



# The Raven

BULLETIN OF THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY

J. J. MURRAY, EDITOR  
LEXINGTON, VA.

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## THE HAMPTON ROADS BIRD CLUB

By Mrs. Walter Post Smith

- Our Hampton Roads Bird Club has enjoyed such wonderful growth that suddenly we suffered the first growing pains. Jack Perkins called us and uninvited us to the V.S.O. Back Bay Field Trip on December 6th. We had made 31 reservations and as those of you who were at Back Bay know we would have crowded things. Jack gave us a cordial invitation and the most beautiful Saturday in December for our own Back Bay Trip on December 13th. Emmy Lou Machen described it as a Kodachrome day. The Redheads on that blue water looked like strips of russet velvet ribbons. It was a magnificent sight. The red, white and blue of the Canvas backs, dotted among the Coots was color as I've never seen it. We were sorry to miss seeing the V.S.O. members but were quite proud to have grown up enough to walk alone.

The interest in the organization of Bird Club arose through a class in Adult Education at Hampton High School - "Out -of-Doors". It attracted Scout Leaders, housewives and Army personnel. Mrs. Luther W. (Emmy Lou) Machen, our teacher, was contagiously enthusiastic about birds and well qualified as a teacher, having studied with Drs. Allen and Kellogg at Cornell. A concentration of interest in Birding and several successful field trips that spring convinced us of a desire for a Bird Club.

Mr. Sydney (Mike) Mitchell, of Warwick, was a member of the class. He really got the club started when he had a "sign up" sheet in front of a bird exhibit at a big three day Scout Exposition. Men, women, and children interested in belonging to a Bird Club were invited to sign up. Mr. Mitchell used this list and mailed out cards to them announcing the first meeting. We organized on February 23, 1951, he was elected our first president. There were 21 who attended our initial meeting.

The Adult Education Class has been held each year wearing new feathers - "Fun with Birds". It has been a feeder for our membership. We attribute growth and interest to the class and the wonderful trips that the V.S.O. offers both at Cobb Island and Back Bay. Dr. Hostetter asks the views of the Raven readers concerning the number of visitors who attend our V.S.O. trips. We consider the trips a definite stimulant for interest. We have an active membership of 34.

We have meetings the second Friday in each month. Our programs consist of movies, talks, bird records, games and picnic suppers. We had a spring week-end at a Hunt Club on the Chickahominy that is still a conversation piece. We made a trip to Washington this fall. Our field trips are bi-monthly. Our club stresses that birding can be a family pleasure. We include our children in our lighter programs and week end trips.

Our club was represented in the Christmas Census at Chincoteague and Back Bay. Sunday, December 28th we held our 1st Peninsula Census and were very proud of our stout eight who braved the raw 23° day and came home with a count of 70 species.

-- Hampton, Virginia



THE CASSIAR SLATE-COVERED JUNCO  
AN ADDITION TO THE VIRGINIA LIST

By Arthur H. Fast

At our home banding station at 4924 Rock Spring Road, Arlington, Virginia, we recently trapped and banded two individuals of the north-western form of the Slate-colored Junco, known as the Cassiar Slate-colored Junco, Junco hyemalis cismontanus Dwight. One was banded on December 13, 1952, with band no. 2-35454, and the other on December 30, 1952, with band no. 21-35489. On banding these birds we noticed an unusual amount of rusty wash on the sides. When we showed the birds to Dr. John W. Aldrich and Mr. Allen J. Duvall, they identified them as the above form. The normal breeding range of this form is restricted to the Yukon and British Columbia regions, with migration extending through the Rocky Mountain region and lower California. This is a new bird for the Virginia list.

-- Arlington, Virginia

Editor's note: This form of the Slate-colored Junco was described by Jonathan Dwight as long ago as 1918 (Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., June 1, 1918), but was not accepted by the A.O.U. Committee on Classification and Nomenclature until more recently (Auk, 62, 1945, p. 449). The discovery of this bird in Virginia is a notable addition to our list. It is, further, a fine example of the things that an alert bird bander may turn up.

TWO NEW BIRDS FOR THE VIRGINIA LIST

By J.J. Murray

Cameron's Pond, a small body of water just north of Lexington, has been through the years the source of many interesting bird records. Here, in the course of some collecting during the past fall, I took two subspecies not hitherto recorded in Virginia. The identifications were made by Dr. Alexander Wetmore.

Newfoundland Yellow Warbler. Dendroica petechia amnicola Batchelder. On September 8, 1952, an adult female Yellow Warbler was collected, which is a well-marked specimen of the Newfoundland race. It is now in the collections of the National Museum. The only other record for the southeastern United States of which I am aware is that of an immature bird taken at Mt. Pleasant, near Charleston, S.C. (South Carolina Bird Life, page 449).

Coastal Plain Swamp Sparrow. Melospiza georgiana nigrescens Bond and Stewart. Three Swamp Sparrows which were collected in October turned out to represent three different races. A male, collected on October 27, 1952, was the Southern Swamp Sparrow, M.g. georgiana, the race to be expected in Virginia. A male, secured on October 3, 1952, was the Northern Swamp Sparrow, M.g. ericrypta, which we now know to be rather regular in migration in the southeastern United States. The third bird, a female, collected on

October 27, 1952, was found to be the Coastal Plain Swamp Sparrow, a recently described race breeding in the coastal plain marshes from New Jersey to Maryland. This Lexington specimen seems to be the first migrant to be taken. All of these specimens are now at the National Museum.

-- Lexington, Virginia

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#### SUPPLEMENT TO THE EVENING GROSBEAK INVASION 1951-52

By Robert O. Paxton

Two additional reports of Evening Grosbeaks during the spring of 1952 round out a total of forty Virginia localities where these erratic and spectacular birds were recognized during last winter's record invasion:

Sabot (15 miles west of Richmond in Goochland County) - "at least 200" at the home of Mrs. W.T. Reed, February through early May.

Powhatan County - about 30 on March 20 by Steve Messenger.

The following are corrections to some departure dates as published in The Raven, July-August, 1952:

Charlottesville - after April 29, seen on May 12 by C.E. Stevens.

Arlington - after May 17, reported May 21 (Atl. Nat. 8:39, 1952)

We now have definite data on the Evening Grosbeak for last season from Winchester. Two were seen on December 29, 1951. On January 24, 1952, a small flock appeared at a feeding station. Birds were seen regularly from then to April 30, with a maximum of about 25. The last reports were of one male on April 22 and on April 29 and three males on April 30. The Winchester data is provided by Mrs. Robert S. Underwood.

-- Lexington, Virginia

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#### NOTES FROM SUSSEX AND SURRY COUNTIES, VIRGINIA

By C.C. Steirly

The Louisiana Tricolored Heron (*hydranassa tricolor*) was observed on August 8, 1952 in the Hog Island marshes, Surry County. Here it was with several Little Blue Herons. On August 27 one was observed along the wooded shore of a pond near Newsome in Southampton County.

Other herons arrival dates for the Sussex and Surry County area in 1952 were: American Egret, April 7 near Jarratt (Sussex County); Little Blue Heron, June 1 near Waverly; Green Heron, April 26 near Waverly;

Yellow-crowned Night Heron, May 4 near Waverly; Black-crowned Night Heron, April 12 near Waverly; Great Blue Heron, to be seen every month of the year in Surry County.

On November 21 during a heavy rain of 1.8 inches the writer observed hundreds of large white larvae of the May beetle (Phyllophagus sp.) above ground on a golf course. Common crows were observed to be feeding on these choice morsels which were upwards of an inch and a half in length and very fleshy.

This particular insect is a two-fold pest. The adult beetles are defoliators of shrubs and in some cases of trees, while the larvae raise havoc with the roots of useful plants such as strawberries, lawn grass, etc. The larvae were all found to be struggling upside down on thoroughly saturated surface of the ground. In fact this is the manner in which they are found under the surface where normally they pass through this stage quite safe from birds although many of them are no doubt the victims of moles.

A lone Whistling Swan was observed on November 28 in Sunken Marsh Pond in northwest Surry County. This pond flows into James River.

-- Waverly, Virginia

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#### FROM THE PRESIDENT'S FILES

Those of us who attended the Back Bay field trip will recall that during the luncheon hour Mr. Perkins, in attempting to get the total number of species for the trip, used a certain field trip list as a guide. I do not recall what list was used, but I do know that the list was incomplete so far as Virginia is concerned. Several species observed were not on the printed list.

A lady sitting to my right and representing a bird organization in a neighboring state asked me why we do not print our own lists. She stated that the organization she represents does print its own lists, sells them to the membership and makes some money in doing so. Why does not the VSO print its own trip lists? The list could be made complete for the state, bear the name and ensignia of the Society, and thus serve a publicity function, and through the sales bring in a little money to the Society. Has this suggestion been considered before?

A member of the Executive Committee reported that requests for a trip to Eastern Shore, similar to the field trips of the past two summers, have been received. Personally, I am interested in such a trip again this summer; are there others? If so, please make your interest known to any member of the Executive Committee so consideration can be given to the request at the next meeting of the Committee.

-- D. Ralph Hostetter  
Harrisonburg, Virginia



**"THE POTOMAC VALLEY" - A REVIEW**

By J.J. Murray

The Potomac Valley - History and Prospect. Edited by Shirley A. Briggs. Audubon Society of the District of Columbia, Box 202, Benjamin Franklin Station, Washington 4, D.C. 44 pages, 1952, 75¢. This is a splendid piece of ecological and conservationist literature. Four of the five chapters, originally appearing in Atlantic Naturalist, trace the disastrous effects of man's exploitation of the Potomac Valley and of his carelessness with his God-given resources. John E. Briggs follows the romantic history of the Valley from Colonial times to the present, with its changing economic pageant - fur trading, tobacco, minerals, and industry - each stage a step in greed and destruction. Bernard Frank stresses the tragedy of erosion. Walter Slavik and Francis M. Uhler discuss pollution and the spoiling of a fair river which once carried ducks beyond man's counting. Edward N. Munns pictures a possible and again lovely future for the river; while Irston R. Barnes adds a new chapter, giving practical answers to the question, "How shall the river be restored?" The booklet is an effective study of what man has done to a lovely region and of what repentance and good works can still do to restore some of the past glories.

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**1953 ANNUAL MEETING - ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA**

MAY 8-9, 1953

The 20th Annual Meeting will be held on Friday and Saturday, May 8 and 9, 1953. The Friday afternoon and evening meetings will be held in the auditorium of the Hecht Company store in Arlington, and the annual dinner will also be held in the store. The Saturday field trip is being planned for Pine Ridge, nearby in Fairfax County. Detailed information regarding hours, overnight accommodations, and specific travel instructions will appear in the next issue of THE RAVEN.

Members planning to present papers are requested to write to JAMES W. EIKE, 3307 North Tuckahoe Street, Falls Church, Virginia, as soon as possible, giving him the title, time required for presentation, and information as to whether a moving picture or slide projector is needed.

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## NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED IN THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY

SINCE OCTOBER 1, 1952

(A)	Dr. W.G. Akers	1138 Bolling Ave.	Norfolk 8, Va.
(A)	Miss Cleo Allen	932 West Franklin St.	Richmond, Va.
(A)	Mrs. Charles Bass		Stephens City, Va.
(A)	Col. & Mrs. S.D. Bedinger	"Riveredge"	Dunnsville, Va.
(A)	Mr. John E. Bryant 2	Hog Island Refuge	Bacon's Castle, Va.
(A)	Mr. Geo. M. Cornell	R.F.D. #2	Suffolk, Va.
(A)	Mr. F.O. Efrid	3010 Buckingham St.	Norfolk, Va.
(A)	Mr. William Efrid	3010 Buckingham St.	Norfolk, Va.
(S)	Mrs. Roberta B. Fletcher		Denton, Maryland
(A)	Miss Margaret Flickinger	204 S. Cameron St.	Winchester, Va.
(A)	Miss Margaret B. Graves	Sweet Briar College	Sweet Briar, Va.
(JR.)	Mr. Michael Griffin	1531 Versailles	Norfolk, Va.
(A)	Mr. & Mrs. S.F. Grubbs	P.O. Box 205	Christiansburg, Va.
(A)	Mrs. George M. Hearn	Box 400, Rockwell Rd.	Hampton, Va.
(A)	Dr. Perry Kendig	114 College Ave.	Salem, Va.
(A)	Mr. John F. Kundt	P.O. Box 222	Waverly, Va.
(A)	Mr. Ormand Lorentz	357 Franklin St.	Harrisonburg, Va.
(A)	Mr. R.F. Lotz	R.F.D. #1, Box 190	Portsmouth, Va.
(A)	Mr. Aubrey Steven Messenger	Box 4539 State College St.,	Raleigh, N.C.
(A)	Miss Elizabeth D. Peacock	Box 200, Rt. #2	Fairfax, Va.
(A)	Miss Eleanor Rawls	800 Wainwright Bldg.	Norfolk, Va.
(A)	Miss B. Marion Shomaker	1005 Edgehill Rd.	Richmond, Va.
(A)	Mr. E.K. Sloane	822 Wainwright Bldg.	Norfolk, Va.
(A)	Miss Betsy Stephens	800 Wainwright Bldg.	Norfolk, Va.
(JR.)	Mr. Paul Sykes	1522 Lafayette Blvd.	Norfolk, Va.
(A)	Miss Elizabeth Thomas	1305 Westover Ave.	Norfolk, Va.
(A)	Mr. M.B. Tillotson	R.F.D. #2, Box 462A	Norfolk, Va.
(A)	Mrs. E.P. Walker	320 W. Clifford St.	Winchester, Va.
(JR.)	Mr. John Withrow	145 N. Princeton Circle,	Lynchburg, Va.

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## VIRGINIA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS - 1952

Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, Va. (Assateague Island south of Maryland line, Chincoteague Causeway, Wattsville, Hornstown, Sinnickson; open farmland 3%, pine and deciduous woodland 10%, bayberry and scrub pine thickets 20%, shallow fresh-water pools 17%, salt marshes and bay shores 35%, ocean beach and mud flats 15%). - Dec. 27; 6:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fair; temp. 28° to 44°; wind N to NW, 2-10 m.p.h.; ground bare, all water open. Four observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours, 19 (16 on foot, 2 by car, 1 in motorboat); total party-miles, 80 (20 on foot, 57 by car, 3 by boat). Common Loon, 6; Red-throated Loon, 9; Red-necked Grebe, 1; Horned Grebe, 88; Pied-billed Grebe, 6; Great Blue Heron, 15; American Bittern, 1; Canada Goose, 633 (600 est., 33); American Brant, 3000 (est.); Mallard, 25; Black Duck, 3485 (3300 est., 185); Gadwall, 100 (est.); American Widgeon, 375 (est.); Pintail, 1600 (est.); Green-winged Teal, 475 (est.); Shoveller, 410 (400 est., 10); American Golden-eye, 1; Duffle-head, 10; White-winged Scoter, 162; Surf Scoter, 229; American Scoter, 15; unidentified scoters, 80 (est.);



Ruddy Duck, 22; Hooded Merganser, 2; Red-breasted Merganser, 10; Turkey Vulture, 96; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Bald Eagle, 2; Marsh Hawk 11; Sparrow Hawk, 3; Clapper Rail, 7; American Coot, 28; Killdeer, 42; Black-bellied Plover, 10; Wilson's Snipe, 1; Greater Yellow-legs, 2; Red-backed Sandpiper, 129; Sanderling, 20; Great Black-backed Gull, 4; Herring Gull, 221; Ring-billed Gull, 390; Mourning Dove, 6; Belted Kingfisher, 4; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 26; Horned Lark, 5 (including 2 Northern); American Crow, 1275 (1150 est., 125); Fish Crow, 4; Carolina Chickadee, 1; Tufted Titmouse, 2; Brown Creeper, 1; House Wren, 1 (F.R.S.); Winter Wren, 1; Carolina Wren, 13; Short-billed Marsh Wren, 1; Catbird, 11; American Robin, 26; Hermit Thrush, 1; Water Pipit, 150 (est.); Common Starling, 259 (200 est., 59); Myrtle Warbler, 644; House Sparrow, 6; Eastern Meadowlark, 69; Red-winged Blackbird, 68; Boat-tailed Grackle, 22; Brown-headed Cowbird, 20; Cardinal, 12; Pine Siskin, 106; American Goldfinch, 25; Eastern Towhee, 7; Ipswich Sparrow, 1; Savannah Sparrow, 24; Sharp-tailed Sparrow, 4; Slate-colored Junco, 6; Field Sparrow, 8; White-throated Sparrow, 12; Swamp Sparrow, 26; Song Sparrow, 60. Total, 78 species; about 14,536 individuals. Many generally common species were scarce or absent on Assateague Island where most of the field work was done. - R;J. Beasley, J.R. Hughes, E.O. Mellinger, F.R. Scott.

