. Breeding Long-billed Marsh Wrens should be collected wherever they may occur in Piedmont or western Virginia.
 7. White-breasted Nuthatch specimens from the extreme southeastern part of the State are needed.
 8. Breeding Shrikes are needed from the central Piedmont, particularly from the area around and south of Charlottesville.
 9. Observers in the Piedmont should watch out for records of breeding Prothonotary Warblers.
 10. We need records and a few specimens of Swainson's Warbler from western Virginia.
 11. We need more information as to the range of the Blue-winged Warbler in Piedmont Virginia; of the Yellow Warbler in the high mountain valleys; of the Cerulean Warbler anywhere on the eastern edge of its range and in the Blue Ridge; and of the Sycamore Warbler in Southwest Virginia and anywhere in the western part of the State.
 12. We need Yellow-throat specimens from east of Petersburg and south of the James.
 13. We need more definite information as to the breeding of the Cowbird south of the James.
 14. It would be of help if observers could send to Dr. Wetmore specimens of breeding Grackles from any part of the State.
 15. We need much more specific information as to the status of the Boat-tailed Grackle at all seasons.
 16. The collecting of Towhees on the Eastern shore, in the Norfolk and Newport News area, and along the North Carolina line west of the Dismal Swamp is important.
 17. We need more records of breeding Purple Finches in the Middle Mountain and neighboring regions.
 18. We need to know the extent to which the Atlantic Song Sparrow breeds away from salt or brackish water. Grey and the writer collected a singing male in the fresh water marsh at Jamestown.

These questions would indicate that there is still need for a certain amount of judicious collecting in Virginia, for few of them can be answered in any other way.

-- Lexington, Virginia

---000---

THE 1951 FALL MIGRATION IN VIRGINIA

By F.R. Scott

The weather was quite warm and dry in late summer and early fall, but November was wetter and colder than normal.

Pelagic Birds to Herons. An adult Common Loon in full breeding plumage was found at Chincoteague on August 4 and 9 by P.F. Springer and R. Stewart. A Red-throated Loon near Charlottesville on November 3 (R.J. Watson, C.E. Stevens) is quite unusual and one of the few records from the Piedmont. The

first Horned Grebe appeared at Roaches Run on October 14. The migration of Pied-billed Grebes was quite good throughout the state. Outside of the time limits of this report but nevertheless of decided interest was the discovery of 2 adults and 4 young Pied-billed Grebes on June 12 at Oyster Point near Fort Eustis (PFS). Amazingly enough, this appears to be the first definite breeding record for Virginia! An excellent concentration of herons found at Wachapreague on August 4 included 60 Snowy Egrets and 50 Louisiana Herons. The latter were also more common than usual at Norfolk. Inland heron records were also interesting with a Louisiana Heron at Hopewell on August 4 (McIlwaine), 1 to 2 Snowy Egrets at Danville July 25 to August 17 (R. Eggleston, R. Lyle), and another at Hanover in August (T. Blair). The American Egret was last seen at Roaches Run on November 7, but they were still common in late November on the lower Chickahominy. Several immature Yellow-crowned Night Herons were found in late summer at Hampton where records are strangely lacking.

Swans and Ducks. Inland records of Whistling Swans include 1 young bird near Charlottesville on November 28 (CLS) and 2 at Alexandria on November 4. A good duck migration was reported on the Lower Peninsula with Redheads in early after no records the preceding year. W.F. Rountrey found Gadwalls near Norfolk at the amazing dates of September 15 and 19 (30 ducks), a full month before they would ordinarily be expected. These birds may yet be found breeding on the Virginia coast. Pintails arrived early at Roaches Run with 1 on September 3 and over 50 by September 30. A Green-winged Teal at Cape Charles on September 29 is an interesting early date. Nine to 12 Shovellers were reported at Alexandria during November; they were rather common at Stumpy Lake, Norfolk, with a high of 25 on November 10 (WFR). An Oldsquaw at Seaford on November 10 and an American Merganser at Yorktown on October 21 (Beasley and Glassel) were both early dates for the area.