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Cape Charles, Va. (town of Cape Charles, area west of Cheriton, and Oyster south to Kiptopeke and Fort Eustis; open farmland 25%, pine and deciduous woodland, 20%, bayberry thickets 5%, salt marshes and mud flats 35%, bay beach 15%). - Dec. 28; 7:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Partly cloudy with snow flurries, clearing in afternoon; temp. 22° to 32°; wind N, 8-30 m.p.h.; ground bare, sheltered ponds and estuaries lightly frozen. One observer alone. Total party-hours, 9 (8 on foot, 1 by car); total party-miles, 58 (8 on foot, 50 by car). Common Loon, 2; Horned Grebe, 7; Great Blue Heron, 10; American Egret, 1; Canada Goose, 43; Mallard, 9; Black Duck, 2; American Widgeon, 17; scaup (sp.), 10 (including 5 Lesser); Oldsquaw, 2; White-winged Scoter, 5; Surf Scoter, 60; American Scoter, 7; Ruddy Duck, 10; Red-breasted Merganser, 1; Turkey Vulture, 173; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 2; Rough-legged Hawk, 1; Bald Eagle, 1; Marsh Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 4; Ringed Plover, 5; Killdeer, 42; Black-bellied Plover, 1; Red-backed Sandpiper, 140; Western Sandpiper, 6; Sanderling, 18; Great Black-backed Gull, 7; Herring Gull, 757 (700 est., 57); Ring-billed Gull, 580 (300 est., 280); Bonaparte's Gull, 1; Barred Owl, 1; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 6; American Crow, 37; Fish Crow, 35; Carolina Chickadee, 8; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 9; Brown Creeper, 1; Carolina Wren, 7; Mockingbird, 1; American Robin, 4; Eastern Bluebird, 6; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1; Loggerhead Shrike, 1; Common Starling, 450 (est.); Myrtle Warbler, 236; House Sparrow, 26; Eastern Meadowlark, 99; Red-winged Blackbird, 30; Boat-tailed Grackle, 9; Brown-headed Cowbird, 150 (est.); Cardinal, 9; Pine Siskin, 8; American Goldfinch, 1; Savannah Sparrow, 4; Sharp-tailed Sparrow, 4; Vesper Sparrow, 3; Slate-colored Junco, 13; Chipping Sparrow, 40 (1 flock); Field Sparrow, 5; White-throated Sparrow, 18; Fox Sparrow, 20; Swamp Sparrow, 28; Song Sparrow, 20. Total, 66 species; about 3,117 individuals. The wind kept most small birds under cover. - F.R. Scott.



Chesapeake Bay, Va. (a 15-mile strip census across the mouth of the Chesapeake, taken from the Little Creek - Kiptopeke Beach Ferry; no closer than 2 miles to land; open <sup>water</sup>/100%). - Dec. 29; 11:25 a.m. to 12:35 p.m. Fair; temp. 30° to 32°; wind SW, 3-7 m.p.h.; water open fairly smooth. One observer alone. Total party-hours 1.17 (by boat); total party-miles, 15 (by boat). Common Loon, 3; Red-throated Loon, 2; Horned Grebe, 20; Gannet, 19; Oldsquaw, 16; White-winged Scoter, 3; Surf Scoter, 340; Am. Scoter, 15; Red-breasted Merganser, 5; Am. Coot, 1 (a solitary bird about in the middle of the census area); Herring Gull, 600 (est.); Ring-billed Gull, 4; Bonaparte's Gull, 21. Total, 13 species; about 1,049 individuals. As has been experienced in the past, almost all the loons, grebes and ducks were seen in the northern half of the area. The Ring-billed Gulls followed the ferry out for several miles but turned back, and none were seen after the first few miles. (Seen in area Dec. 26: Am. Brant, 5; Great Black-backed Gull, 1; Royal Tern, 7. The Brant were in one flock flying in a north-westerly direction. The Royal Terns were also in one flock flying toward the south. On this earlier trip only 4 scoters were seen.) - F.R. Scott.

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Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Va. (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%). Dec. 27, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Partly cloudy until noon, then clear; temp. 40° to 56°; wind 8-10 m.p.h.; ground bare. Eleven observers in two parties. Total party-hours 20 (16 on foot, 2 by car, 2 by motorboat); total party-miles 135 (22 on foot, 110 by car, 3 by boat). Common Loon, 6; Horned Grebe, 2; Pied-billed Grebe, 6; Great Blue Heron, 12; American Egret, 1; American Bittern, 1; Whistling Swan, 2500 (est.); Canada Goose, 5000 (est.); Snow Goose, 4000 (est.); Blue Goose, 7; Mallard, 75; Black Duck, 400; American Widgeon, 20,000 (est.); Pintail, 1000 (est.); Green-winged Teal, 10; Shoveller, 5; Redhead, 1000 (est.); Ring-necked Duck, 300; Canvas-back, 15; Scaup (sp.), 2; American Goldeneye, 3; Buffle-head, 24; White-winged Scoter, 2; Surf Scoter, 17; American Scoter, 13; Ruddy Duck, 200; American Merganser, 5; Red-breasted Merganser, 2; Turkey Vulture, 30; Black Vulture, 13; Red-tailed Hawk, 6; Red-shouldered Hawk, 5; Rough-legged Hawk, 1; Bald Eagle, 6; Marsh Hawk, 17; Pigeon Hawk, 2; Sparrow Hawk, 12; Bob-white, 8; King Rail, 1; Virginia Rail, 1; Coot, 40,000 (est.); Killdeer, 41; Black-bellied Plover, 9; Spotted Sandpiper, 2; Sanderling, 50; Great Black-backed Gull, 13; Herring Gull, 50; Ring-billed Gull, 55; Bonaparte's Gull, 8; Mourning Dove, 35; Screech Owl, 1; Barred Owl, 1; Belted Kingfisher, 2; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 16; Pileated Woodpecker, 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 10; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 10; Eastern Phoebe, 6; Horned Lark, 35; Blue Jay, 3; American Crow, 97; Fish Crow, 8; Carolina Chickadee, 27; Tufted Titmouse, 8; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 9; Brown Creeper, 2; House Wren, 5; Winter Wren, 6; Carolina Wren, 23; Long-billed Marsh Wren, 2; Short-billed Marsh Wren, 12; Mockingbird, 20; Catbird, 13; Brown Thrasher, 2; American Robin, 125; Hermit Thrush, 12; Eastern Bluebird, 41; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 12; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 7; Water Pipit, 80; Loggerhead Shrike, 1; Common Starling, 124; Myrtle Warbler, 500; Pine Warbler, 4; Palm Warbler (Yellow), 1; Common Yellowthroat, 3; House Sparrow, 48; Eastern Meadowlark, 38; Red-winged Blackbird, 1100, (est.); Purple Grackle, 35; Brown-headed Cowbird, 220; Cardinal, 32; Purple Finch, 3;

Pine Siskin, 8; American Goldfinch, 15; Eastern Towhee, 18; Savannah Sparrow, 17; Slate-colored Junco, 57; Tree Sparrow, 6; Chipping Sparrow, 6; Field Sparrow, 54; White-throated Sparrow, 70; Fox Sparrow, 3; Swamp Sparrow, 73; Song Sparrow, 92. Total, 108 species; about 78,096 individuals - Cooper Barefield, Eddie Budnick, Mrs. Floy Burford (compiler) Carl Hacker, Charles Hacker, Dorothy Perkins, Jack Perkins, W.F. Rountrey, Frank Shields, Walter Smith, Bagley Walker.

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Yorktown, Va. (same area as in previous years; open farmland 20%, pine woodland 22%, deciduous woodland 18%, marshes and river shore 40%). Dec. 23, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Partly cloudy to overcast; temp. 34° to 50°; wind NNW, 0-5 m.p.h.; ground bare water open. Three observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours, 19 (17 on foot, 2 by car); total party-miles, 74 (9 on foot, 65 by car). Common Loon, 17; Red-throated Loon, 2; Horned Grebe, 396; Pied-billed Grebe, 20; Double-crested Cormorant, 1; Great Blue Heron, 10; Canada Goose, 60; Mallard, 3; Black Duck, 36; Gadwall, 7; American Widgeon, 1; Pintail, 1; Redhead, 8; Ring-necked Duck, 48; Canvas-back, 140; Scaup (sp.), 435 (including 9 Greater and 30 Lesser); American Goldeneye, 207; Bufflehead, 329; Oldsquaw, 5; White-winged Scoter, 250 (est.); Surf Scoter, 130; American Scoter, 36; Ruddy Duck, 575; Hooded Merganser, 14; Red-breasted Merganser, 30; Turkey Vulture, 32; Black Vulture, 13; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-shouldered Hawk, 2; Bald Eagle, 6; Marsh Hawk, 4; Sparrow Hawk, 2; Bob-white, 3; Clapper Rail, 2; Killdeer, 4; Red-backed Sandpiper, 6; Herring Gull, 31; Ring-billed Gull, 116; Belted Kingfisher, 14; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 17; Pileated Woodpecker, 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 8; Red-headed Woodpecker, 1; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 5; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 12; Eastern Phoebe, 2; Horned Lark (Prairie), 3; Blue Jay, 1; American Crow, 81; Fish Crow, 1; Carolina Chickadee, 52; Tufted Titmouse, 46; White-breasted Nuthatch, 4; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 5; Brown Creeper, 2; Winter Wren, 5; Carolina Wren, 57; Short-billed Marsh Wren, 4; Mockingbird, 8; Catbird, 3; Brown Thrasher, 2; American Robin, 3; Hermit Thrush, 18; Eastern Bluebird, 23; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 25; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 13; Water Pipit, 2; Common Starling, 130 (est.); Myrtle Warbler, 287; Pine Warbler, 5; House Sparrow, 26; Eastern Meadowlark, 21; Red-winged Blackbird, 8250 (est.); Purple Grackle, 3000 (est.); Brown-headed Cowbird, 168 (100 est., 68); Cardinal, 29; Purple Finch, 4; Pine Siskin, 47; American Goldfinch, 77; Eastern Towhee, 37; Savannah Sparrow, 95; Sharp-tailed Sparrow, 7; Slate-colored Junco, 81; Field Sparrow, 33; White-throated Sparrow, 138; Fox Sparrow, 9; Swamp Sparrow, 75; Song Sparrow, 94, Total, 90 species; about 16,017 individuals. - J.H. Grey, Jr., R.B. McCartney, F.R. Scott.

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Richmond, Va. (same area as in previous years, Richmond southeast to Curles Neck; open farmland 35%, pine woodland 20%, deciduous woodland 25%, residential districts 3%, marshes and river shore 8%, brush fields 9%). - Dec. 20; 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Heavily overcast with light, intermittent rain; temp. 36° to 44°; wind ENE, 2-10 m.p.h.; ground bare, water open. Four observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours, 18 (16 on foot, 2 by car); total party-miles, 88 (8 on foot, 80 by car). Pied-billed Grebe, 7; Great Blue Heron, 4; Canada Goose, 4497 (4000 est., 497); Blue Goose, 1; Mallard, 95; Black Duck, 8; American Widgeon, 28; Pintail, 11; Ring-necked Duck, 95;



Ruddy Duck, 14; American Merganser, 1; Turkey Vulture, 8; Black Vulture, 10; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-shouldered Hawk, 5; Bald Eagle, 4; Sparrow Hawk, 8; Bob-white, 10; American Coot, 116; Killdeer, 14; Herring Gull, 10; Ring-billed Gull, 748; Mourning Dove, 32; Belted Kingfisher, 4; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 29; Pileated Woodpecker, 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 10; Red-headed Woodpecker, 2; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 5; Hairy Woodpecker, 8; Downy Woodpecker, 16; Eastern Phoebe, 9; Blue Jay, 17; American Crow, 172; Carolina Chickadee, 34; Tufted Titmouse, 26; White-breasted Nuthatch, 13; Brown Creeper, 9; Winter Wren, 1; Carolina Wren, 56; Mockingbird, 29; Brown Thrasher, 1; American Robin, 72; Hermit Thrush, 27; Eastern Bluebird, 47; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 40; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 7; Water Pipit, 7; Cedar Waxwing, 420 (est.); Loggerhead Shrike, 8; Common Starling, 1054 (1000 est., 54); Myrtle Warbler, 38; House Sparrow, 35; Eastern Meadowlark, 82; Red-winged Blackbird, 172; Brown-headed Cowbird, 850 (est.); Cardinal, 76; Purple Finch, 6; Pine Siskin, 94; American Goldfinch, 31; Eastern Towhee, 15; Slate-colored Junco, 133; Field Sparrow, 21; White-throated Sparrow, 308; Fox Sparrow, 2; Swamp Sparrow, 11; Song Sparrow, 66. Total, 67 species; about 9,792 individuals. (Seen in area Dec. 24: Lesser Scaup, 9.) - Mr. and Mrs. F.R. Scott, C.E. Smith, R.J. Watson.

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Surry, Va., (south side of James River from Scotland to Rushmere, including Hog Island State Wildlife Refuge, Surry and Bacon's Castle; open farmland 15%, pine woodland 30%, deciduous woodland 20%, marshes and river shore 35%). - Dec. 22; 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Overcast; temp. 40° to 45°; wind NNE, 5-20 m.p.h.; ground bare, water open. Four observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours, 19 (17 on foot, 2 by car); total party-miles, 102 (12 on foot, 90 by car). Great Blue Heron, 7; Canada Goose, 750 (est.); Blue Goose, 1; Mallard, 46; Black Duck, 74; Canvas-back 1700 (est.); scaup (sp.), 7; American Golden-eye, 10; Buffle-head, 1; Ruddy Duck, 1193 (550 est., 643); American Merganser, 47; Red-breasted Merganser, 5; Turkey Vulture, 46; Black Vulture, 10; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 2; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 4; Red-shouldered Hawk, 3; Bald Eagle, 6; Marsh Hawk, 3; Sparrow Hawk, 3; Bob-white, 8; Killdeer, 20; Wilson's Snipe, 1; Herring Gull, 17; Ring-billed Gull, 104; Mourning Dove, 18; Barred Owl, 2; Belted Kingfisher, 3; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 15; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 8; Red-headed Woodpecker, 1; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 16; Eastern Phoebe, 4; Blue Jay, 9; American Crow, 131; Carolina Chickadee, 28; Tufted Titmouse, 11; White-breasted Nuthatch, 3; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 10; Brown Creeper, 1; Winter Wren, 3; Carolina Wren, 24; Mockingbird, 12; Catbird, 2; Brown Thrasher, 2; American Robin, 311 (300 est., 11); Hermit Thrush, 5; Eastern Bluebird, 11; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 20; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 2; Loggerhead Shrike, 1; Common Starling, 800 (est.); Myrtle Warbler, 172; Pine Warbler, 3; House Sparrow, 2; Eastern Meadowlark, 1; Red-winged Blackbird, 170,000 (est.); Rusty Blackbird, 4; Purple Grackle, 30,000 (est.); Brown-headed Cowbird, 10,000 (est.); Cardinal, 66; Purple Finch, 2; Pine Siskin, 19; American Goldfinch, 7; Eastern Towhee, 29; Slate-colored Junco, 92; Field Sparrow, 8; White-throated Sparrow, 109; Fox Sparrow, 10; Swamp Sparrow, 10; Song Sparrow, 66. Total, 74 species; about 216,124 individuals. The wind kept the small birds very quiet and many of the ducks on the north side of the river out of the census area. - J.H. Grey, Jr., R.B. McCartney, F.R. Scott, C.C. Steirly.



Waverly, Va. A section of Spring Branch, a tributary of the Blackwater River, and its watershed area between Road 653 and Bryant's Pond, a length of three quarters of a mile. Adjacent area included a pine woods and extensive peanut field to the north and cut-over hardwood forest to the south. Total miles on foot, 4.4. Fields 8.4%, field edges 16.1%, pine forest, 20.0%, upland hardwood forest 20.5%, bottomland hardwood forest and creek 30.5% (13.3% along creek), pond edge 4.5%. Dec. 21, 7:35 to 9:30 a.m. and 11:05 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. (fell into creek while crossing on a log and had to return for dry clothing); total hours afield, 5 hours 35 minutes. Temp. 47° to 52°. Raining at the start, turning gradually into an intermittent drizzle throughout the day. Black Duck, 2; Turkey Vulture, 1; Black Vulture, 2; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-shouldered Hawk, 3; Mourning Dove, 4; Barred Owl, 1; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 14; Pileated Woodpecker, 4; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 3; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 4; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 4; Phoebe, 2; Crow, 30; Carolina Chickadee, 13; Tufted Titmouse, 9; White-breasted Nuthatch, 4; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 2; Brown Creeper, 1; Winter Wren, 6; Carolina Wren, 7; Robin, 28; Hermit Thrush, 3; Bluebird, 8; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 2; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1; Cedar Waxwing, 9; Starling, 30; Myrtle Warbler, 14; Meadowlark, 5; Redwing, (500) and (300), two separate flocks, estimated; Cardinal, 5; Goldfinch, 10; Slate-colored Junco, 15; White-throated Sparrow, 46; Fox Sparrow, 2; Swamp Sparrow, 3; Song Sparrow, 14. Total; 40 species, 1132 individuals. (Observed in area on day prior to census; 3 blue jays, 1 purple grackle.) - C.C. Steirly.

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Fort Belvoir, Va. (Same as last year with the addition of Mount Vernon, including Little Hunting Creek, and Mason's Neck, including Occoquan Creek; also the Maryland side of the Potomac River between Marshall Hall, Mattawoman Creek and Indian Head). Dec. 28; 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Overcast in a.m., clearing at noon; temp. 22° to 31.9°; wind NW, 3-27 m.p.h. Ground bare; river and inlets icefree but skim ice on streams and small ponds. 20 observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours, 53.5 (40.5 on foot, 13 by car), total party-miles, 184.5 (32.5 on foot, 152 by car). Great Blue Heron, 6; Black-crowned Night Heron, 1; Canada Goose, 260; Mallard, 7; Black Duck, 512; Green-winged Teal, 8; Scaup (sp.? ), 1; Lesser Scaup, 1; Bufflehead, 32; Ruddy Duck, 43; American Merganser, 87; Red-breasted Merganser, 1; Turkey Vulture, 130 (90 in one flock); Black Vulture, 5; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 4; Red-tailed Hawk, 13; Red-shouldered Hawk, 6; Bald Eagle, 31; Marsh Hawk, 5; Sparrow Hawk, 6; Bob-white, 17 (2 coveys); Killdeer, 52; Wilson's Snipe, 1; Herring Gull, 266; Ring-billed Gull, 570; Laughing Gull, 1; Mourning Dove, 101; Horned Owl, 2; Barred Owl, 3; Belted Kingfisher, 6; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 36; Pileated Woodpecker, 6; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 35; Red-headed Woodpecker, 2; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 5; Downy Woodpecker, 34; Eastern Phoebe, 1; Horned Lark, 5 (Prairie); Blue Jay, 60; American Crow, 426; Fish Crow, 1; Carolina Chickadee, 90; Tufted Titmouse, 77; White-breasted Nuthatch, 37; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Brown Creeper, 21; Winter Wren, 3; House Wren, 2 (S.A.B.); Carolina Wren, 63; Long-billed Marsh Wren, 13; Mockingbird, 47; American Robin, 17; Hermit Thrush, 2; Gray-cheeked (?) Thrush, 1 (A thrush, believed to be this species, was watched for several minutes through 8x glasses by Mr. I.C. Hoover who described it as all olive-brown above, no reddish on the tail or elsewhere, no buffy color around the face, and small black spots on the chest); Eastern Bluebird, 73; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 141; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 3; Common Starling, 1,527; Myrtle Warbler, 59; Palm Warbler, 1 (Western); Common Yellowthroat, 1;

House Sparrow, 70; Eastern Meadowlark, 36; Red-winged Blackbird, 112; Rusty Blackbird, 92; Brown-headed Cowbird, 16; Cardinal, 93; Purple Finch, 1; Pine Siskin, 183 (8 flocks); American Goldfinch, 209; Eastern Towhee, 12; Savanfish Sparrow, 1; Slate-colored Junco, 865; American Tree Sparrow, 131; Field Sparrow, 96; White-crowned Sparrow, 4 (P.A.D. et al); White-throated Sparrow, 201; Swamp Sparrow, 23; Song Sparrow, 100. Total; 79 species with 1 possible additional species; 7,137 individuals. - J.M. Abbott (compiler), P. Bartsch, S.A. Briggs, P.A. DuMont, P.G. DuMont, M. Gilbert, E. Hall, E.J. Hayward, Mr. & Mrs. I.C. Hoover, J.E. Johnson, C.N. Mason, W.P. Mull, D. Pierce, F.H. Stacksteder, G. Sigel, H.A. Sutton, Mr. & Mrs. R.L. Tousey, C.C. Wall.

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Charlottesville, Va. (Henley's, Whitehall, Albemarle, Bellair, Thraves, city reservoir, woolen mills, 9 miles along Rivanna and South Rivanna from Burnt Mills to town; same area as last year with addition of city reservoir; farmland 30%, lakes and ponds 25%, river-bottom 25%, deciduous woods 15%, pine woods 5%). Dec. 21, 6:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Overcast at start, with light rain ending in morning; partially clear by mid-afternoon; temp. 38° to 54°; wind none at start, NW 5-10 m.p.h. at finish. Ground bare; ponds unfrozen. Five observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours, 19 (13 on foot, 6 by car); total party-miles, 57 (16 on foot, 41 by car). Horned Grebe, 1; Great Blue Heron, 2; Mallard, 120 (est.); Black Duck, 42; (40 est., 2); Turkey Vulture, 10; Cooper's Hawk, 3; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Marsh Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 2; Bob-white, 6 (1 covey); Mourning Dove, 183; Belted Kingfisher, 2; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 18; Pileated Woodpecker, 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 7; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 20; Phoebe, 11; Horned Lark, 25; Blue Jay, 24; Crow, 720 (580 est., 140); Fish Crow, 4; Carolina Chickadee, 60; Tufted Titmouse, 23; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Winter Wren, 10; Carolina Wren, 46; Mockingbird, 21; Hermit Thrush, 4; Eastern Bluebird, 16; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 45; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 3; Shrike, 5; Common Starling, 426 (275 est., 151); Myrtle Warbler, 13; House Sparrow, 32; Eastern Meadowlark, 40; Brown-headed Cowbird, 5; Cardinal, 119; Purple Finch, 27; Pine Siskin, 3; American Goldfinch, 203 (160 est., 43); Eastern Towhee, 5; Slate-colored Junco, 299; American Tree Sparrow, 9; Field Sparrow, 101; White-crowned Sparrow, 9; White-throated Sparrow, 139; Fox Sparrow, 7; Swamp Sparrow, 7; Song Sparrow, 112. Total, 52 species; about 2,999 individuals. - Mrs. Colgate W. Darden, Jr., Mrs. Charles Gregory, David Gregory, Kenneth Lawless, Robert J. Watson (compiler).

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Sweet Briar, Va. (Sweet Briar College property and adjacent area, radius of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles; open fields 30%, scrub 30%, brushy creek bottoms 25%, mixed woodland 10%, lake edge 5%). - Dec. 28; 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Clear all day; temp. 20° to 35°; wind negligible. Five observers in 1 party in a.m., two observers in one party in p.m. Total hours,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  (all on foot); total miles, 8. Turkey Vulture, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Mourning Dove, 50 (est.); Horned Owl, 1; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Flicker, 6; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 4; Red-headed Woodpecker, 12; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 4; Downy Woodpecker, 3; Blue Jay, 9; Crow, 175 (est.); Carolina Chickadee, 13; Tufted Titmouse, 5; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Carolina Wren, 6; Mockingbird, 6; Robin, 12;



Hermit Thrush, 1; Bluebird, 4; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 2; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 3; Starling, 1000 (est.); Myrtle Warbler, 20; Meadowlark, 4; Cardinal, 11; Goldfinch, 3; Towhee, 2; Slate-colored Junco, 53; Field Sparrow, 7; White-crowned Sparrow, 40 (est.); White-throated Sparrow, 16; Swamp Sparrow, 2; Song Sparrow, 20. Total, 35 species; about 1504 individuals. (Seen in area during count period: Black Vulture, 3; Sparrow Hawk, 2; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Brown Creeper, 1; Purple Finch, 1). - Samuel B. Guss, David Guss, Robert Giles, Ernest Edwards, Gertrude Prior.

An interesting feature in connection with our observance of the Pileated was the fact that the bird clung to the trunk of an oak tree and turned its head backward to bite off berries of a poison ivy vine growing up a sapling beside the oak. EGP.

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Danville, Va. (Danville Airport area to Dan River, Country Club area to Wimbush, Ballou Park. Open fields, 50%, bottomland woods 35%, upland woods 10%, lakeside 5%.) Dec. 27, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Overcast in morning, clearing around 12; wind 5-25 m.p.h.; temp. 34° to 46°. Total hours, 6 (1 by car, 5 on foot). Black Duck, 3; Ring-necked Duck, 5; Turkey Vulture, 9; Sparrow Hawk, 2; Killdeer, 2; Flicker, 3; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Phoebe, 1; Horned Lark, 13; Crow, 16; Carolina Chickadee, 3; Tufted Titmouse, 3; Winter Wren 1; Carolina Wren, 3; Mockingbird, 4; Bluebird, 13; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 7; Starling, 65; English Sparrow, 21; Meadowlark, 10; Cardinal, 6; Goldfinch, 8; Towhee, 6; Savannah Sparrow, 1; Field Sparrow, 2; Slate-colored Junco, 67; White-throated Sparrow, 51; Swamp Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 10. Total species, 30; individuals, 338. - Robert Eggleston, Royster Lyle, Jr.

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Shenandoah National Park, Va. (7½ mile radius centering on Skyland and including Park Hq. area, U.S. Rt. 211 from west Park boundary to Thornton Gap area, Skyline Drive to Big Meadows, Rapidan Road to Moover Camp, and the Limberlost area; deciduous woods 60%, semi-open fields and old house sites 25%, hemlock woods 10%, pine woods 5%). - Dec. 26, 7:10 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Clear; temp. 30° to 40°; wind SW, 0-8 m.p.h.; ground bare. Three observers in 1-3 parties. Total party-hours, 9½ (5½ on foot, 4 by car); total party-miles, 87½ (3½ on foot, 84 by car). Turkey Vulture, 43; Black Vulture, 4; Red-tailed Hawk, 2; Ruffed Grouse, 1; Wilson's Snipe, 1 (P.G.F.); Downy Woodpecker, 3; Blue Jay, 6; Raven, 5; Crow, 28; Carolina Chickadee, 11; Tufted Titmouse, 9; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Winter Wren, 1; Carolina Wren, 4; Mockingbird, 3; American Robin, 3; Hermit Thrush, 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 9; Cedar Waxwing, 2; Common Starling, 9; Myrtle Warbler, 2; House Sparrow, 16; Cardinal, 14; Purple Finch, 31; Pine Siskin, 9; American Goldfinch, 25; Slate-colored Junco, 55; Field Sparrow, 7; White-throated Sparrow, 32; Song Sparrow, 3. Total, 30 species, 342 individuals. - Paul G. Favour, Jr. (compiler), James E. Liles, Maurice Sullivan.

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Harrisonburg, Va. (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 saturated due to previous rains. Dec. 24, 8:18 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. At beginning the sky was clear with a few cirro-nimbus clouds, also a low fog; temp. 37°; mild southeast wind; noon, sky same as beginning, no fog; temp. 55°; mild southeast wind; close, sky clear with few cirro-stratus clouds; temp. 48°; mild southeast wind. Two observers working together within calling distance. Total hours, 7½ on foot; total miles, 24. Turkey Vulture, 51; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Bob-white, 15; Mourning Dove, 12; Red-headed Woodpecker, 2; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 4; Blue Jay, 5; Crow, 35; Carolina Chickadee, 19; Tufted Titmouse, 27; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Brown Creeper, 1; Carolina Wren, 9; Mockingbird, 19; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 7; Starling, 34; House Sparrow, 122; Cardinal, 32; Purple Finch, 3; Goldfinch, 72; Towhee, 2; Slate-colored Junco, 94; Tree Sparrow, 34; Field Sparrow, 9; White-throated Sparrow, 12; Song Sparrow, 2. Total, 27 species; 626 individuals. - Daniel B. Suter, D. Ralph Hostetter.

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Lexington, Va. (same area as in previous years, including lower slopes of White Rock Mountain; open pasture, oak woods, cedar thickets, scrub, three ponds). Dec. 23, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., one hour at noon). Cloudy; temp. 40° to 42°; no snow, ponds and river open; practically no wind. Observers in three parties. Total party-hours, 27 (3 by car, 24 on foot); total party-miles, 104 (80 by car, 24 on foot). Pied-billed Grebe, 2; Great Blue Heron, 1; Black Duck, 8; Mallard, 6; Ring-necked Duck, 1; Turkey Vulture, 12; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 2; Sparrow Hawk, 5; Bob-white, 6; Killdeer, 1; Woodcock, 1; Wilson's Shipe, 4; Mourning Dove, 10; Screech Owl, 4; Kingfisher, 2; Flicker, 11; Pileated Woodpecker, 9; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 7; Red-headed Woodpecker, 3; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 3; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 21; Phoebe, 3; Horned Lark, 14; Blue Jay, 23; Raven, 2; Crow, 443; Carolina Chickadee, 83; Appalachian Chickadee, 2; Tufted Titmouse, 24; White-breasted Nuthatch, 9; Brown Creeper, 2; House Wren, 1; Winter Wren, 3; Carolina Wren, 26; Mockingbird, 29; Bluebird, 20; Hermit Thrush, 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 17; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1; Cedar Waxwing, 16; Migrant Shrike, 5; Starling, 539; Myrtle Warbler, 26; English Sparrow, 77; Meadowlark, 31; Rusty Blackbird, 1; Cardinal, 148; Purple Finch, 7; Goldfinch, 75; Towhee, 2; Junco, 268; Tree Sparrow, 51; Field Sparrow, 40; White-crowned Sparrow, 15; White-throated Sparrow, 150; Song Sparrow, 49. Total species, 58; individuals, 2329. (The House Wren is a first winter record for the Valley, although there is one for Blacksburg. A Canada Goose was seen in the area on Dec. 22.) - R.P. Carroll, Jack Lackmann, David Foster, Brooke Mallory, Jr., J.J. Murray, J.J. Murray, Jr., Robert O. Paxton, Jan W. Owen.

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Roanoke, Va. Territory same as in past years except Bennett Springs. Dec. 27, 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Clear; fairly high wind; temp. in upper 40's. Mallard, 1; Black Duck, 16; Green-winged Teal, 2; Redhead Duck, 1; Turkey Vulture, 6; Black Vulture, 2; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Bald Eagle, 1; Bob-white, 22; Coot, 12; Killdeer, 1; Mourning Dove, 9; Screech Owl, 1; Flicker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 3; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Blue Jay, 3; Crow, 8; Chickadee, 3; Tufted Titmouse, 2; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1;

Carolina Wren, 1; Mockingbird, 5; Bluebird, 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 3; Shrike, 1; Starling, 250 (est.); Meadowlark, 2; Cardinal, 8; Goldfinch, 2; White-crowned Sparrow, 6; White-throated Sparrow, 8; Song Sparrow, 6; Junco, 25 (est.); English Sparrow, 6; Total species, 35; individuals, 423. (A flock of 350-500 ducks was observed at Carvins Cove. Mallard and Black Ducks were identified in the flock.) - A.O. English, Dr. Perry Kendig.

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Abingdon, Va. (area same as last year; farmland and pastures 30%, deciduous woodland 15%, mixed pine and deciduous woodland 20%, marsh and creek bottoms 20%, lake 15%). Dec. 27, 6:45 a.m. to 5:50 p.m. Cloudy, clearing in afternoon; temp. 26° to 38°; wind SW to W, 5-20 m.p.h. Lake and streams free of ice, no snow, marshes partially frozen. One observer. Total hours, 10 $\frac{1}{2}$  (9 $\frac{3}{4}$  on foot,  $\frac{1}{4}$  by car); total miles, 16 (9 on foot, 7 by car). Pied-billed Grebe, 2; Great Blue Heron, 1; Mallard, 29; Hooded Merganser, 2; Turkey Vulture, 50; Black Vulture, 21; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 3; Sora, 1 (heard in a cattail marsh where it has been seen several times in previous winters); Killdeer, 13; Wilson's Snipe, 1; Mourning Dove, 33; Screech Owl, 1; Horned Owl, 1; Barred Owl, 1; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 7; Pileated Woodpecker, 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 3; Phoebe, 2; Horned Lark, 21; Blue Jay, 11; Crow, 35; Carolina Chickadee, 29; Tufted Titmouse, 11; White-breasted Nuthatch, 3; Carolina Wren, 20; Mockingbird, 7; Eastern Bluebird, 10; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 2; Shrike, 1; Starling, 3900 (3700/100, 200); House Sparrow, 44; Eastern Meadowlark, 10; Red-winged Blackbird, 30; Cardinal, 28; Goldfinch, 33; Towhee, 2; Junco, 75; Field Sparrow, 65; White-crowned Sparrow, 2; Swamp Sparrow, 2; Song Sparrow, 43. Total, 44 species; about 4560 individuals. - Stephen M. Russell.

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Mt. Rogers, Va. (area same as last two years; elevation range 4400 to 5719 ft.; deciduous forest 40%, grassy fields 32%, spruce-fir forest 28%). Dec. 28, 6:45 a.m. to 5:10 p.m. Clear; temp. 11° to 26°; wind NW to W, 0-12 m.p.h. no snow below 5200 ft., about 3 in. hard crusted snow on top streams partially frozen over. Two observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours, 19 $\frac{1}{2}$  (all on foot), total party-miles, 25 (on foot). Ruffed Grouse, 18; Hairy Woodpecker, 7; Downy Woodpecker 12; Raven, 4; Crow, 7; Chickadee (sp.), 6; Tufted Titmouse, 6; White-breasted Nuthatch, 5; Red-breasted Nuthatch 36; Robin, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 2; Purple Finch, 27; Pine Siskin, 68; Goldfinch, 1; Red Crossbill, 1; Slate-colored Junco, 33; Snow Bunting, 2 (pair observed closely in rocky grassy field at 5100 ft. on Briar Ridge, large amount of white in wings and typical call note were noted by observer familiar with species - S.M.R.). Total, 17 species; 236 individuals. - Fred W. Behrend, Stephen M. Russell.

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# The Raven

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## NOTES ON BIRDS AROUND FRONT ROYAL, VIRGINIA

By John W. Taylor

Pied-billed Grebe. As in the rest of the state. The only exceptional record is that of a pair that spent the latter part of the summer of 1948 from early August to September on the Shenandoah River.

Double-crested Cormorant. One bird observed the week of May 29, 1949, along the Shenandoah.

Great Blue Heron. Regular permanent resident.

American Common Egret. Common during the months of July, August, September.

Little Blue Heron. Common, perhaps more so than the Egret, during the late summer months.

Eastern Green Heron. Common to abundant summer resident.

American Black-crowned Night Heron. Regular visitor in summer, most of the birds being in the immature plumage.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron. One observed May 29, 1949, near Riverton.

Blue-winged Teal. Common migrant in spring and fall. Several, September 8, 1950.

Wood Duck. Abundant breeder. Young birds seen from the second week of May.

American Merganser. One fine male on June 14, 1947, apparently in healthy condition.

Turkey Vulture. As in the rest of the state.

Black Vulture. Infrequently, but more increasingly noticed in the area.

Sharp-shinned Hawk. Seen only during the fall migration.

Cooper's Hawk. Common in migration, and nests also, since a pair of birds were present in two summers.

Eastern Red-tailed Hawk. Common in migration and fairly common breeder.

Northern Broad-winged Hawk. Abundant during fall migration flights and common in spring movements. Birds seen in July and August indicate that it breeds, although they may have been early migrants.

Southern Bald Eagle. One passed down the river on September 4, 1950.

American Osprey. Seen regularly throughout the summer months, although no evidence of breeding.

Northern Sparrow Hawk. Fairly common resident.



Ruffed Grouse. Recorded regularly in the wilder sections of the area.

Eastern Bob-white. As in the rest of the state.

Northern Virginia Rail. One seen, May 20, 1949, in river-bank tangles.