Hawks to Skimmers. An adult Golden Eagle was reported from the Skyline Drive on October 26, another 7 miles north of Reddish Knob on October 13 (Jopson), and a Goshawk at the National Airport on November 4 (E.G. Davis). Malcolm Davis found a pair of Turkeys in Fairfax County between Herndon and Dranesville on August 3. A large concentration of 430 Oystercatchers was found at Cobbs Island on September 2 by T.R. Hake. A Golden Plover at Seaford on October 7 (B & G) is a good record for the Western Shore. Wilson's Snipe were in good numbers at both Lexington and Norfolk. An unusually good count of 300 Hudsonian Curlews was made at Wachapreague on August 4. Since the Upland Sandpiper is so scarce on the coast, a group of 3 seen at Chincoteague on August 5 is especially interesting. A late Spotted Sandpiper was seen at Fort Belvoir on November 11. Four Stilt Sandpipers at Chincoteague on August 5 (EGD et al.) was the only report received. A Baird's Sandpiper near Charlottesville on October 13 and 14 (CLS, Mrs. Michie, Mrs. Darden) is one of the few records for the state. Western Sandpipers were in unusual numbers near Yorktown with a maximum of over 100 on August 5 at Seaford (B & G). A flock of 6 American Avocets were seen at Back Bay on September 26 (Perkins, Wally Stewart); there was also a single bird at Sandbridge in August (Miss Mary Lee, WFR).

There was an excellent flight of gulls in Albemarle County with Herring, Ring-billed and Bonaparte's, all first fall records for the county. Late fall records of the Common Tern are quite sparse in Virginia, in spite of the fact that these birds occur regularly around New York until late October or early November. Therefore, it is interesting to find two late records: November 4 at Seaford (B & G) and November 9 at Hunting Creek near Alexandria.

Inland, 5 birds were found at Danville on September 16 (RL). Colonies of Black Skimmers still had young at Wachapreague on August 4 and at Cobbs Island on September 2. There were 200 adults in the first colony and 500 in the second.

Nighthawks to Tanagers. Two Nighthawks at Danville on October 23 (RE) were quite late. Also late was a Chimney Swift at Williamsburg on October 24 (Grey). An unusual record for the eastern part of the state was a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher at Seaford on September 30 (B & G). Red-breasted Nuthatches arrived early and in good numbers, early dates being September 9 in Shenandoah National Park (Wetmore) and September 20 at Newport News. Two Prothonotary Warblers at Dyke (breeding ground near Alexandria) on September 30 were very late, as were two Yellow Warblers at Prince William Forest on October 15 (C.L. Clagett). A single Prothonotary at Danville on August 21 was in the same place where one had been seen the previous May (RE). There was a good Tennessee Warbler flight in the mountains. Perhaps the most interesting warbler records of the fall were a Blue-winged and 3 Golden-winged Warblers near Newport News on August 19 (Glassel). Several Connecticut Warblers were reported from the Arlington region, and 1 was found at Charlottesville on October 1 (CES). A late female Baltimore Oriole was found at Aquia Creek on October 27 (L.T. McKnight). A Scarlet Tanager at Pine Ridge on October 8 was a late record for that part of the state.

Fringillids. Northern finches were perhaps the most spectacular aspects of the fall migration. Purple Finches were in large numbers in the Northern and western parts of the state, but there were few records of Pine Siskins. There were reports of Evening Grosbeaks in northern Virginia in late October (Atlantic Naturalist 7: 140 and Raven 23: 58 and 62-63), but the first definite record seems to be November 5 at Lexington (Paxton), closely followed by birds at Charlottesville, Norge (near Williamsburg), and Alexandria on November 9. Pine Grosbeaks appeared in Shenandoah National Park for the first definite state record. Park Ranger James McMillan picked up a dead bird here on November 16. A Labrador Savannah Sparrow was collected by J.J. Murray at Lexington on October 15, and a White-crowned Sparrow was noted at Arlington on October 27. Two very early White-throated Sparrow records were Danville, August 31 (RL) and Clarendon, September 16 (2). A Lincoln's Sparrow was banded at Pine Ridge on October 8 and one was seen near Charlottesville on November 1 (CES). Two Lepland Longspurs in Albemarle County on November 22 (CES, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis, R. Clem) are a first record for the county.

-- Richmond, Virginia

---000---

THE 1951-1952 WINTER SEASON IN VIRGINIA

By F.R. Scott

A mild and wet winter caused many birds that in ordinary years would be scarce to be common to abundant. In eastern Virginia either many species are wintering more commonly than usual, or increased field work is turning up what was previously missed. The most spectacular aspect of the winter was an unprecedented flight of Evening Grosbeaks and other northern birds into the state.