Florida Gallinule. One seen May 29, 1949.

American Coot. Migrant. Two seen November 9, 1947.

Killdeer. Common breeding bird, probably occurring in the winter, also.

Spotted Sandpiper. Common summer resident.

Eastern Solitary Sandpiper. Uncommon migrant in July, August.

American Herring Gull. Seen twice in late summer, migrating down the river; dates lost.

Eastern Mourning Dove. Common in summer, somewhat less so in winter.

Eastern Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Common summer resident.

Black-billed Cuckoo. Rare in summer. Definitely less common than the Yellow-bill. More apt to be seen in migration than in summer.

Eastern Screech Owl. Fairly common summer resident.

Eastern Horned Owl. Fairly common resident.

Eastern Whip-poor-will. Formerly more common than at present. Now only fairly common; once common to abundant.

Nighthawk. Breeds in town nearby. Flocks of up to 50 seen in August and early September.

Chimney Swift. Common to abundant summer resident.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Common summer resident.

Eastern Belted Kingfisher. Fairly common summer resident. Sometimes seen in winter.

Yellow-shafted Flicker. Seen at all seasons, but is only common in migrations..

Pileated Woodpecker. Fairly common breeding bird where there is sufficient timber. Seen more frequently and in less deep woods during the winter months.

Eastern Hairy Woodpecker. Uncommon permanent resident.

Northern Downy Woodpecker. Common resident throughout the year.

Eastern Kingbird. Very common breeder.

Northern Crested Flycatcher. Uncommon summer resident.

Eastern Phoebe. Common nesting species, occurring well into the fall, often until November.

Least Flycatcher. Fairly common transient. (Fall)

Eastern Wood Pewee. Very common summer resident.

Horned Lark. (sp.?) Occasional winter visitor.

Common Bank Swallow. Fairly common summer resident, though no nesting site has been discovered.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow. Common summer resident.

American Barn Swallow. As in the rest of the state. A common breeder.

Eastern Cliff Swallow. Nesting in 1951 and 1952, beneath a bridge spanning a stream about two miles east of Riverton.

Northern Purple Martin. No nesting birds in immediate vicinity, Several in other valley towns.

Northern Blue Jay. Regular, but not very common/<sup>permanent</sup>resident.

Northern Common Raven. Noted on Massanutten Mountain, near Strasburg, in summer, 1952.

Southern Common Crow. As in the rest of the state.

Northern Carolina Chickadee. Common permanent resident.

Tufted Titmouse. Fairly common resident.

Eastern White-breasted Nuthatch. Common nesting species. Regular in the winter.

Red-breasted Nuthatch. Irregular winter visitor.

House Wren. (Probably Ohio House Wren). Common summer resident.

Eastern Winter Wren. Regular winter visitor.

Bewick's Wren. No definite nesting evidence, but a few birds have been seen during the nesting months.

Northern Carolina Wren. As in the rest of the state.

Eastern Mockingbird. Common summer resident in nearby towns.

Catbird. Common to abundant nesting species.

Eastern Brown Thrasher. Fairly common summer resident.

Southern Robin. As in the rest of the state.



Wood Thrush. Common breeding species.

Eastern Common Bluebird. Common in summer, less so in winter.

Eastern Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher. A very common breeder in areas near the river, consisting chiefly of locust, chestnut, scruboak, and Virginia pine.

Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglet. Winter visitor, fairly common to common.

Cedar Waxwing. Common nesting species, more common in summer than in winter.

Migrant Shrike. Fairly common in summer. Winter status unknown.

Common Starling. As in the rest of the state.

Northern White-eyed Vireo. Seen only once in the summer, but is perhaps more common.

Yellow-throated Vireo. Regular, but not common, summer resident.

Mountain Solitary Vireo. Seen at a little over 1000 feet along slope of Massanutten Mountain, July 1952.

Red-eyed Vireo. As in the rest of the state.

Warbling Vireo. One record, in August; probably a migrant.

Black and White Warbler. Common summer resident.

Parula Warbler. Fairly common in summer.

Eastern Yellow Warbler. Common to abundant summer resident.

Magnolia Warbler. Common transient, but lack of observation results in September records only.

Eastern Myrtle Warbler. One record in November indicates that it is a regular winter visitor. (Only two or three field trips during the winter months.)

Northern Pine Warbler. Common summer resident in suitable habitat.

Northern Prairie Warbler. Fairly common summer resident.

Eastern Ovenbird. Common summer resident.

Louisiana Waterthrush. Fairly common along the river and its tributary creeks during the summer.

Maryland Yellow-throat. Common summer resident.

Eastern Yellow-breasted Chat. Common summer resident.

American Redstart. Common to abundant summer resident.

European House Sparrow. As in the rest of the state.

Eastern Common Meadowlark. Common resident, perhaps less so in winter than in summer.

Eastern Redwing. Common to abundant summer resident. Winter status unknown.

Orchard Oriole. Very common summer resident.

Baltimore Oriole. Rather common summer resident, but not so common as the preceding species.

Purple Crow Blackbird. Fairly common in summer, but the flocks that gather in late summer attest to its abundance as a breeding bird, since they do not appear to be migrating birds. More common in migrations.

Eastern Common Cowbird. Resident in summer. Have seen young birds being fed by Indigo Bunting and Yellow Warbler.

Scarlet Tanager. Common summer resident. The two tanagers appear to be about equally as common in the area, often in the same woods.

Eastern Summer Tanager. Common in summer. Latest record, September 12. Nests in same woods as the Scarlet, but also frequents open scrub oak and pine areas where that bird is not seen.

Eastern Cardinal. As in the rest of the state. Common to abundant resident.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Seen several times on fall migrations.

Indigo Bunting. Very abundant summer resident.

Pine Siskin. Recorded in November (9) on one of the few winter trips made to the area.

Eastern Goldfinch. Common in summer. Also seen regularly in winter.

Red-eyed Towhee. Common to abundant summer resident. Less common, even rare, at other seasons.

Grasshopper Sparrow. Fairly common summer resident.

Vesper Sparrow. Fairly common summer resident.

Eastern Lark Sparrow. Seen twice on the same date. July 4 in 1947, 1948. Probably it occurs more frequently than noticed.

Slate-colored Junco. Common to abundant in winter.

Eastern Chipping Sparrow. Common to abundant summer resident around open areas.



Song Sparrow. Common to abundant in summer. Winters, but general status during winter months unknown.

-- St. Mary's Seminary  
600 N. Paca Street  
Baltimore, Maryland

(These notes are of special interest, since we have so few records from the lower Shenandoah Valley. - Editor)

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#### KITTIWAKE ADDED TO THE VIRGINIA LIST

By Mrs. Floy C. Burford

On January 3, 1953, my son, Cooper Barefield and Mr. Burford were fishing in Broad Bay (near Lynnhaven Inlet) when they noticed a small Gull that was unable to fly. Cooper caught the bird and brought it home, thinking it was Bonaparte's Gull because of its size. I identified the bird as an Immature Kittiwake and called W.F. Rountrey and F.C. Richardson who verified my identification. We tried to feed the bird but it refused to eat and the next morning it was dead. I could find no outwardly cause for its death.

I understand that about three weeks later, Mr. E.K. Sloane of Norfolk, found another immature Kittiwake dead on the beach near Back Bay Wildlife Refuge. We have both birds in a deep freezer and they will be mounted for the museum.

This species is a new record for Princess Anne County and, I believe, a new record for the State.

-- Norfolk, Virginia

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#### BLUE GOOSE NEAR DAYTON

By D. Ralph Hostetter

Since last fall a Blue Goose has made itself at home with the domesticated ducks and geese on the farm of Amos Coffman, about six miles east of Dayton, Virginia. Some time ago, Mr. Coffman mentioned that a strange bird was associating with his ducks and geese on his farm pond. He described the bird and I was fairly certain that it was an immature specimen. Very recently he noticed that the bird was changing color, becoming white about the head. On Saturday, March 14, a group of students and I went to the pond and immediately identified the bird as an immature Blue Goose assuming the adult plumage. It is very tame; Mr. Coffman fed it corn with the other ducks and geese; we were within eight feet of the goose.

A female Old Squaw was reported on Silver Lake at Dayton on Sunday, March 15, but I did not see it. It left with a flock of Pintails just before my arrival at the lake.

## LAPLAND LONGSPURS IN BACK BAY REGION, PRINCESS ANNE COUNTY

By Mrs. Floy C. Burford

On Sunday afternoon, March 8, 1953 (a very cold day with snow flurries), 35 of the above species were observed by the writer and my son, Cooper, and Mr. Burford. The Longspurs were first noticed as they settled in a plowed field just east of the Tabernacle Methodist Church, near the American Lotus Pond. I heard their familiar "rattle" as they settled down on the field, and was able to observe them feeding within 15 feet. They seemed oblivious to our watching them, and were reluctant to fly when I flushed them to observe the tail pattern and to listen again to their "rattle" as they settled a short distance from us.

I have observed these birds each year at Memphis, Tennessee, for the past eight years and am quite familiar with them. I have checked every flock of Pipits and Horned Larks this year, hoping to find the Longspurs but no luck until last Sunday, March 8.

About an hour later, on our return from Sandbridge - we stopped at the same field and watched them for about 15 minutes at close range with 7x50 and 10x50 binoculars.

Upon reaching home, I immediately called Mr. Rountrey to go see the birds and collect one if possible - he reached the field very late and was unable to locate them. However, we are still hopeful for a specimen.

Lester Walsh observed one of these birds at Back Bay on January 2, 1949, and other observations have been noted in various parts of the state (Virginia Check-list). I believe this to be the second record in this county.

-- 108 Lake Terrace Cl.  
Norfolk 2, Virginia

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## A STRANGE HUMMINGBIRD IN NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

By Arthur B. Fuller

On November 30, 1952, I was astonished to see a Hummingbird around one of my abelia shrubs in our yard at Jamesville, and especially as we were having a cold spell with temperature well below freezing the night before, 29°F. There was a cold N.W. wind blowing, bright sun and 40°F at 2:30 P.M. Sunday. Our place is sheltered by a large Pine grove and a few feet from the abelia a pyracantha loaded with bright orange berries.

On getting within a few feet I noticed that the bird was distinctly brownish and at 25 ft. when back to me the spread tail was about the color of dry pine needles and only slightly tipped with white; Tail not forked and rather short. The back showed increasing rufous toward the tail and only slightly washed or flecked with greenish toward head. The front view showed a very indistinct grayish collar; breast whitish; bill not conspicuous. When the bird was perched it looked pale brownish in general color. It was rather



nervous and wary. The bird was quite unlike our Ruby-throat and I can only identify it as a Rufous Hummingbird.

-- Jamesville, Northampton County  
Virginia

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#### THE 1952 SPRING SEASON IN VIRGINIA

By F.R. Scott

(For those interested in the source of the records appearing in this series of articles, most of the records are forwarded to this writer by Dr. J.J. Murray after he has prepared his column of the Middle Atlantic States (with Julian K. Potter) in Audubon Field Notes. Other records are taken from the Appalachian Region by Maurice Brooks in the same magazine.

(The Atlantic Naturalist, published by the Audubon Society of the District of Columbia, always has much material from northern Virginia and the Eastern Shore. Very often, however, the observers are not mentioned, even for some of the more unusual records, and for more details on particular records readers are urged to contact the Statistical Records Committee of the Society, Box 202, Benjamin Franklin Station, Washington 4, D.C.

(The Migrant, published by the Tennessee Ornithological Society, often contains records from southwest Virginia, since there is a chapter of this Society at Bristol.

(Observers living west of the Blue Ridge who report quarterly to Maurice Brooks are urged to send this writer a carbon copy of their reports.)

The weather was generally warmer than usual, especially in April, while precipitation for the period was some 40% over normal (National Airport data). An abnormal number of early transients were reported, which might indicate birds that had wintered north of their usual range. The preceding winter marked the fourth successive one that was above normal in temperature.

Loons to Anhinga. A Common Loon was present on a small fish pond at Naruna, Campbell County, May 19-21 (Bertha Daniel). R.J. Beasley and R.A. Glassel reported 10 Red-throated Loons at Seaford, York County, on March 10. The only inland record of this species was one at Henley's Lake, Albemarle County, on May 29 (C.E. Stevens, R.J. Watson). A flock of Gannets seen from the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay on March 23 (Northumberland County) is an unusual record from the Northern Neck. Lack of records may be due, however, to lack of field work in that region. The outstanding record of the season was a female Anhinga at Stumpy Lake, Norfolk, on May 5 (W.F. Rountrey), the third satisfactory sight record for the state.

Hérons to Ducks. The Snowy Egret that appeared at Hampton on February 6 remained until April 9 (Beasley, Mrs. L. Machen). The D.C. Audubon Society recorded 31 Snowy Egrets at Chincoteague and Wachapreague on May 10 (2 parties of the annual spring census).

Four Whistling Swans were found at Alexandria on March 22. There was a good duck flight at Lexington, including a male Gadwall, March 10-17 (J.J. Murray). C.C. Steirly found a pair of Blue-winged Teal with 3 young near Waverly, Sussex County, on May 4. This seems to be the first breeding record for the state away from the immediate vicinity of the ocean. The maximum count for this species at Grandview, Hampton, was 46 on March 29 (Beasley). A European Widgeon at Old Point Comfort on March 1 was especially notable (S. Mitchell and others). Three Shovellers remained at Grandview from March 15 to April 9 (Beasley). A very late Canvas-back was seen at Alexandria on May 24, and a late Ruddy Duck at New Alexandria on May 10.

Hawks. An early Broad-winged Hawk was found at Pine Ridge on March 31 and a late Rough-legged Hawk at Arlington, April 18 (Mary E. Kerr). Beasley reported a Duck Hawk at Newport News on March 1, and there were two records of Pigeon Hawks away from the coast, one at Arlington on May 10 and another at New Alexandria on May 12. Both of these dates seem to be much later than usual.

Shorebirds. J.H. Grey found 11 Oystercatchers at Cobbs Island on March 11, a very early date. A Golden Plover was seen at Chincoteague on May 10 (Miss Dorry Loesges, E.T. McKnight, and others) and May 11 (Mr. & Mrs. E.A. Power). This seems to be the first spring record for Virginia. Hudsonian Curlews continue to be seen in large numbers on the Eastern Shore; the D.C. Audubon Society trip on May 10 found 272 at Chincoteague and Wachapreague. An early Upland Sandpiper was reported at McLean, near Alexandria, on March 26 (R.R. Kerr, J. Terborgh, and others), and a very early Solitary Sandpiper at Plymouth Haven, also near Alexandria, on March 23 (J.M. Abbott). J.R. Sydnor and others found a Spotted Sandpiper in Whiteoak Canyon, Shenandoah National Park, on May 24, apparently the first Park record for the species. A Pectoral Sandpiper at Four-Mile Run, near Alexandria, on March 30 (J. Terborgh) was quite early. The following records of White-rumped Sandpipers were reported: 1 at Chincoteague on May 10; 3 on James River in Buckingham County, May 16 (Stevens); and 1 at Alexandria on May 31. J.K. Merritt found a Red-backed Sandpiper at Alexandria on April 20, an unusual inland record.

Jaeger to Auks. R.A. Sieder saw a Parasitic Jaeger from the Kiptopeke Ferry on May 7. Since the dates of occurrence in Virginia of the Great Black-backed Gull do not seem to be well defined, it may be of interest to record the report of one at Wachapreague on May 10. This was definitely a "gull" spring at Lexington (Murray). Ring-billed Gulls were seen on April 24 and 26, and a Laughing Gull on March 11, the first record for the Great Valley. Bonaparte's Gulls were seen on April 26 and May 1-4. A Common Tern was found on May 20 (R.O. Paxton) and Black Terns in full breeding plumage on May 11 and 19. Elsewhere, 5 Forster's Terns were seen at Newport News on March 12 (Grey) and 36 at the same place on March 20 (Glassel). The only report of a Caspian Tern away from the coast was one at Dyke on April 19 (P.A. DuMont). Black Terns were found in Albemarle County on May 7 (Stevens), near Newport News on May 7 (Beasley) and at New Alexandria on May 10. A "few" dead Razor-billed Auks were found along the beach at Back Bay, March 21-22 (J.E. Perkins). No live birds were seen.

Passerine Birds. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was reported at Arlington on May 30 (L. Griffin). There were 5 reports of Traill's Flycatchers about Alexandria, Arlington and Pine Ridge, May 22-21, and one seen at Big Meadows, Shenandoah National Park, on May 24 (Favour). Olive-sided



Flycatchers were reported in Shenandoah National Park on May 10 (I.C. and C.M. Hoover) and at Arlington on May 17. Swallows at Lexington on March 24 included Tree, Rough-winged and Barn, the earliest local arrival date for all three. Two Bewick's Wrens were seen at Arlington on March 18 (E. Knudson) and another on May 8. Short-billed Marsh Wrens remained in Albemarle County until June 2, but apparently did not nest (Stevens). Late thrushes at Arlington included a Hermit on May 14 and a Gray-cheeked on May 28 and June 2. There was an unusual number of Philadelphia Vireos at Charlottesville between May 9 and 21 (Mrs. Hewson Michie and others). Blue-winged Warblers were noted on five occasions totalling 7 birds at Arlington and Alexandria April 29 to May 6. Murray had a Tennessee Warbler at Lexington on May 16, the fourth local spring record. A Connecticut Warbler at Abingdon (S.M. Russell - date?) and a Mourning Warbler at Lebanon on May 10 (Helen M. Runkel, K.L. Trever) were noteworthy.

Four Dickcissels were found at Pine Ridge on May 10, the first Virginia record reported for two years. Evening Grosbeaks seemed to increase in numbers somewhat in April, and were last seen at Blacksburg on May 14 and at Waynesboro and Arlington on May 21. During this invasion a total of 682 were banded in the Arlington region. After only a few winter reports Pine Siskins increased in May, being present at Charlottesville until May 21 (Stevens). In Shenandoah National Park they were last seen on May 24 (Beasley and Favour) with a maximum of 52 on May 10 (I.C. and C.M. Hoover). White-crowned Sparrows were noted on five occasions in and near Arlington, the latest date being May 23. The maximum was 5 on May 8 (Terborgh). Lincoln's Sparrows were reported at Alexandria and Four-Mile Run on May 10, and at New Alexandria (2 birds) on May 12.

-- Richmond, Virginia

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#### FROM THE PRESIDENT'S FILES

The Society was grieved to learn of the death of Mrs. Alexander Wetmore. An expression of sympathy, in the name of the Society, was sent to Dr. Wetmore.

Our Treasurer, W. Edwin Miller, has informed me of various donations that have been made to the Virginia Society of Ornithology. These gifts are greatly appreciated and it is very thoughtful of the donors to remember the Society. Our membership dues are low and it may not be wise to raise them, especially so if the membership can help by contributions occasionally or regularly. Something to think about!

Spring calls us to the field. We are mindful of the several trips being planned for the Society in the interest of bird study and fellowship. May we allow nothing to interfere with our attendance at the Annual Meeting in Arlington in May. The Blue Ridge trip in June, under the sponsorship of Mr. Paul G. Favour, Jr., should appeal to many. Considerable interest was expressed in a trip to Eastern Shore again this summer. Many members, myself included, have never participated in this trip. By mail the Executive Committee unanimously agreed to plan for such trip, probably in August. It was

suggested that the committee consider the area about Wachapreague or Chincoteague for this summer's trip. The committee which is charged with the responsibility for making the decision and plans consists of Charles C. Steirly, Chairman, John H. Grey, Ray Beasley. I note that Mrs. Smith in her article - THE HAMPTON ROADS BIRD CLUB - comments on the VSO field trips to the effect that they provide a "definite stimulant for interest". We all need this type of stimulation and a growing membership will logically be the result. Where there is activity there is interest and growth.

The National Audubon Society is conducting three Audubon Camps this summer, one in each of these states - Maine, Connecticut and California. The very attractively illustrated folder gives information relative to location, opportunities, enrollment, cost, daily and special features. Each camp offers a choice of five two-week periods. Some VSO members may wish to make one of these camps a part of their summer vacation. If interested, write to National Audubon Society, 1130 Fifth Avenue, New York 28, for descriptive folder.

I am sorry that the date of our annual meeting conflicts with the meeting of the Virginia Academy of Science. I am confident that some members are compelled to decide between the two meetings. It is very difficult to select a date which will not conflict with some college May-day activity, the Virginia Academy meeting, and the best "show" on the part of the Birds. In the future we will try to do better.

There will be a meeting of the Executive Committee on May 8 prior to the afternoon program. Members of the Executive Committee will receive notice of time and place of meeting in the near future. Members who have a suggestion to offer or some matter of business that your Executive Committee should consider, should contact personally or by mail one of the Executive Committee members before April 20. For your convenience, Dr. Florence Hague has sent me a list of Executive Committee members and the Chairmen of the Standing Committees:

President: Dr. D. Ralph Hostetter  
Vice-President: Mr. Jack E. Perkins  
Secretary: Dr. Florence Hague  
Treasurer: Mr. W. Edwin Miller  
Editor-THE RAVEN: Dr. J.J. Murray  
Publicity-THE RAVEN: Miss Gertrude Prior  
Executive President: Mr. James Eike

Chairmen of Standing Committees:

Membership: Mrs. Colgate W. Darden  
Publicity: Mr. R.J. Watson  
Conservation: Mr. W.F. Rountrey

Members at Large:

<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>
Dr. William B. McIlwaine	Mrs. A.H. Michie	Mr. Charles C. Steirly
Mr. R.J. Watson	Mr. Charles E. Stevens, Jr.	Mr. Paul G. Favour
Mr. Frederic R. Scott	Mr. Royster Lyle, Jr.	Mr. W.F. Rountrey

-- D. Ralph Hostetter



PLANS FOR THE 1953 ANNUAL MEETING  
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA - PINE RIDGE, FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA  
MAY 8 and 9, 1953

The 20th Annual Meeting will be held on Friday and Saturday May 8 and 9, 1953. The Friday afternoon and evening sessions will be held in the auditorium of the Hecht Company store (second floor) in Arlington. The afternoon meeting will begin at 2:00 P.M. and will consist of papers, talks and pictures. The Annual Dinner will be held at 6:00 P.M. in the Hecht Company (\$1.10 to \$1.80, tips included) after which members and guests will reconvene in the Auditorium. There will be a popular meeting with speakers and other items of interest, terminating at 9:30 P.M.

(The Hecht Company store is located at Glebe Road (State Route 120) and Wilson Boulevard, Arlington. Coming in on Lee Highway through Falls Church (U.S. 29-211) proceed on this route to Glebe Road (120); turn RIGHT, and in about a mile Hecht Company will loom up before you. Coming in on Arlington Boulevard (U.S. 50) you will turn LEFT when you reach Glebe Road (120); likewise, if you come in on U.S. 1. Take the ramp to the second floor parking level.)

A.M.  
Saturday morning 6:45 /Breakfast at Howard Johnson's at Fairfax Circle (U.S. 50-29-211). After breakfast the Bird Walk will begin from the home of Mr. & Mrs. Richard H. Rule. As an added attraction to the Pine Ridge Bird walk, Mrs. M.B. Peacock, a neighbor of the Rule family, who has a bird-banding station, will remain at home during the walk, and put out her nets, and when the Pine Ridge Bird Walk is completed and all members return to starting point we will go to Mrs. Peacock's house to observe her catch. Later we will visit the home of Mr. Arthur H. Fast to see bird-banding, using a variety of traps.

Lunch will be served at a local church, after which, if time permits, members may drive to Roaches Run and the Dyke on Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway to observe Water Birds. At the Dyke we may see Prothonotary Warblers. After the water bird jaunt, the annual meeting is concluded.

All sessions are open to those interested in birds.

The following places are available for overnight accommodations, all in the vicinity of Pine Ridge and Howard Johnson's restaurant, all on U.S. 29-50-211 with Post Office address of Fairfax, Virginia:

1. WHITE HOUSE MOTEL (A lovely motor court), Fairfax, Virginia.  
Single unit, double bed \$8.00.  
Unit 2 double beds \$3.00 per person \$10 minimum for room.  
Assortment of connecting rooms.  
All rooms have baths, TV. Rollaways supplied \$1.00 extra.  
Note: The White House has the attraction of being large enough to house ALL the members, thus keeping our group together. There is a good sized sitting room, where, if we wish, we can gather for a visit. The rates are in keeping with all the other motor courts in this area.

Other Motor Courts, all Fairfax, Virginia, except as noted:

2. PATTON MOTOR HOTEL, Deposit required when making reservation.

3. THE FALLS CHURCH MOTOR COURT, Falls Church, Virginia.
4. GATEWAY MOTOR LODGE, Fairfax, Virginia (AAA and Duncan Hines recommended).
5. HOLLY HILL MOTOR LODGE.
6. SWEENEY'S MOTEL.

It is important in this area to make reservations as far in advance as possible, due to the tourist season being in full force by May. Write immediately and direct to the place of your choice for a reservation for May 8 and 9, 1953.

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#### PROPOSED JUNE FIELD TRIP TO SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK

Last October at the meeting of your Executive Committee, the subject of a possible two or three day field trip to Shenandoah National Park this coming June was discussed with enthusiasm. It was recalled that the Society's annual spring field trip of last May 24 to this area in the Blue Ridge Mountains was highly enjoyed by all who participated in it. On that trip, many of the V.S.O. members and their guests (47 in all) arrived at Skyland the preceding evening in time to attend one of the regularly scheduled illustrated lectures by the Park Naturalist. The following morning the group divided up into three separate parties, each with a leader, to visit three different high elevation localities. In the afternoon, the trips were repeated as desired. The smaller groups worked very well with each person following his particular interest. In all, 65 species were recorded, including one species (a Spotted Sandpiper) new to the Park check-list.

Plans for this year's Blue Ridge Field Trip to the Park will be brought up for discussion at the Annual Meeting May 8-9 at Arlington. The writer, who will be in charge of arrangements, has tentatively selected the dates of June 20-21 for the trip. It is now anticipated that the trip will be conducted in much the same manner as last year except for longer duration and consequent opportunity to reach a greater variety of mountain-top localities.

-- Paul G. Favour, Jr.

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#### NOTES AND NEWS

The Treasurer has sent out memorandum bills for dues for the year 1953, in order that no members will miss any issues of THE RAVEN. It is hoped that all will remit promptly to the Treasurer.

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The officers of the VSO wish to express their appreciation to those members who have sent in additional contributions to the Society. This is of great assistance to the Treasury, and will enable the Society to expand its work.

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A field trip to the Eastern Shore has been planned for August 15. Those who went last year will remember what a pleasant and interesting experience it was. The committee in charge, with Mr. C.C. Steirly as Chairman, has not worked out the details of the trip, other than the selection of the date; but full information will be given in the May-June issue of THE RAVEN.

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The address of the National Audubon Society is now 1130 Fifth Avenue, New York 28. The Society has sold its former building and moved into a new home, Audubon House, on the northeast corner of 94th street. This eight-story building should give the organization ample facilities.

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Among noteworthy recent Virginia records are the following:

Iceland Gull. Jack Perkins saw one on the beach at Back Bay Refuge, January 29, 1953.

Kittiwake. Two specimens have been secured in the Cape Henry Region during the past winter, by Cooper Barefield and Jack Perkins. They will be reported on in detail. This is an addition to the Virginia list.

Blue Goose. D. Ralph Hostetter reports that one, changing from immature to adult plumage, wintered near Dayton.

House Wren. There were two winter records at Lexington: one which was seen on the Christmas Count, December 23, by Robert Paxton and Jan Owen; and another, which spent the week of December 28 to January 3 at a barn on the Womeldorf Farm and was closely observed by Joshua Womeldorf. These make the first winter records for the Valley, although there is a winter record at Blacksburg.

Nashville Warbler. G.M. Shear reports a sight record of a bird seen several times at Blacksburg, December 8 to February 10.

Wilson's Warbler. One was identified at Indian Point, Stafford County, on December 14 and 22 by Edwin T. McKnight, Thomas B. Nolan and R.S. Cannon, Jr.

Repoll. (subsp.?) Bruce McCartney observed a female at Norge on February 14.

Pine Siskin. This has been a Siskin winter, with reports from all parts of the State, as far southeast as the Dismal Swamp. On the other hand, there have been practically no Evening Grosbeak reports.

-- J.J. Murray

## REVIEW

Birds of the Everglades, and, Birds of Massachusetts. By Henry H. Collins, 16 pages each, illustrated with photographs, and with drawings and color plates by Roger T. Peterson. 25¢ (from the Caribou Press, Box 236, Bronxville, N.Y., minimum mail/<sup>order</sup> \$1.00). These are two additional titles in the series planned by the author to cover the national parks and other areas. They are very attractive, and will be interesting to any bird student and helpful for beginners.

-- J.J. Murray





# The Raven

BULLETIN OF THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY

J. J. MURRAY, EDITOR  
LEXINGTON, VA.

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NOS. 5 & 6

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Copies of the V. S. O. Publication, A Check-List of the Birds of Virginia, are still available.

The price is now \$1.00.

It may be ordered from A.O. English, 2803 Rosalind Avenue, S.W.,  
Roanoke, Virginia.

## FIRST REVISION OF THE VIRGINIA 1952 'CHECK-LIST'

By J.J. Murray

The Virginia Society of Ornithology publication, A Check-List of the Birds of Virginia, came off the press on February 8, 1952. There has thus been sufficient time for many of the errors in the book to be exposed, and also for many significant additions to become available.

There has been a good deal of comment on the new forms for the popular names of the birds of our region. Possibly it should have been pointed out in the book that the editor had no responsibility for these names. They are, as well as could be ascertained, the names that will be used in the forthcoming official 'Check-List' of the American Ornithologists' Union.

## An Elimination

Southern Great-crested Flycatcher. This subspecies was admitted to our list on the hypothetical basis, but should now be removed. A specimen collected by Murray, Robert Paxton and Jan Owen in the edge of Suffolk on May 14, 1952, and another, collected by Grey and Murray near Lake Drummond, in the Dismal Swamp, on July 17, 1952, were identified by Wetmore as the northern form, boreus. The former specimen may have been a migrant, but the July bird indicates pretty clearly that the southern form does not cross the North Carolina-Virginia line.

## Additions

Six forms should be added to the regular list, two of them being changed from hypothetical to regular status. Also a new species should be put on the hypothetical list. This would bring the totals in our Virginia list to 404 forms, with 12 additional hypothetical forms and two hybrids.

The six new birds are as follows:

Franklin's Gull. Larus pipixcan Wagler. This species was inadvertently omitted from the published list. Dr. Ellison A. Smyth, Jr., secured a female in fall plumage at Blacksburg on October 22, 1898 (Auk, 19, 74).

Atlantic Kittiwake. Rissa tridactyla tridactyla (Linnaeus). This bird should now be changed from the hypothetical to the full list. It was added definitely to the Virginia list by Cooper Barefield, son of Mrs. Floy Burford, when he picked up a sick bird in Broad Bay, Norfolk, on January 3, 1953. Another Kittiwake, not long dead, was picked up at Sandbridge, near Back Bay, on January 18, by E.K. Sloane. The specimens, which have not been identified subspecifically, are at the Norfolk Natural History Museum.

Newfoundland Yellow Warbler. Dendroica petechia ammicola Batchelder. An adult female, collected by the writer at Cameron's Pond, just outside Lexington, on September 8, 1952, was identified by Wetmore as a well-marked specimen of this race.



Eastern Painted Bunting. Passerina ciris ciris (Linnaeus). This bird also should now be moved from the hypothetical to the regular list. In addition to the records included in the 'Check-List', we now have another good sight record. R.J. Beasley and R.A. Glassell had a clear view of a male on June 22, 1952, at Harwood Mills Reservoir, near Newport News.

Cassiar Slate-colored Junco. Junco hyemalis cismontanus Dwight. This northwestern bird was added to the State list by Arthur H. Fast, when he banded two specimens in 1952, one on December 13 (with band no. 21-35454), and one on December 30 (with band no. 21-35489). Before being liberated, the birds were identified supspecifically by Dr. J.W. Aldrich and Allen J. Duvall. This is an interesting discovery in itself and is a fine example of what an alert bird bander may turn up.

Coastal Plain Swamp Sparrow, Melospiza georgiana nigrescens Bond & Stewart. Three Swamp Sparrows collected by Murray at Cameron's Pond, Lexington, in October, 1952, turned out to represent three different races, as identified by Wetmore. A male, October 27, was our common migrant, the Southern Swamp Sparrow, Melospiza georgiana georgiana. A male, October 3, was the Northern Swamp Sparrow, M. g. ericrypta, which is turning out to be rather common in our area in migration. The third, a female, October 27, was the first migrant example of the newly-described Coastal Plain Swamp Sparrow, M. g. nigrescens, to be collected. This race breeds in the coastal marshes from Maryland to New Jersey. Fred Scott collected another example of this race at Shirley, Charles City County, across the James from Hopewell, on November 25, 1952.

An additional species should be placed on the hypothetical list.

Rufous Hummingbird. Selasphorus rufus (Gmelin). This bird was reported tentatively from Jamesville, on the Eastern Shore, on November 30, 1952, by Arthur B. Fuller (Raven, 24, 24). Since then Mr. Fuller has talked with Dr. J.W. Aldrich, who thinks the bird was probably a young male Rufous Hummingbird. There is a South Carolina specimen, and there are two Florida sight records.

#### Corrections

Certain errors in the book should be corrected. The most serious of these is that the two birds mentioned on page 54 as collected by Scott were not Buff-breasted Sandpipers but Stilt Sandpipers. This was the editor's error in copying notes. The Pine Grosbeak specimen, page 105, has been identified by Wetmore as not the Canadian form but the Newfoundland Pine Grosbeak, Pinicola enucleator eschatosus Oberholser. Certain corrections in nomenclature should be made. The scientific name of the White Ibis has recently been changed from Guara alba to Eudocimus albus (Linnaeus); and that of the Whistling Swan from Cygnus columbianus to Olor columbianus (Ord). The generic name of the Saw-whet Owl is not Cryptoglaux but Aegolius. The Purple Sandpiper now becomes simply Erolia maritima Brunnich. The Southern Sharp-tailed Sparrow is now to be known as Bishop's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Ammodramus caudacuta diversa (Bishop).

There were entirely too many typographical errors in the book, in some small measure of extenuation, it should be said that the mechanical work on the book was done at four different places; and that it was very difficult and expensive, due to the type of offset printing used, to make corrections after the final typing from which the plates were made. Some

of the more important corrections that should be indicated are the following: Page 1, line 3; the title of Rives' book is A Catalogue of the Birds of the Virginias. Page 2, line 10; Miss Cooke's middle name is Thacher, not Thacker. The same correction should be made in the bibliography on page 10. Page 2, line 6 from the bottom; Dr. Hostetter's first initial is 'D'. Page 3, line 14; the date of Harriot's work is, of course, not 1890, but 1590. Page 9, line 14 from the bottom; the home of Major Woodford was 'Windsor'. Page 11, line 9 from the bottom; the date of Freke's birth was not 1884 but 1844. Page 21, line 11 from the bottom; the correct name in the title is 'Topsell'. Page 27, line 6; Gavis should be Gavia; and in line 12, holgolli should be holbolli. Page 40, line 7; Accipiter should be Accipiter. Page 57, line 15 from the bottom, 'August County' should be 'Augusta County'. Page 63, line 23; 'Famville' should be 'Farmville'. Page 91, line 23; Dendrocica should read Dendroica; with similar corrections on page 93, lines 1 and 10. Page 93, line 10; 'Green' should be inserted after 'Wayne's Black-throated'. On page 94, 'Sycamore Warbler' should be 'Sycamore Yellow-throated Warbler'. Page 98, line 4 from the bottom; '1905' should be '1950'. Page 110, line 2; 'W.J. Taylor' should be 'J.W. Taylor'.