Hérons. Up to 8 American Egrets wintered around Stumpy Lake near Norfolk (Rountrey), and one remained at Harpersville, near Newport News, until December 29 (Beasley and Glassel). A Snowy Egret at Hampton from February 6 to March 16 (Mrs. L. Machen) was an early record for the area. An American Bittern was found at Chincoteague on December 27.

Geese and Ducks. Inland, wintering ducks appeared in almost unprecedented numbers, probably due to the lack of ice. Among the many oddities were up to 18 Shovellers which wintered around Alexandria and Arlington (F.A. DuMont and others). Five were also found near Ottobine, Rockingham County, on December 23 (Jopson), and small numbers wintered at Stumpy Lake (Rountrey), with a maximum of 11 on December 29. Inland Gadwalls were found at Blacksburg, Ottobine and Richmond, while Wood Ducks were reported at Lynchburg and Ottobine. Diving ducks in large numbers were found throughout the western part of the state. Three Red-breasted Mergansers were found near Abingdon on December 21 (S.M. Russell), and 1 at Lynchburg on December 26.

In the eastern section Perkins reported maximums at Back Bay of 30,000 Snow Geese, 60,000 American Widgeon and 64,000 Redhead. Blue Geese were found at Roaches Run, Curles Neck, and of course, Back Bay. Two Eiders were killed at Back Bay on December 15 (F.W. Cox, vide Perkins). One was destroyed; the other, a mounted bird in the possession of Mr. C.D. Andrews of Suffolk, was examined by Murray and identified as an immature male King Eider.

Birds of Prey. A Rough-legged Hawk was found just above Winchester on February 7 (Scott), and a Peregrine Falcon and a Long-eared Owl at Lexington on December 26 (Murray). Murray and Paxton also saw a Golden Eagle at Jarman's Gap on the Skyline Drive, in both Augusta County and Albemarle County, on February 22. Two Ospreys, probably early transients, were seen at Williamsburg on February 16 (Scott).

Marsh Birds to Skimmers. Jopson reported 23 Coots at Ottobine on December 23, an unusual winter record west of the Blue Ridge. Two Woodcock were found at McLean on February 19, and Wilson's Snipe were fairly common throughout the winter at Lexington. Three Piping Plovers at Seaford from February 10 to March 8 (Beasley and Glassel) is one of the few winter records of this species in the state, if not the first. Great Black-backed Gulls continue to increase in the Hampton Roads area and now occur up the James past Newport News (Beasley and Glassel). The first inland record for the state was reported by DuMont, who found one at Roaches Run on February 16. Other interesting inland gull records were 2 Ring-billed Gulls near Abingdon on December 21 (Russell) and a Laughing Gull at Alexandria on December 31. Two Black Skimmers were found at Back Bay on December 29 (Beasley, Perkins, Richardson, Scott).

Woodpeckers to Nuthatches. Two Red-cockaded Woodpeckers were found near Fungo on December 29 (Scott). Phoebe's wintered in spectacular numbers all over the state. A total of 34 was reported on the various Christmas Bird Counts, including birds at Abingdon, Blacksburg and Lexington. This compares with 26 in 1950, 27 in 1949, and 6 in 1948. Inland Fish Crows included 2 near Lynchburg on December 26 and at least 5 at Ottobine, December 25. The great southward movement of Black-capped Chickadees barely touched Virginia, if at all. There were two records, 2 at Fort Belvoir on December 23 (E. Johnson, G. Sigel) and 1 at Blacksburg on December 31, but these might have been anticipated in a normal year. There was a good flight of Red-breasted

Nuthatches in small numbers into eastern Virginia. Larger numbers were found in the mountains with a maximum of 57 at Blacksburg on December 31. All 3 species of nuthatches were seen during both the Richmond and Yorktown Christmas Counts.

Wrens to Thrashers. There were the usual reports of wintering House Wrens from Richmond east, and a Bewick's Wren was reported at Blacksburg on December 31. Long-billed Marsh Wrens were almost abundant in the eastern marshes, and wintering individuals were found as far inland as Alexandria and Fort Belvoir. Short-billed Sedge Wrens also wintered in Tidewater, but not in unusual numbers. One at Danville on December 31 (R. Eggleston, R. Lyle) was unique. Catbirds appeared to be common in southern Tidewater, at least around Back Bay. Brown Thrashers were in small numbers but were found as far west as Lynchburg.

Waxwings to Warblers. Cedar Waxwings were reported in good numbers over most of the state. T. Blair reported a maximum of 273 at Hanover on February 25. An Orange-crowned Warbler near Petersburg on January 18 and 19 (W.B. McIlwaine) was a first record for the area. Pine Warblers wintered west to Albemarle County and Danville. Palm Warblers were in several areas from Richmond east with a maximum of 7 near Norfolk on December 30 (Rountrey). Apparently wintering Chats were seen at Petersburg on December 1 (McIlwaine) and at Hampton, December 13 (Mrs. W.G. Smith). No less than 14 Yellowthroats were found at Back Bay on December 29, and 1 was found at Mt. Vernon, January 1.

Finches. The greatest invasion of Evening Grosbeaks in history descended on Virginia and virtually flooded the state south and east to Newport News and Suffolk. While a number of observers reported birds in early November, the main influx apparently did not occur until mid January or early February, at which time flocks were measured in the hundreds. This invasion is recorded in detail by Robert O. Paxton in *THE RAVEN* 23: 58-62, 1952. Pine Grosbeaks wintered in Shenandoah National Park, and the apparently single flock ranged in numbers from 12 to about 22 birds (F.G. Favour, J.E. Liles, J.J. Murray, Mr. Sullivan). A second specimen was collected in February. Other northern finches did not follow the example of the grosbeaks. The only Red Crossbill record was a group of 5 at Blacksburg on December 31. Siskins were scarce, and Purple Finches were, in general, in small numbers, although widespread. At Charlottesville a single male Redpoll was reported around the feeding station of Mrs. Winston Wilkinson from January 16 to February 7, and a male at the station of Mrs. H.G. Burnet on March 9.

Sparrows, etc. Towhees, apparently going against the trend of many other species, were surprisingly uncommon to rare except in southeast Tidewater. A Vesper Sparrow was found near Lynchburg on December 26 (M.B. Tillotson), and a Grasshopper Sparrow near Yorktown on December 28 (W.F. Minor and C.E. Stevens). Wintering Chipping Sparrows were noted at Richmond, Fort Belvoir and Back Bay, with 5 at the latter place on December 29. Tree Sparrows were in general scarcer than usual in the mountains. Away from their regular winter range, however, 2 were found at Back Bay on December 29 (Beasley, Richardson, Scott) and single birds at Hanover, December 30 and January 3 (Blair). White-crowned Sparrows wintered in some numbers, apparently, in the mountains, with a maximum of 105 at Blacksburg on December 31. Snow Buntings were seen at Chincoteague, December 27 (D. Power, et al.), and Back Bay (2), December 29 (Minor, Stevens).

LATE BLACK-BILLED CUCKOOS

By C.C. Steirly

Late season observations of the Black-billed Cuckoo in Surry and Sussex Counties were made as follows:

October 3, 1952 near Blackwater River, Surry County in cut-over pine-hardwood forest.

October 13, 1952 mainland area adjacent to Hog Island, Surry County in Virginia pine and red oak saplings. Observed by W.B. McIlwaine and the writer together.

October 22, 1952 four miles south of Waverly, Sussex County in oak scrub growth on big 1943 Sussex forest fire area.

-- Waverly, Virginia

---000---

COOPERATIVE BIRD STUDY PROJECT

In the March-April issue a cooperative study for the State was suggested for three species: Chuck-will's Widow in eastern Virginia; Swainson's Warbler in the coastal areas and in the southwestern part of the State; and Yellow-throated and Sycamore Warblers across most of Virginia. Since reports were so few, it is suggested that this same study be continued through the summer of 1953.

There are two reports of interest on the Chuck-will's Widow. Mrs. E.D. Peacock heard one, while a Whip-poor-will was also calling, on May 29, along Foxes Creek in Gloucester County. Gertrude Prior heard one near the lake at Sweet Briar on May 26. It called for a half hour or so during the evening, and was probably the same bird that had been reported to her as having been heard by nearby residents over a period of two or three weeks.

We have had no report at all on Swainson's or Sycamore Warblers, beyond the normal summer reports of the Swainson's Warbler in the Dismal Swamp.