#### Additional Records

Holboell's Red-necked Grebe. Add Dyke, Fort Belvoir, and Dayton to the inland occurrences. Dates: October 25, 1952, Cape Charles, Scott, to March 21, 1948, Dayton Carpenter and Hostetter.

Horned Grebe. Summer (non-breeding) record, Bone Island, July 2, 1951, Poole (Auk. 39, 273).

Northern Pied-billed Grebe. We now have a breeding record for the State. Paul F. Springer saw two adults with 4 young on Sluice Mill Pond, near Oyster Point, Warwick County, June 12, 1952. Scott saw two adults in York County on June 22, 1949.

Sooty Shearwater. Third record: Chincoteague, May 20, 1950, Robert E. Stewart and others.

Atlantic Wilson's Petrel. Our earliest record is of one seen on May 10, 1952, by the skipper of the Little Creek-Kiptopeke Ferry (fide Grey).

Gannet. We now have a specimen, a bird picked up by E.K. Sloane at Sandbridge (date not given), and loaned to the Norfolk Museum. It comes into Hampton Roads and lower Chesapeake Bay.

Northern Double-crested Cormorant. There are Virginia records in the Washington region; and an early record of two at Chincoteague on July 23, 1949.

Northern Anhinga. Third record: a female seen by Rountrey at Stumpy Lake, Norfolk, May 5, 1952.

Northern Great Blue Heron. The Chickahominy rookery is in the southwest corner of New Kent County. Rev. Thom Blair found a small colony of 7 nests east of Hanover Court House and near the Pamunkey River, May 13, 1952. Winters at Richmond (commonly). Charlottesville, Lynchburg, Danville, Lexington, Abingdon.



American Common Egret. Winter records around Washington and in eastern Virginia are increasing. The bird is now appearing in spring east of the Blue Ridge. One came down to a yard in Lexington during a heavy rain on May 6, 1953.

Common Snowy Egret. Occurrences are on the increase, but it is still rare in spring at Washington. Steve Russell saw one at Saltville in the late summer of 1950, our only record west of the Blue Ridge. Bagley Walker, Jr., recently found nests in a heron rookery near Robbins Corner, Princess Anne County.

Louisiana Tricolored Heron. Counts up to 50 are now being made in late summer on the Eastern Shore.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron. Second record at Lexington, an immature on May 3 to 6, 1953.

Whistling Swan. Additional inland records: Buggs Island Reservoir, 3 on December 7, 1952, Robert Eggleston, Jr.; Silver Lake, Dayton, an immature on March 23, 1952, Hostetter, Dr. H.G. Helbert, Gordon Shantz.

(Three foreign species found at Roaches Run Sanctuary, near Washington, during the fall of 1950 - Chinese Swan-Goose, Bean Goose, and Muscovy Duck (Atlantic Naturalist, 6, 120, 122)- were probably escapees from some zoo or aviary, and call for no mention in our Check-List.)

American Brant. One of the most pleasing recent developments in our area is the come-back of this species. Brant were seen in some numbers at Chincoteague in mid-December, 1950. According to the Refuge Manager, E.O. Mellinger, about 20,000 wintered in that area in 1952-1953. Scott saw 5 from the Cape Charles Ferry on December 26, 1952, the first Chesapeake Bay record in many years.

Black Brant. It should be pointed out that the 1888 American Museum specimen from Cobb Island is in poor condition and that the identification, while probably correct, is not beyond dispute (Auk, 69, 81-84).

Greater Snow Goose. Perkins made a maximum count of 30,000 in the winter of 1951-1952 at Back Bay. An immature was seen in Westmoreland County, January 16, 1949, by E.G. Baldwin. Rev. James Mays saw 6 or 8 white geese, probably this species, in a migrating flock of Canada Geese at Raphine, on the border of Augusta and Rockbridge Counties, on October 10, 1950.

Blue Goose. Additional up-country records: Roaches Run, an immature, October 22, 1950, to April 1, 1951; Henley's Lake, Charlottesville, November 5, 1950, to April 17, 1951; Dayton, through the winter of 1952-1953.

Black Duck. Two broods, 3 and 5 young, were reared at Stumpy Lake in 1952, Rountrey.

Eurasian Common Teal. A single bird was seen at the National Airport, Washington, on several occasions from December, 1949, to April, 1950 (Wood Thrush, 5, 124, 179, 227).

European Widgeon. One was seen at Old Point Comfort by S. Mitchell on March 1, 1952.

Blue-winged Teal. C.C. Steirly found a pair and 3 young at a small pond near Waverly on May 4, 1952.

Shoveller. This species has recently become more common in the Washington region in fall, winter, and spring.

American Common Golden-eye. Common to abundant in the lower tidal rivers and Chesapeake Bay estuaries.

Bufflehead. Common to abundant in the lower tidal rivers and Chesapeake Bay estuaries.

Eastern White-winged Scoter. One was seen at 'Wakefield', Westmoreland County, on January 20, 1951, by the D.C. Audubon Society group.

Northern Ruddy Duck. Abundant on all the lower tidal rivers.

Eastern Goshawk. Recent records: December 28, 1950, Curle's Neck, Richmond, Scott; Fort Belvoir, February 6, 1948, J.M. Abbott (Wood Thrush, 3, 50); fourth Shenandoah Park record, October 28, 1950, J.E. Liles.

Eastern Red-tailed Hawk. A nest with eggs or small young was reported at Leesburg, April 17, 1948. An albino spent five consecutive winters, 1946-1950, around Thornton Gap, in Shenandoah Park.

Northern Broad-winged Hawk. Grey saw one at Williamsburg, June 9, 1950, the first summer record east of Richmond; and Rountrey saw a pair at North Landing, near Norfolk, throughout the summer of 1952.

American Rough-legged Hawk. Additional records: Princess Anne Court House, seen regularly through the winter of 1951-1952 by Rountrey; Alexandria, December 31, 1949, D.C. Audubon Society; Shenandoah Park, December 27, 1950, J.E. Liles, and February 18, 1951, Wetmore.

American Golden Eagle. Two additional specimens; Caroline County, one killed at A.P. Hill Military Reservation, January 6, 1951, the feathers of which were examined by Handley, Jr.; and one wounded in Giles County in the late winter of 1952 and brought alive to V.P.I. Five additional sight records: Rockingham County, Shenandoah Mountain, October 13, 1951, H.G.M. Jopson; two in Shenandoah Park; Jarman's Gap, February 22, 1952, Paston and Murray; Swift Run Gap, an immature, December 27, 1952; an immature on the Blue Ridge Parkway near Afton, March 9, 1953, Jan Owen; and a similar bird near the same place, May 18, 1953, Murray. We also have a report with no date, of a nest on Stony Creek, Giles County (Virginia Wildlife, 13, 25).

American Marsh Hawk. C.O. Handley, Sr., reported seeing an immature in Louisa County, June 20, 1934. There are two recent summer records: Charlottesville, three times in July, 1950; Cobb Island, July 18, 1952, Grey and Murray.

Ring-necked Pheasant. Further evidence that birds liberated in Virginia do not establish themselves is furnished by Kenneth Ellis, who states that each year at the Hot Spring field trials birds escape, but soon disappear.



Northern Clapper Rail. Mellinger reported that the species wintered in good numbers at Chincoteague in 1952-1953, which is not always the case.

Northern Virginia Rail. Rountrey and F.C. Richardson saw an adult with downy young in a marsh below Pungo on June 2, 1951.

Eastern Black Rail. Bailey reports a set of 6 eggs at a pond on Cobb Island, May 16, 1917; and 6 or 7 nests, found by H.B. Bailey at a small fresh-water pond on Hog Island, on the Eastern Shore, on May 22, 1917 (Wilson Bulletin, 39, 176).

Purple Gallinule. One stayed at a small pond near Norge from April 29 to May 10, 1953, Bruce McCartney.

Semipalmated Ringed Plover. Recent winter records: 3 seen at Newport News at various times up to January 7, 1951, during the winter of 1950-1951; and 5 seen at Oyster on December 8, 1952, by Scott.

Eastern Piping Plover. We have a recent breeding record at Chincoteague Refuge, where Buckalew, C.S. Robbins and J. Brown found late downy young on July 23, 1949; and several winter records: Yorktown, December 29, 1950, Stevens and Grey; Seaford, 3 from February 10 to March 8, Beasley and Glassell, and one on January 31, 1953, Beasley.

Northern Killdeer. J.M. Abbott found a very early nest at Fort Belvoir, with 4 eggs on March 17, 1949.

Atlantic American Golden Plover. There is now a spring record for the State, a bird seen at Chincoteague on May 10, 1952, by a party led by Miss Dorry Loesges, and again on May 11 by Mr. and Mrs. E. Power,

Southern Long-billed Curlew. Fred M. Packard observed 4 males and 2 females at the National Airport on May 22, 1949 (Wood Thrush, 4, 21).

Spotted Sandpiper. While we do not yet have a breeding record for eastern Virginia, Scott saw one in York County on June 22, 1949, and Rountrey saw several through the summer of 1952 at Stumpy Lake.

American Knot. Unusual dates are June 13, 1951, when P.F. Springer saw 10 at Wallops Island, and January 21, 1951, when Beasley saw 15 at Seaford.

Eastern Dowitcher. There are now two Virginia records for the Washington area: National Airport, 6 on September 8, 1949; and Four Mile Run, 2 on October 9, 1949.

Stilt Sandpiper. Steve M. Russell saw one at Saltville on September 3 and 7, 1950, Scott collected 2 males at Hopewell, October 2, 1949. We have additional Eastern Shore and Washington records.

Semipalmated Sandpiper. One banded at Chincoteague on August 13, 1950, was shot at Martinique, French West Indies, on September 3, having travelled 2500 miles in the three weeks (Atlantic Naturalist, 6, 175).

American Avocet. Additional records: One at Sandbridge, August, 1951, Rountrey and Miss Mary Leigh; 4 at Chincoteague Refuge, October 18, 1952, one remaining until November 2, E.O. Mellinger.

Wilson's Phalarope. Roger Peterson added a fourth State record when he saw one at Chincoteague Island, August 24, 1946, (Wood Thrush, 2,4).

Northern Phalarope. Additional records: 2 seen at Chincoteague Causeway, May 20, 1950, by Lawrence Kilham, R.E. Stewart, and others (Atlantic Naturalist, 6, 24, 38); one at Yorktown, September 11, 1952, Beasley.

Pomarine Jaeger. Scott saw one off Rigby Island, Mathews County, on the west side of Chesapeake Bay, February 10, 1953.

Great Black-backed Gull. A bird seen by P.A. DuMont at Roaches Run on February 16, 1952, is probably the first District of Columbia record.

Laughing Gull. A bird in adult plumage, found by Joshua Womeldorf at his pond on March 11, 1952, and identified by the writer, seems to be the first record in Virginia west of the Blue Ridge.

Forster's Tern. There are now some 15 Virginia records, from late July to November, in the Washington region.

Northern Common Tern. There are now 4 Virginia records in the Washington region, all in October, in 1948, 1949, and 1950.

Northern Roseate Tern. It seems best to eliminate the 1877 record of Phillips at Hampton Roads. Fred M. Packard reported 2 at the National Airport, May 22, 1948 (Wood Thrush, 4, 21).

Least Tern. The Seaford colony was first found in 1949, by Scott.

Caspian Tern. This species is now fairly common at Washington in spring, uncommon in fall.

Cabot's Tern. Two recent records: one seen by Fred M. Packard at the National Airport on May 22, 1949 (Wood Thrush, 4,21); and one seen by E.G. Davis near Smith Island, June 17, 1946.

Snowy Owl. One was seen at Back Bay by Perkins on November 19, 1950.

Northern Barred Owl. Bartsch saw a nest with 3 young near Mt. Vernon, April 27, 1947.

Acadian Saw-whet Owl. One was found dead at Alexandria on November 27, 1950.

Chuck-will's widow. Another Amherst County record was made at Sweet Briar, May 17 to 30, 1952, by Gertrude Prior. In a night census at Bon Air on June 25, 1952, Scott found one Chuck-will's widow and 15 Whip-poor-wills.



Chimney Swift. Late nesting records in 1952; young in the nest at Richmond on July 28, at Hampden-Sydney on July 21, and at Lexington on July 28.

Eastern Red-bellied Woodpecker. Rountrey reported a pair feeding young at Norfolk on the amazingly late date of August 17, 1952. According to Kenneth Ellis, it occurs at Hot Springs but is uncommon.

Eastern Phoebe. Grey states that it breeds at Williamsburg. Scott found 4 at Seashore State Park on April 16, 1950.

Olive-sided Flycatcher. Additional records: Leesburg, May 15, 1948; Prince William Forest Park, August 21 to 23, 1950, James Baird.

Prairie Horned Lark. This bird now probably breeds throughout the State. It seems to be increasing in the Newport News Peninsula. During the summer of 1952 Rountrey saw it in several places in Princess Anne County.

Southern Blue Jay. The jays of southeastern Virginia, south of the James and east of Suffolk, should be listed as this race. A specimen collected in the edge of Suffolk on May 14, 1952, by Murray, was identified by Wetmore as cristata, while a bird collected by Scott in Charles City County, opposite Hopewell, by Scott was identified as bromia. The lower James River country seems to be the area of intergradation. The species seems to be increasing on both sides of the river.

Northern Common Raven. Scott saw one at Seaford, June 22, 1949. According to Kenneth Ellis of Hot Springs, Ravens were increasing in Bath County up to about 1940, when there were not less than 20 living on the Warm Spring Mountain, but have now diminished until there are hardly 20 in the county.

Fish Crow. A female was collected by Robert Paxton at Lexington on April 24, 1953.

Red-breasted Nuthatch. I.R. Barnes counted 18 at Cape Charles on October 5, 1946 (Wood Thrush, 2, 16-17).

Brown-headed Nuthatch. Locally common on the Eastern Shore, up to the Maryland line; also on the Peninsula east of Williamsburg.

Eastern House Wren. Winter records have been more common of late, from Yorktown, Richmond, Arlington, and Charlottesville.

Appalachian Bewick's Wren. R.R. Kerr saw a pair building a nest in Arlington on May 18, 1951 (Atlantic Naturalist, 7, 36). This seems to be the first Virginia breeding record in the Washington area.

Long-billed Marsh Wren. Scott states that it winters regularly, sometimes commonly, in the Back Bay area; maximum, 30, on the December 29, 1951, Christmas Count.

Prairie Marsh Wren. Wetmore collected one in Shenandoah Park on September 1, 1952.

Catbird. We have additional winter records from Alexandria, Warren in Albemarle County, and Naruna. It is sometimes common in winter in York County and on the Eastern Shore. Rountrey found young on the wing still being fed on October 1, 1952, at Norfolk.

Eastern Veery. Has been found breeding at low altitudes in the District of Columbia, just beyond our borders.

Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglet. Scott, Stevens, and Sydnor found two nests with young in red spruces on Sapling Ridge, Middle Mountain, June 18, 1952.

Cedar Waxwing. Grey and Murray found 2 or more pairs in Dismal Swamp on July 17, 1952.

Mountain Solitary Vireo. Stevens saw a pair on June 16, 1952, on Mill Mountain, east of the Blue Ridge, in Albemarle County.

Philadelphia Vireo. Additional records: Shenandoah Park, September 20, 1950, J.E. Liles; one banded at Pine Ridge, Fairfax County, by Mrs. M.B. Peacock on September 26, 1951, and one seen on September 2, 1952.

Prothonotary Warbler. Stevens found a male singing near Hatton, on James River, on both the Albemarle and Buckingham sides of the stream, on June 16, 1952, and another male two miles down river on the Buckingham side, July 13.

Swainson's Warbler. K.L. Trever watched one at Arlington on May 13, 1950 (Atlantic Naturalist, 6, 25)

Golden-winged Warbler. We now have records from eastern Virginia: near Newport News, May 2, 1952, Beasley; near Petersburg, April 23, 1952, McIlwaine. Also additional records from the Piedmont: Prince William Forest Park, 6 late August records, 1949 and 1950, James Baird; 10 seen at Pine Ridge, Fairfax County, on May 13, 1950, and 6 on April 29, 1951.

Blue-winged Warbler. Additional records: Fairfax County, April 27 and May 12, 1951; a late bird at Mount Vernon, September 18, 1948, K.H. Weber; Prince William Forest Park, 2 on September 4, 1949, Baird; Blackwater Swamp, junction of Surry, Sussex, and Prince George Counties, April 10, 1953, C.C. Steirly.

Tennessee Warbler. One seen at Cape Charles, October, 1947, by the D.C. Audubon Society group.

Eastern Orange-crowned Warbler. Four additional records: Cape Charles, 3 on November 7, 1936, W.J. Rusling; Fort Belvoir, October 29, 1947, and September 17, 1949; Petersburg, January 18 and 19, 1952, McIlwaine.

Eastern Nashville Warbler. G.M. Shear gave the writer a good description of what seems to be a Nashville Warbler which wintered at Blacksburg, December 8, 1952, to February 10, 1953.

Wayne's Black-throated Green Warbler. T.R. Watkins of Charlotte Court House reported to C.O. Handley a nest with 3 fresh eggs in a pine near Bailey's Pond and near Roanoke Creek Swamp in Charlotte County on



April 20, 1933 (Raven, 8, 4, 29). Along with Paxton and Jan Owen, Murray collected on May 13, 1952, in the Dismal Swamp a breeding male, a fledgling, and a male with undeveloped testes. All were identified by Wetmore as waynei. Rountrey has seen this bird feeding young at Stumpy Lake and has seen the bird at several places in Norfolk and Princess Anne Counties.