On the Yellow-throated Warbler there have been two reports. W.F. Rountrey writes from the Norfolk area as follows: "The bird was nesting in our area before this notice came out, therefore records are not as complete as they should be. The Yellow-throated is the first warbler to arrive at Stumpy Lake each spring. Here it is as common as the Pine Warbler and appears to be increasing each year. Its arrival was earlier than usual, on March 21. By late April some birds were nesting. However, this bird like many others has no set date to build, and many were found building at a much later date. For example, on May 4 and 5 I saw two nests being built. A few days later, May 18, I observed young being fed out of the nest at a place three miles away. It is possible that some of these birds raise young twice in a season, as I have seen them feeding young in the nest in late June. It is surprising that our

records are so few for the Cape Henry Region. I have found this to be one of our most common warblers. It can usually be observed daily from the last of March to the middle of July."

Charles L. Stevens, Jr., writes from Albemarle County: "Arrived April 2. During the nesting season six singing birds were recorded on May 7, May 15, and June 16. As usual, birds were not uncommon in the southern and eastern parts of Albemarle, along the James and its tributary, the Rivanna, with a few found in other places. It occurs on streams and rivers where there are big sycamores, silver maples, ashes, and river birches, and especially when large pines are located nearby. It is found less commonly in mixed deciduous and pine (especially shortleaf) woods. It is rare west of Charlottesville and rare in migration outside its summer range."

---000---

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S FILES

The meeting of the V.S.O. Executive Committee at Richmond, October 4, was very impressive. In the first place, we had a good attendance which is indicative of great interest in the welfare and activity of the Society. In the second place the spirit of the meeting was such that I feel it my duty to inform the membership that the Executive Committee is working in the best interests of your organization. There were careful deliberations, frank expressions of opinion, appreciation for the other person's view, and excellent cooperation and unanimity in the final actions taken and ready acceptance of assignments. To have members on the Executive Committee representing the various public, private, national, state, and local activities is most desirable in a policy-making body.

The secretary will give a full report of the Committee's work at the annual meeting in May. You may be disappointed to learn that some of our ambitions and goals are being realized very slowly. This is due to the fact that those who are responsible for accomplishing certain tasks are very busy people; and that the Executive Committee is not asking them to set aside their regular duties to serve in the interests of the V.S.O. but to render their services to the Society as time permits. Naturally this extends the work over a longer period of time. This leads me to say a word about the organization of local bird clubs or chapters. Perhaps the revised constitution will make some provision for and give guidance to such organizations. At any rate, such local clubs should be initiated by someone who has ability to organize, is intensely interested in birds and has the necessary time at his disposal. These three qualifications are not often found in the same individual. Whenever such person is located in a community the member or members in that area should encourage him to head such organizations and give him full support.

The possibility of a foray was discussed, and the idea accepted. In our discussion it was pointed out that Sunday should not be included since many of our members have Sunday School and Church responsibilities. I was very glad to receive, through the courtesy of Dr. John Grey, a copy of Carolina Bird Club News Letter, November, 1952, in which is an account of their recent meeting on the Blue Ridge Parkway, which was in reality a foray. Folks arrived on Friday evening; the following Saturday was given over to the field with Migrating Hawks the chief object of study. There was no Sunday activity.

Some will say that our annual trip to Back Bay is in a sense a foray. I would like to see an extension of this idea into other areas with possibly another day added. Dr. Grey appends this note: "I hope some year we will try the foray, limiting the number at first to some dozen who will really work. Later we could expand it gradually". Should this matter be presented at our May meeting, you are now aware of what some of us are thinking.

This brings me to another consideration. These forays will undoubtedly attract many people, some interested in birds, others not. I have had experience with two members on two different occasions who stated that they were not interested in birds, but as I recall one was especially interested in plants, the other just to get out into the open "for a breath of fresh air". Both stated that they find in the V.S.O., such congenial company. I agree one hundred per-cent with the latter statement. Shall we encourage membership in the V.S.O. of those whose primary interest is not birds? I am inclined to take the affirmative position. We need support of people who "like us" and who appreciate our congeniality. They also support us with their annual dues and by giving us publicity among their friends, some of whom may have a great interest in bird study or conservation and may enter the organization and make a notable contribution to the Society. Comparatively speaking, our membership is small and we need all the financial and publicity support we can get.

What is your thinking on these matters?