Cerulean Warbler. Stevens found a nest, with small young, 40 feet up in a tulip poplar tree on Mill Mountain, east of the Blue Ridge, in Albemarle County, June 16, 1952. Scott saw 2 at Hampden-Sydney on May 9, 1947. This is far the most southeastern record for the State. Mr. and Mrs. William O. Lewis and Robert J. Watson found a singing male near the 96 mile post in the Shenandoah Park on May 17, 1953, and Murray found a singing male on May 25, 1953, at the 12 mile post on the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Eastern Yellow-throated Warbler. In the Check-List we reported this bird as generally scarce at Cape Henry, though locally common. In support of the latter part of that statement Rountrey states that it is one of the most common warblers around Norfolk; that at Stumpy Lake on a good day in May from 25 to 30 may be seen; and that most pairs raise three broods, nesting from the first week in April to the first week in July. A nest was found at Gunston Cove, near Washington, May 1, 1949.

Chestnut-sided Warbler. Ken Wright reported a singing male, just south of Alexandria, on the record date of June 20, 1952.

Bay-breasted Warbler. We now have two Tidewater records: Cape Charles, 3 on October 5, 1946, I.R. Barnes; Newport News, May 17, 1952, Beasley.

Athens Yellow-throat. A singing male collected by Murray, Paxton, and Owen in the Dismal Swamp, May 13, 1952, was identified by Wetmore as typhicola, as was to be expected.

Eastern Yellow-breasted Chat. Winter records: Dinwiddie County, December 1, 1951, McIlwaine; Grandview, near Newport News, January 1, 1953, and Fort Eustis, January 20, 1953, R.A. Glassell.

Canada Warbler. Noted in Tidewater for the first time on May 17, 1952, by Beasley, near Newport News.

Southern American Redstart. Rountrey found a fledgling at Stumpy Lake, Norfolk, July 4, 1952.

Eastern Boat-tailed Grackle. Grey and Murray found 13 nests, recently used, in a colony of Green Herons at Cobb Island, July 18, 1952.

Bronzed Crow-Blackbird. A recent Washington report is that of a large flock seen along the Mount Vernon Highway on March 27, 1948, by E.G. Davis and others (Wood Thrush, 3, 58).

Eastern Common Cowbird. Summer adults have now been reported from the southeastern corner of the State. Grey saw 10 at Williamsburg on June 5, 1950; and Rountrey saw them regularly during the summer of 1952 in the Cape Henry area, particularly around Pungo.

Scarlet Tanager. Summer distribution continuous from Albemarle County to Richmond, and presumably from Arlington to Richmond, since it is common in Prince William and Hanover. Baird reports it more common than the Summer Tanager in Prince William Forest Park. No summer data from Southside Virginia. Recent Tidewater records: Newport News, May 4, 1952, Beasley; North Landing, near Norfolk, May 6, 1952, Rountrey.

Dickcissel. Additional records: Bedford County, May 18 and 22, 1950, D.D. Shipley; Leesburg, January 4 to 10, 1953, John V. Dennis.

Eastern Evening Grosbeak. The winter of 1951-1952 brought a tremendous invasion of these birds. The records for Virginia were summarized by Robert O. Paxton (Raven, 23, 58-62; 24, 4). Flocks appeared in late October in northern Virginia, and in early November as far south as Lexington and as far east as Norge. The latest record was May 21. They were found in flocks, usually of 20 to 30, frequently up to 60, occasionally to 200, and with reports from Arlington and from Cheatham Annex, near Williamsburg, of 450-500. They were reported from 40 localities; southeast to Hampton and Newport News; south to Emporia, Clarksville and Alta Vista; and west to Winchester and Blacksburg. "A map of Grosbeak records almost coincides with a map of VSO membership". About one-third were males. In the Arlington area, 682 birds were banded, 315 by Arthur H. Fast, 178 by Mrs. M.B. Peacock, 97 by Mrs. Mary Borton, and 92 by Mrs. Michael Dreese. Murray collected two specimens at Lexington in 1952, a male on February 13, and a female on March 6. The latter bird had been banded in Worcester County, Massachusetts, on February 8, 1949. In 1952-1953 there were only two Virginia reports, each of single birds: Petersburg, during the last half of March; and Winchester, March 8 to 11.

Newfoundland Pine Grosbeak. A second specimen, a male, was collected in the Shenandoah Park on February 22, 1952, and, like the first specimen, was identified by Wetmore as the Newfoundland form. Throughout the winter of 1951-1952 a flock ranged through the central part of the Park, a high count of 22 being made by Favour and Liles on December 28. Dr. Herbert Friedmann has supplied what seems to be a good sight record for Salem on February 27, 1917, when S.L. Powell of the Roanoke College faculty saw several. He also states that there is a sight record of a flock at Lynchburg by C.L. Mosby on April 18, 1904, but says that this would seem altogether too late a date for this species so far south.

Mealy Common Redpoll. In 1951 a male came to the feeding tray of Mrs. Winston Wilkinson at Charlottesville on January 16, 21, 22, 23, and February 6; and a male came to the feeding tray of Mrs. H.G. Burnet. Bruce McCartney saw a female on February 14, 1953, at Norge, and Rountrey saw two at Norfolk on several days in February, 1953.

Northern Pine Siskin. 1952-1953 was a Siskin winter in Virginia. Birds came early and some stayed until May 4 (in Danville). Flocks up to 200 were present all over the State, as far south and east as the Dismal Swamp, where Murray and Grey saw them at several places on February 17.

White-winged Crossbill. A number were seen by McAtee, Preble, and Wetmore in the Arlington-Alexandria area from December 10 to 30, 1916, with a maximum of 8 on December 27 (Wilson Bulletin, 29, 183-187).



Green-tailed Towhee. Two recent records: Mariner's Museum, Newport News, February 26 to April 22, 1953, Mrs. L.W. Machen, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cutler, Mrs. W.P. Smith, Beasley; and Amelia Court House, April 7 to 11, 1953, Mr. and Mrs. John R. Gatewood.

Labrador Savannah Sparrow. The date on the Dayton specimen should be 1949, not 1940.

Churchill Savannah Sparrow. Scott and Grey collected 3 specimens in the Hampton area on January 30, 1953, which were identified by Wetmore as oblitus, intermediate toward savanna. Five others were identified as savanna, intermediate toward labradorius.

Eastern Henslow's Sparrow. Wetmore collected one in Shenandoah Park, July 27, 1952. Scott has found breeding colonies at the northern end of the Shenandoah Valley.

Bishop's Sharp-tailed Sparrow. (Formerly known, as in our Check-List, as the Southern Sharp-tailed Sparrow). Stevens and Scott saw a Sharp-tailed Sparrow at Seaford on June 14, 1952, which is the first indication in recent years of the breeding of this bird south of Wallops Island and west of Chesapeake Bay.

Northern Seaside Sparrow. Scott has breeding data for the lower part of the Peninsula, on the west side of Chesapeake Bay; at Seaford, Messick, and Grandview.

Eastern Vesper Sparrow. We now have two winter records: Alexandria, December 30, 1950; and Lynchburg, December 26, 1951, M.B. Tillotson.

Eastern Lark Sparrow. Additional records: Front Royal, 4 or 5 on July 4, 1949, J.W. Taylor; Whitehall, Albemarle County, one singing on April 27, 1950, Stevens.

Northern Lincoln's Sparrow. Richmond, October 3, 1952, Scott, in the first record east of the upper Piedmont.

Atlantic Song Sparrow. Song Sparrows banded at Norfolk by Mrs. Floy Burford in July, 1952, were present through the winter. This bird occurs even on islands like Wreck, where there are no woody shrubs.

Common Lapland Longspur. Wetmore saw one at Big Meadows, Shenandoah Park, on October 29, 1950; and Mrs. Floy Burford found a flock of 35 near Pungo, Princess Anne County, March 8, 1953.

-- 6 White Street  
Lexington, Virginia



PLANS FOR THE BLUE RIDGE FORAY  
IN SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK, JUNE 19 and 20, 1953

With considerable interest having been shown in the previously proposed two-day foray to the Blue Ridge Mountains in June, plans have now been made to have this outing in Shenandoah National Park on Friday and Saturday, June 19 and 20. Headquarters of the Foray will be at Skyland with the trips each day scheduled to start from the Skyland Dining Room Parking Area at 7:15 a.m. (standard time). Foray leader will be Park Naturalist Paul G. Favour, Jr.

Specific destinations of the trips for both days will be announced on Thursday evening, May 18, immediately prior to Mr. Favour's regularly scheduled illustrated natural history talk at 8:30 p.m. in the Skyland Recreation Hall, to which all are cordially invited to come. Last Foray activity will be a meeting in the Skyland Recreation Hall at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday to add up the results of the two days' birding.

In coming to the Park for this Foray, V.S.O. members will have an opportunity not only to see and hear birds typical of the higher elevations of the Blue Ridge Mountains (3000-4000 ft.) at the height of the breeding season, but also to enjoy the refreshing mountain and valley scenery and the many wildflowers which will be in bloom (especially the mountain-laurel).

Both lodging (cottages) and meals, including special early 6:30 breakfasts on Friday and Saturday mornings, are available at Skyland. Single rates, \$2.50-\$5.50; double \$4.00-\$8.00. Besides cottage rooms, men's and 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 in the central section of Shenandoah National Park 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 immediately to the Virginia Sky-Line Company, Luray, Virginia, for reservations. When writing, be sure to identify yourself and party as members taking part in the Virginia Society of Ornithology foray.

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

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

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

By Florence S. Hague

Eleven of the 17 members of the Executive Committee met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Eike in the morning of the day of the Annual Meeting, with Dr. Hostetter presiding. In reporting for the Conservation Committee, Mr. Rountrey mentioned the use of some of the Stumpy Lake region of Norfolk for a golf course and other recreational projects and the keeping of much of it for a wild life area. Their plans for the protection of hawks and owls in the state include efforts to persuade the General Assembly to pass a law protecting all except Cooper's and the Sharp-shinned Hawks and the Great Horned Owl. First the members of the General Assembly will have to be convinced of the value of these birds and every member of the V.S.O. should help with this by contacting his local representatives. The report was accepted and \$50.00 was set aside for furthering this work. Bird exhibits at County Fairs were suggested as part of an educational program.

Mr. Favour presented plans for a Blue Ridge Foray, with headquarters at Skyland on Friday and Saturday, June 19 and 20. The plans for an Eastern Shore trip on August 15, presented by Mr. Steirly, brought forth discussion of whether the spot visited should be Cobbs Island or Chinco-teague Island. The latter involves an overnight stay on the Eastern Shore or special busses from Kiptopeke.

Considerable time was spent in discussing the revision of the constitution and by-laws on which Mr. Scott and Mr. Watson have been working. After making certain changes, the revised draft was adopted and will be sent to each member before the next Annual Meeting so that the members may vote on it at that time.

After the nice luncheon which Mrs. Eike had so kindly prepared for the Committee we returned to business. Mr. English reported that there is still a good supply of Check-Lists and that as of July 31, 1952 there was on hand \$101.98 over and above the cost of the Check-Lists. Since both \$1.00 and \$1.50 have been given as prices for the Check-List, he asked for a decision on that point. It was voted to put a notice in The Raven that Check-Lists are for sale at \$1.00. Mr. Scott and Mr. English further agreed to send notices about the Check-List to High Schools and Colleges in Virginia. The Treasurer's Report showed a balance of \$274.35 on December 31, 1952 and a membership of 330 in 1952 as compared with 276 for 1951. It was accepted. Mr. Miller asked to be relieved of that office before January 1. Dr. Murray received an affirmative response to his inquiry as to whether the bimonthly publication of The Raven is satisfactory. He asked for a Records Committee of three to accept or reject any questionable bird records which may be sent in. The request was granted and Dr. Grey and Mr. Scott were appointed with Dr. Murray, Chairman.

The resignation of H.H. Bailey from honorary membership in the Society was accepted. The question of an appropriate resolution or letter concerning the slaughter of hawks at Cape May, New Jersey, was passed to the Conservation Committee.



After registration and other preliminary preparations, Dr. Hostetter opened the Annual Meeting at 2:30 p.m. in the Hecht Company Auditorium at Arlington. Mr. Robert J. Johnson of the Arlington Chamber of Commerce welcomed the Society to the vicinity. Birding along the Labrador was the title Charles O. Handley, Jr. gave for the interesting account of some of his experiences on a Biological Research Ship. The ship had a shallow draft and they could therefore work close to shore. Besides studying plant and animal life they measured the temperature and pressure of the water. Some of the birds mentioned were the Yellow Warbler which they found commonly along streams and the Winter Wren which was at its northern limit. White-crowned and Fox Sparrows and Spotted Sandpipers were nesting near one of the lakes. During the expedition they made observations on 98 species of which ten were first records for that region.

Dr. Murray gave his first revision of the Check-List which appears in full in The Raven. Dr. Sydnor in discussing the Music of Birds pointed out that volume is not an important factor in bird song but that quality, duration (of notes) and pitch are important. Playing records, at normal and at slow speeds, of the songs of the Veery, White-throated Sparrow, Indigo Bunting and Whip-poor-will emphasized the effect of duration on pitch. Part of a Fassett record which slows the song of the Winter Wren to half and to one-fourth of the normal speed was also played.

Many kodachrome views of Shenandoah National Park gave an idea of the scenic beauty which may be enjoyed along with the bird study on the two day Foray which Mr. Favour is planning for June 19 and 20. The last feature of the afternoon program was an excellent film entitled "A Nature Pageant" by Ralph E. Lawrence. Many, but not all, of the animals and plants shown were filmed in the vicinity of Washington.

From the afternoon session the group moved to the nearby Central Methodist Church where dinner was served. At the conclusion of the meal, Dr. Hostetter called for the report of the nominating committee, which consisted of Mr. Steirly, Dr. Murray and Miss Prior. They nominated the following: President, Dr. Hostetter; Vice-president, Mr. Perkins; Secretary, Dr. Hague; Treasurer, Mr. Miller; three members of the Executive Committee for 3 years, Mr. English, Prof. Freer and Mr. Beasley (Newport News); for one year (to complete the term of Charles Stevens) Mrs. L.W. Machen of Hampton. A call for nominations from the floor brought the naming of Mrs. Walter Post Smith of Hampton for a three year term on the Executive Committee. It was agreed that by accepting the report of the Nominating Committee the officers and Mrs. Machen would be elected. This was done and a vote by show of hands elected Mr. English, Prof. Freer and Mrs. Smith as members of the Executive Committee for three years. Dr. Hostetter then appointed Dr. Murray as Editor of The Raven and the following committee chairmen: Membership, Mrs. Darden; Conservation, Mr. Rountrey; Publicity, Mr. Watson. Mrs. Wiltshire invited the V.S.O. to meet in Lynchburg in 1954. Plans for the Shenandoah National Park Foray on June 19 and 20 and for the Eastern Shore trip on August 15 were announced.

A prompt return to the Hecht Auditorium for the evening program was necessary because the store and auditorium close at 9:30. After Mr. Rule told of the plans for the Saturday Field Trip Dr. Irston Barnes spoke about the efforts that the Audubon Society of the D.C. and other organizations have made with a sand company and the National Parks officials to keep certain marsh area from being drained. The struggle is not finished but they are hopeful of saving the marsh. Because many of the



residents of Washington and its environs feel that every natural wild life area in the vicinity is in danger; they have formed the Potomac Valley Conservation and Recreation Council for the purpose of protecting these areas. They would welcome a representative of the V.S.O. on their Council.

The motion picture - Mexican Primavera - which Dr. Ernest Edwards has taken on his several trips to Mexico, showed a Mexican festival and some primitive methods of agriculture and lumbering as well as animals in their native habitats. Mr. Maurice Sullivan of the National Park Service showed many slides and told of the beauties of Acadia National Park on Mt. Desert Island off the coast of Maine but because of the approach of the 9:30 closing hour did not have time to complete the motion picture, The Raven.

On Saturday, after a 6:45 breakfast, the V.S.O. members and their guests went to the Richard H. Rule home and then separated into two parties for the field trips to three different localities: a farm type habitat, a pine and hard woods forest and Accotink Creek. We returned to the same vicinity to watch her interesting demonstration of and to hear Mrs. Brantley Peacock's account of her banding and of catching the birds with a net. There was time for only a brief pause at the Rule's home for lemonade and cookies before going to Rock Spring Congregational Church for lunch.

After luncheon the last business matters were settled. Dr. H.S. Helbert reported that he and Max Carpenter - the Auditing Committee - had found the Treasurer's accounts entirely in order and commended Mr. Miller for his excellent work. Mrs. Wiltshire read the report of the Resolutions Committee consisting of herself, A.O. English and Jack Perkins, Chairman. The resolutions included votes of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Eike for arranging and organizing the meeting; to Mrs. Eike for the wonderful luncheon served to the Executive Committee; to the Hecht Company for the use of the auditorium and to Misses Paschke and O'Brien of that company for their assistance; to the groups at the churches who prepared the dinner and luncheon; to Mrs. Peacock for her demonstration on bird banding; to Mr. and Mrs. Rule for their hospitality and to many others who had a part in making the meeting successful and delightful.

An invitation to the V.S.O. to meet in the Norfolk area in 1955 came from Mr. Perkins. The composite field list was compiled and Dr. Hostetter appointed a committee to investigate the possibility of purchasing Audubon Field Lists or of printing our own, which topic had been discussed earlier. From the luncheon some started homewards and some visited Mr. Arthur H. Fast's bird banding station which was nearby.