-- D. Ralph Hostetter
Harrisonburg, Virginia

INDEX TO VOLUME XXIII - 1952

- Abbott, Mr. & Mrs. Jackson M. - 5
Abingdon - 9
Albemarle County - 23
Avocet, American - 97
- Back Bay - 2
Baird, James - "The Summer Birds of Prince William Forest
Park" - 77
Bartsch, Paul - "An Unusual Diet for the Flicker" - 24
Bartsch, Paul - "The Whip-poor-will Has a Good Memory" - 67
Beasley, Mr. & Mrs. R.J. - 2
Behrends, Fred - 9
"Birds of Pittsylvania County, Virginia" - 36
Bittern, American - 39
Blacksburg, - 8 - 10
Blair, Thom - 4
"Blue-winged Teal Breeding in Sussex County, Virginia" - 68
Boitnott, Mrs. J.W. - 7
Bufflehead - 5
"Buggs Island Field Trips" - 89
Bunting, Snow - 2
Byrne, Marie - 8
- Carroll, R.P. - 8
Catbird - 100 (winter)
Canvasback - 40
Chat, Yellow-breasted - 65 - 100
"Check-List of the Birds of Virginia" - A Review - 26
Chickadee, Black-capped - 4 - 8 - 64
Christmas Bird Counts - 2 - 26
Chuck-will's-widow - 101
Cobb Island - 22 - 70
Coleman, Mrs. M. - 4
"Conservation Notes" - 74
Conyne, Alfred - 8
"Cooperative Bird Study Project" - 20 - 101
Coot - 11
Cormorant, Double-crested - 20 - 38
Cowbird - 22
Crossbill, Red - 8
Crossbill, White-winged - 53
Crow, Fish - 5
Cuckoo, Black-billed - 101
Curlew, Hudsonian - 43 - 66
- Daniel, Bertha - "A Naruna Fish Pond" - 69
Daniel, Bertha - "A Visit to Virginia Beach, etc." - 69
Danville - 6 - 54 - 66
Dean, A.L. - 9
Dickcissel - 22
Dowitcher - 66
Duck, Wood - 5 - 66 - 68

- Eagle, Bald - 11 - 41 - 70 (nest)
Eagle, Golden - 2 - 97 - 99
"Eastern Shore Field Trip" - 70
Eggleston, Robert - 6
Eggleston, Robert - "Bugg Island Field Trips" - 89
Eggleston, Robert, and Royster Lyle, Jr. - "The birds of
Pittsylvania County, Virginia" - 36
Egret, American - 65
Egret, Snowy - 39 - 97
Eider, King - 99
English, Mr. & Mrs. A.O. - 6
"Evening Grosbeak Invasion, 1951-52, in Virginia" - 58
"Evening Grosbeaks in Northern Virginia" - 62

Falcon, Peregrine - 42
Farmer, Larry L. - 5
Fast, Arthur H. - "Evening Grosbeaks in Northern Virginia" - 62
Favour, Paul G., Jr. - 26
Favour, Paul G., Jr. - "Pine Grosbeak Added to the Virginia List" - 10
Flicker, 24 (food)
Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied - 21
Fort Belvoir - 4
Freer, Jane E. - 5
Freer, Ruskin S. - 5

Gadwall - 3 - 7 - 8 - 39 - 97 - 99
Gallinule, Florida - 2 - 42 (nest)
"Gaps in Our Knowledge of Virginia Birds" - 94
Gannet - 20
Goose, Blue - 21
Goshawk - 97
Grackle, Boat-tailed - 71 (nests)
Grebe, Horned - 38
Grebe, Pied-billed - 97 (breeding)
Grebe, Red-necked - 20
Grey, John H. - "Sale of Our Check-List" - 91
Grosbeak, Blue - 53 - 66
Grosbeak, Evening - 8 - 19 - 22 - 26 - 58 - 62 - 98
Grosbeak, Pine - 10 - 26 - 98
Grouse, Ruffed - 79
Gull, Great Black-backed - 21 - 99
Gull, Herring - 21 - 43
Gull, Laughing - 99
Gull, Ring-billed - 4 - 9 - 21 - 43 - 99

Hale, M.G. - 9
Handley, C.O., Sr. - 9
Handley, C.O., Jr. - 9
Handley, John M. - 9
Handley, C.O., Jr. - "The Newfoundland Hermit Thrush in
Virginia" - 10

Harrisonburg - 6
Hawk, Broad-winged - 79 (nest)
Hawk, Pigeon - 21
Hawk, Rough-legged - 21 - 99
Hawk, Sparrow - 66

- Heron, Black-crowned Night - 20 - 39 - 66 (nest*)
Heron, Great Blue - 65
Heron, Green - 71 (nests)
Heron, Louisiana - 20 - 66
Heron, Yellow-crowned Night - 20 - 68 - 89 - 97 - 66
Highland County - 63
"Hog Island Waterfowl Refuge" - 87
Hoover, Mr. & Mrs. I.C. - 5
Hostetter, D. Ralph - 7
Hostetter, D. Ralph - "A Message from the President" - 15
Hostetter, D. Ralph - "Notes from the President's Files" - 54 - 74 - 90
- Johnson, Enock - 5
Jopson, Harry G.M. - 7
Jopson, Hope Power - 7
- Kinglet - 65
"King Rail Nest in Surry County, Virginia" - 68
- Lark, Northern Horned - 4
Lark, Prairie Horned - 66 - 68
Lexington, - 7
Liles, James E. - 26
Longspur, Lapland - 98
Loon, Common - 38 - 39 - 96
Loon, Red-throated - 96
Lyle, Royster, Jr. - 6 - 89
Lyle, Royster, Jr., and Robert Eggleston - "The Birds of
Fittsylvania County, Virginia" - 36
- Lynchburg - 5
- Mallard - 66 (nest)
Merganser, American - 41
Merganser, Hooded - 68
Merganser, Red-breasted - 41 - 66 - 99
Miller, W. Edwin - "Treasurer's Report" - 28
Minor, W.F. - 2 - 3
Mitchell, Melvin A. - 5
Moore, Hugh A. - 5
Mosby, Henry S. - 9
Mount Rogers - 9
Murray, J.J. - 8 - 26
Murray, J.J. - Review of "Stalking Birds with Color Camera" - 11
Murray, J.J. - Review of "Wildlife in Color" - 12
Murray, J.J. - "Eastern Shore Field Trip - 1952" - 70
Murray, J.J. - "Gaps in Our Knowledge of Virginia Birds" - 94
Murray, Mrs. J.J. - 8
Murray, J.W. - 9
- McMann, Walter - 89
- "Naruna Fish Pond, A" - 69
"Nesting Season in Virginia, 1951" - 65
"Nineteenth Annual Meeting" - 17
"Notes on the Birds of Highland County, Virginia" - 63
Nuthatch, Brown-headed - 4 - 47

- Oldsquaw - 40
Osprey - 66 (summer, inland) - 79
Ottobine - 7
Owen, Jan W. - 8
Owl, Long-eared - 8 - 21 - 45
Oyster-catcher - 71
- Paxton, Robert O. - 8
Paxton, Robert O. - "The Evening Grosbeak Invasion, 1951-52,
in Virginia" - 58
- Penick, Paul - 8
Perkins, Jack - 2
Petrel, Wilson's - 71
Pheasant, Ring-necked - 42
Phoebe - 7 (winter) - 9 (winter) - 99
Pipit - 49
Plover, Golden - 97
Plover, Piping - 99
Plover, Upland - 43
Plover, Wilson's - 21
Prince William Forest Park - 77
- Rail, Clapper - 66 - 71
Rail, King - 66 - 68
Rail, Virginia - 21 - 66
Raven - 21 - 64
Redhead - 8 - 21
Redpoll - 53
Red-wing - 65 - 66
Richardson, F.C. - 2
Richmond - 3
Ritchey, Charles - 8
Roane, C.W. - 9
Roanoke - 5
Rockingham County - 7
Rountrey, W.F. - 2
Russell, Stephen M. - 9
- "Sale of Our Check-List" - 91
Sandpiper, Baird's - 97
Sandpiper, Red-backed - 43
Sandpiper, Solitary - 66
Sandpiper, Stilt - 97
Sandpiper, Western - 66
Sandpiper, White-rumped - 43
Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied - 64
Scaup, Greater - 21
Scaup, Lesser - 66
Scoters - 21
Scotter, White-winged - 40
Scott, F.R. - 2 - 3 - 4
Scott, F.R. - "Spring Season in Virginia, 1951" - 20
Scott, F.R. - "A Check-List of the Birds of Virginia - A Review" - 26
Scott, F.R. - "Notes on the Birds of Highland County, Virginia" - 63
Scott, F.R. - "The Nesting Season in Virginia, 1951" - 65

- Scott, F.R. - "The 1951 Fall Migration in Virginia" - 96
Scott, F.R. - "The 1951-1952 Winter Season in Virginia" - 98
Shear, G.M. - 9
Shenandoah National Park - 26
"Short-billed Marsh Wren in Albemarle County" - 85
Shoveller - 2 - 21 - 40 - 99
Shrike, Loggerhead - 2
Sigel, George - 5
Siskin, Pine - 53
Skimmer, Black - 2 - 71 - 98 - 99
Smyth, Mrs. Ellison - 9
Sparrow, Bachman's - 9
Sparrow, Chipping - 5
Sparrow, Churchill Savannah - 22
Sparrow, Grasshopper - 3
Sparrow, Java - 52 (Danville)
Sparrow, Labrador Savannah - 98
Sparrow, Lincoln's - 22
Sparrow, Swamp - 9 (winter) - 54 (winter)
Sparrow, Tree - 2 (Back Bay)
Sparrow, Vesper - 5
Sparrow, White-crowned - 5 - 54
Sparrow, White-throated - 66
"Spring Season in Virginia - 1951" - 20
"Stalking Birds with Color Camera - A Review" - 11
Steirly, C.C. - "Bald Eagle Attacks Coot" - 11
Steirly, C.C. - "Blue-winged Teal Brooding in Sussex County, Virginia" - 68
Steirly, C.C. - "King Rail Nest in Surry County, Virginia" - 68
Steirly, C.C. - "Hog Island Waterfowl Refuge" - 87
Steirly, C.C. - "Late Black-billed Cuckoos" - 101
Stevens, C.E. - 2 - 3 - 4 - 9 - 63
Stevens, C.E. - "V.S.O. Field Trip to Cobb's Island" - 22
Stevens, C.E. - "Two Winter Bird Population Studies" - 23
Stevens, C.E. - "Short-billed Marsh Wren in Albemarle County" - 85
"Summer Birds of Prince William Forest Park" - 77
Surry County - 68
Sussex County - 68
Suter, Daniel B. - 7
Sydnor, J.R. - 4 - 63
Swallow, Cliff - 64
Swan, Whistling - 97 (inland)
Swift, Chimney - 21

Tanager, Scarlet - 22 - 53 - 84
Teal, Blue-winged - 21 - 68 (nest)
Tenney, Malcolm - 8
Tern, Caspian - 44 - 71
Tern, Black - 44
Tern, Common - 71 (nests)
Tern, Gull-billed - 71 (nest)
Tern, Least - 71 (nests)
Tern, Royal - 71
Thrasher, Brown - 100
Thrush, Gray-checked - 21
Thrush, Newfoundland Hermit - 10

- Tillotson, M.B. - 5
Turkey, Eastern - 79
"Two Winter Bird Population Studies" - 23
- V.S.O. - Nineteenth Annual Meeting - 17
V.S.O. - Annual Meeting Field Trip - 19
V.S.O. - Field Trip to Cobb Island - 22
V.S.O. - Treasurer's Report - 28
V.S.O. - Membership List - 29
V.S.O. - Notes from the President - 15 - 54 - 71 - 90
V.S.O. - Balance Sheet on the 'Check-List' - 73
V.S.O. - Sale of 'Check-List' - 91
Vireo, Philadelphia - 21
Vireo, Solitary - 21 - 49
Vireo, Warbling - 21 - 49
"Visit to Virginia Beach, Jamestown, and Cape Charles, A" - 69
- Warbler, Blue-winged - 22 - 98
Warbler, Cerulean - 50 - 66
Warbler, Connecticut - 98
Warbler, Golden-winged - 50 - 65 - 98
Warbler, Mourning - 22 - 66
Warbler, Nashville - 50
Warbler, Orange-crowned - 100
Warbler, Prothonotary - 22 - 49 - 98
Warbler, Wilson's - 22 - 52
Warbler, Yellow-throated - 51 - 66 - 101
Watson, R.J. - 9
Whimbrel, Hudsonian - 43
"Whip-poor-will Has a Good Memory" - 67
Widgeon, European - 21
"Wildlife in Color - A Review" - 12
Williamsburg - 17
Womoldorf, Joshua - 8
Woodpecker, Red-cockaded - 2 - 21
Wreck Island - 70
Wren, Bewick's - 8 - 21 - 65 - 66
Wren, House - 2 (winter) - 64 - 100
Wren, Long-billed Marsh - 2 - 100
Wren, Short-billed Marsh - 2 - 48 - 66 - 85 - 100
Wren, Winter - 66 (summer)
- Yellott, F.M. - 8
Yellow-throat - 2
Yorktown - 3