-- Sweet Briar, Virginia

## 1953 V. S. O. FIELD TRIP LIST

May 9, 1953

Wood Duck, Turkey Vulture, Red-shouldered Hawk, Bob-white, Killdeer, Solitary Sandpiper, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Crested Flycatcher, Phoebe, Acadian Flycatcher, Wood Pewee, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, Crow, Fish Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Carolina Wren, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Wood Thrush, Olive-backed Thrush, Veery, Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Parula Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, Yellow-throat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Hooded Warbler, Canada Warbler, Redstart, English Sparrow, Bobolink, Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Orchard Oriole, Purple Grackle, Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, Goldfinch, Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

-- Robert J. Watson

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## TREASURER'S REPORT

Our membership at the close of 1952 was 330. This compares with a total membership of the year before of 276. During the year we dropped from the roll 17 on account of non-payment of dues, one died, and 10 resigned.

Our Treasury showed some improvement this year over the previous year which was due chiefly to those who have taken out Sustaining Membership, and the increase in the Active Membership list.

The financial report for the year 1952 is as follows:

RECEIPTS

Balance on hand January 1, 1952	\$ 192.82
Received for Membership Dues	517.52
Received for back issues of "The Raven"	16.00
Received Special Contributions	19.00
	<hr/>
Total	\$ 745.34

DISEBURSEMENTS

Cost of issuing "The Raven"	\$ 198.05
Postage for Mailing "The Raven"	85.95
Supplies for issuing "The Raven"	105.66
Stamps	19.00
Stationery and Supplies	3.99
Stenographic help	10.00
Printing	18.25
Interest paid on Demand Note to 7/1/52 "Check-List"	2.09
Annual Dues National Audubon Society to 10-1-53	10.00
Expenses Executive Meeting October 4, 1952	18.00
	<hr/>
Total	\$ 470.99

Total Receipts	\$745.34
Total Disbursements	470.99

Balance in the State-Planters Bank and Trust Company, Richmond, Virginia, as of December 31, 1952	\$ 274.35
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-- W. Edwin Miller, Treasurer  
3206 Griffin Avenue  
Richmond, Virginia



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S FILES

We have enjoyed a very good meeting in Arlington; the program and field trip were most profitable and much appreciated. Officially, I wish to express sincere appreciation to Mr. and Mrs. James Eike for their kindness in entertaining the Executive Committee; and for their time and efforts, with the help of local friends, in planning the program and arranging for the field trip including the special demonstrations in bird trapping and banding.

I have had no opportunity to contact our secretary since the meeting; do not know what will appear in this issue relative to it, so I will make no further comments.

May I encourage you to make your plans to participate in one or both of the field trips scheduled for this summer.

-- D. Ralph Hostetter

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## THE 1952 NESTING SEASON IN VIRGINIA

By F.R. Scott

The weather can best be summed up by the statement that it was the hottest summer in Richmond since 1943, and that was second only to 1900. At Richmond the temperature surpassed 100° on eight separate days. While drought conditions prevailed in some sections of the state, other parts had ample rain accompanied by violent electrical storms.

Herons. Thom Blair found a small Great Blue heronry of about 7 nests in Hanover County near Pamunky River. Young were in all nests on May 18; young were about to leave 3 nests on July 1. The inland post-breeding egret flight was disappointing, the most interesting record being 2 Snowy Egrets at Alexandria on July 22.

Geese to Hawks. Five Canada Geese flew over Williamsburg on the odd date of June 9 (J.H. Grey), and a drake Pintail spent July and August at Roaches Run, Arlington. W.F. Rountrey reported a pair of Broad-winged Hawks about Norfolk during the summer, apparently the first summer record south and east of Richmond. C.E. Stevens found an Osprey at Hatton, on James River, July 13, the second summer record for Albemarle County. A Marsh Hawk at Cobbs Island on June 5 (Grey, J.J. Murray) may have been a bird that had nested locally.

Marsh Birds to Terns. A King Rail nest with 8 eggs was found at Hog Island, Surry County, on June 5 (C.C. Steirly). Two broods were reported from Alexandria in June (P.A. DuMont, K. Wright). A pair of adult Coots appeared at Byrd Park, Richmond, in mid July and remained throughout

the remainder of the summer. Apparently no young were raised this year. Rountrey found the Pectoral Sandpiper abundant at Stumpy Lake, Norfolk, in late July with a maximum of 500 in one flock. F.R. Scott found 74 Laughing Gulls at Hopewell on July 31 where they are highly irregular in summer. The V.S.O. field trip to the Eastern Shore on July 19 found a late colony of 106 Black Skimmer, 14 Common Tern and 13 Least Tern nests with eggs hatching, and one Gull-billed Tern nest with a young bird. Elsewhere, the Least Tern colony at Seaford, York County, contained 42 nests on June 13 (Grey), an increase over previous years. Paxton saw a Common Tern at Lexington, May 20.

Swifts to Wrens. Chimney Swifts had young in the nest as late as July 28 in Richmond. Both Horned Larks and Blue Jays appear to be increasing as summer residents on the Lower Peninsula. A new colony of Cliff Swallows with 34 nests was found at Fairfield, Rockbridge County, by Murray. At Front Royal 20 birds were seen on June 16. Blair found 7 Purple Martin colonies in Hanover County, averaging 5-10 pairs each. In southwest Highland County, Scott, Stevens, and J.R. Sydnor found Black-capped Chickadees down to 2280 feet, probably a low summer altitude record for the state. Favour reported a singing Winter Wren in June and July on the northern slope of Hawksbill, Shenandoah National Park, but no nest was found. A family group of 3 Bewick's Wrens was seen in eastern Albemarle County near the Fluvanna line on August 14 (Stevens). This is about as far east of the Blue Ridge as the bird occurs in central Virginia. One lone Short-billed Sedge Wren was found singing at Seaford on June 13 (Grey).

Kinglets to Finches. Heretofore, the Golden-crowned Kinglet has been known to breed in the state only in the Mt. Rogers area of southwestern Virginia. On June 18, however, Scott, Stevens and Sydnor found 2 nests with young in the Middle Mountain area of Highland County. A number of birds were also found in other nearby locations the following day. In Albemarle County on June 16 Stevens found a pair of Solitary Vireos and a pair of Cerulean Warblers feeding young in their nests. This was in a low mountain range east of the Blue Ridge. He also found a Prothonotary Warbler singing as if on territory, on James River near Hatton, in both Albemarle and Buckingham Counties. Another, not singing, was seen in Buckingham County on July 13. A singing Chestnut-sided Warbler was reported just south of Alexandria on June 20, a unique date (K. Wright). Grey found 3 nests with young Boat-tailed Grackles on the Chincoteague Causeway on May 13. He and Murray found 13 recently used nests of this species at Cobbs Island on July 18. Blair reported the Scarlet Tanager as common during the summer about Hanover Courthouse. A Henslow's Sparrow was collected on Long Ridge, Shenandoah National Park, on July 27 (A. Wetmore). This should be at an altitude of 2000-3000 feet, perhaps a record for the state. Stevens found a singing Bachman's Sparrow in Albemarle County on August 9.

-- Richmond, Virginia





# The Raven

BULLETIN OF THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY

J. J. MURRAY, EDITOR  
LEXINGTON, VA.

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(The edition of Wild Wings, by J.J. Murray, is being closed out by the publishers, and will soon be out of print. Remaining copies are offered at the reduced price of \$1.50; and can be secured from John Knox Press, P.O. Box 1176, Richmond, Virginia.)

## LUMBERING AND BIRD HABITATS

By C.C. Steirly

"Variety is the spice of life", is a saying that is quite true in ornithology, or in any form of nature study, as well as in life in general. Lumbering operations throughout our state add to this variety when it comes to bird study, yet many persons who are intensely interested in ornithology decry the slaying of our forests by lumbermen. Since most of us are not the owners of extensive timberlands there is not much we can do to prevent this destruction of bird (and other wildlife) habitats. Actually, in a sense, lumbering might be considered as a creation of habitats that might be of more ornithological (and botanical) interest than hitherto uncut forest. It is the purpose of this article to point out that all is not lost when one of our favorite bird walk areas is finally slaughtered by the lumberman. The writer realizes, from experience, that most of us become very much attached to some favorite piece of woods - one that generally does not belong to us but of which we have a certain spiritual sense of ownership such as Thoreau had of the woods around Concord. Most of us dislike changes, however we must realize that vegetative units will not remain forever unchanged, except the rather rare virgin or climax forest, which is always hanging in something of a balance subject to such vagaries of nature as windthrow, tree diseases or insects, landslides, forest fires, etc.

No piece of land is going to remain devoid of vegetation. Even a bare area, one created by fire, landslide, farming, lumbering, etc., will become clothed with some sort of vegetation. Sooner or later this will pass through successive stages of vegetation and eventually it will become forest, if the soil conditions are suited to forest growth. Those who have attended the splendid VSO field trip at Skyland in the Shenandoah National Park are familiar with the Big Meadow area. This vast open area was created by the hand of men in clearing away the forest and turning the area out to grazing. It has been artificially kept open by grazing, and latterly by mowing. If left alone, it would, in a short while, become a brush area, followed later by a steady increase in tree species, which in time would dominate the area and a forest would once again prevail. That large open area adds to the pleasures of a bird trip for there are to be found certain birds that do not inhabit the forest areas.

We say that the lumbermen have slaughtered a tract. Have they really slaughtered it and ruined it for bird study? It is true that they have eliminated the stately yellow poplars, pines and white oaks, but have they cut all of the trees? There are many trees that are too small for economic logging, others of species for which there are no markets and still others are too defective to cut. Thus we can see that the area is not completely wiped out. The gnarled old black gum wasn't cut - yet it will produce its blue drupes and will continue to attract waxwings and flickers. They didn't cut that red oak with the badly scarred butt. It will perhaps be utilized by a woodpecker or some other hole-nesting birds. Those dogwoods were not of commercial size, that tall beech was a line tree and there are of course a number of pine seed trees, left according to law. They haven't ruined the area completely. The underbrush is still pretty much the way it was and a few spots might be left completely bare; they will be seeded by numerous wind



disseminated seeds of grasses, weeds, certain wildflowers, pine, sweet gum, yellow poplar, etc. It is true that conditions are quite changed and that the area is in for a spell of re-adjustment. With much of the overstory removed the understory will take full advantage of its release. A new habitat has been created which when considered in relation to the uncut forest on the adjacent property given a wider variety of bird habitat - and perhaps will add to our pleasure.

In the eastern part of the state when a pine forest is cut the change is generally for the better as far as bird watching goes for not all of the area will be regenerated to pine - even on the best of well managed forests. There will be maple, sweet gum, black gum, holly, dogwood, viburnum, shadbush, huckleberry, etc., asserting itself among the young pines giving a wide variety of plants newly released from the monotonous overstory of pine. The changes are strong that many of the hardwood trees on such an area will not be cut. Of course one might argue that the woods has been made more messy for convenient walking around. Pine tops, a rank growth of grasses, fox grape, Smilax, blackberry, Clethra, etc., might develop almost within the same season; but isn't such a growth an excellent bird habitat - chats for example. Besides, the logging roads will be walkable for a long time.

When the logger moves into the swamp and bottomland hardwoods he doesn't move out leaving a bare area. Unfortunately for the landowner, but fortunately for the naturalist such forest contain a frightful number of cull trees or trees that are just too hard to cut and haul out. These cull trees (maples, tupelos, overcup oaks, sycamores, river birches, elms, ashes, etc.) are just as good for wildlife as were those that were good lumber producers. Perhaps they are better for those hollows and rotten spots are just right for all sorts of tree hole nesting birds. The pileated woodpeckers will find such areas just as good as before cutting, maybe better for some logging damage will be done to the residual trees paving the way for insect attacks.

The writer's favorite bottomland hardwood area was exploited for all commercial trees three seasons ago. There has been no appreciable lack of woodpeckers including the pileated. A profuse growth of understory trees and shrubs has taken place and instead of being ruined the area has become richer in a bird habitat sense. It will be years before any commercial value will influence the owner to sell timber again.

Some species of birds will suffer but not all timber tracts are being cut simultaneously. Some owners refuse to sell, other tracts are tied up in estates, and some owners permit only partial cutting or cutting marked timber under the selection system of forest management. No woods is going to stay exactly as it is and we had all best reconcile ourselves to the fact that all is not lost when a woods is cut over. Where a forest, say a pine stand, is getting along toward the time when it might be cut an interesting bit of ornithological work can be done by carefully recording the bird species (or population) seen there on our bird walks for several seasons. Then following the inevitable cutting we can keep, listing the bird species or populations during the successive changes of the cut-over vegetation from the piles of tops and liberated understory on through the sapling stages for the rest of our lifetime. The contrasts from the uncut to the cut over on through the various stages will be most interesting.

The writer is not hereby condoning the "destruction" of forest habitats. He is rather offering a bit of solace to those who might be about to lose a favorite habitat, or pointing the way to an interesting form of bird study - bird ecology or habitat relations. The same solace is held out to those whose favorite spots have suffered the ravages of forest fires - burned areas will slowly come back but at a much slower rate. The writer regrets that he cannot offer much consolation to those whose favorite spots are being cleared and bulldozed for housing sites - that is almost complete destruction. The solution here is to get out and find another place.

An interesting book on the relation of agricultural changes to bird habitats and the responses of the birds to such change is *Birds and Men* by E.M. Nicholson. This is an English book discussing the changes wrought in Britain by the hand of men. The author is rather optimistic for the future of many species that have adapted themselves to inevitable anthropacic changes.

-- Virginia Forest Service  
Waverly, Virginia

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#### FURTHER CHANGES IN THE VIRGINIA LIST

By J.J. Murray

During the past spring one new bird has been added to the regular Virginia list; another changed from hypothetical to regular status; and a new bird added to the hypothetical list; and last fall another was added to the hypothetical list. This now brings the number of forms on our regular list to 407 and the number on the hypothetical list to 1. It must be remembered that the hypothetical list includes only birds that we have good reason to think have been observed in Virginia. Species are left on that list until a specimen has been taken, or until they have been satisfactorily observed at more than one place and by more than one person.

(Cattle Egret. Bubulcus ibis (Linnaeus). This Old World bird, which was introduced into French Guiana, has now spread to this country, and has possibly become established in our avifauna. For several years it has been recorded at various spots along the Atlantic coast, from Florida to Massachusetts. Now it can be added to the Virginia list on a hypothetical basis. John H. Buckalew, who is a careful observer, saw two of these birds on the Chincoteague Refuge, at the upper end of the 'Levels', on May 13, 1953. Refuge Manager E.O. Mellinger, who was away at the time, could not find the birds again when he returned. There has been some discussion as to the scientific name to be used for this bird. On the British list it is Ardeola ibis (misprinted several times in The Florida Naturalist as Albeola ibis); but according to information given to Louis A. Stimson (Florida Naturalist, 26, 136) by Dr. Herbert Friedmann the name Bubulcus ibis will be used in the forthcoming edition of the A. O. U. 'Check-List').



Eastern Glossy Ibis. Plegadis falcinellus falcinellus (Linnaeus). Another good sight record of this bird enables us to change it from the hypothetical to the regular list. Refuge Manager E.O. Mellinger saw one on May 8, 1953, at the upper end of the 'Levels' on the Chincoteague Refuge. On later trips he could not find it.

Willow Veery. Hylocichla fuscescens fuscescens Ridgway. It is now known that this western form of the Veery migrates not uncommonly through the Eastern United States. One originally secured by Mrs. M.B. Peacock, Route 2, Box 200, Fairfax, Virginia, at Pine Ridge on May 9, 1953, was turned over to the Fish and Wildlife Service collection, where it was identified. While it probably occurs not infrequently in Virginia, this is our only definite record.

(Brewer's Blackbird. Euphagus cyanocephalus (Wagler). J.M. Abbott states that he carefully observed one at Roaches Run on October 8, 1952 Atlantic Naturalist, 8, 148. There is no previous record for the state)

-- Lexington, Virginia

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#### SUMMARY OF BIRDS BANDED AT PINE RIDGE

December 5, 1949 to April 30, 1953

By Mrs. M.B. Peacock, Fairfax County, Virginia

Bob-white	3	Pine Siskin	3
Mourning Dove	15	Savannah Sparrow	1
Hairy Woodpecker	1	White-crowned Sparrow	8
Downy Woodpecker	34	White-throated Sparrow	1194
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	Tree Sparrow	7
Red-bellied Woodpecker	6	Chipping Sparrow	67
Flicker	6	Field Sparrow	124
Hummingbird	1	Junco	1355
Phoebe	6	Song Sparrow	592
Pewee	19	Lincoln Sparrow	8
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1	Swamp Sparrow	24
Alder Flycatcher	3	Fox Sparrow	155
Least Flycatcher	6	Chewink	190
Blue Jay	141	Cardinal	145
Common Crow	1	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	3
Starling	15	Indigo Bunting	47
Bobolink	5	Scarlet Tanager	6
Cowbird	6	Red-eyed Vireo	15
Red-wing	1	Philadelphia Vireo	1
Orchard Oriole	2	Yellow-throated Vireo	1
Baltimore Oriole	1	White-eyed Vireo	1
Evening Grosbeak	178	Cedar Waxwing	1
Purple Finch	503	Black & White Warbler	1
Goldfinch	472	Golden-winged Warbler	1

Nashville Warbler	6	Catbird	120
Tennessee Warbler	1	Thrasher	63
Cape May Warbler	3	Carolina Wren	24
Yellow Warbler	2	Bewick Wren	2
Myrtle Warbler	54	House Wren	43
Magnolia Warbler	8	Brown Creeper	12
Bay-breasted Warbler	7	White-breasted Nuthatch	18
Blackpoll Warbler	2	Red-breasted Nuthatch	8
Black-throated Green Warbler	3	Titmouse	45
Palm (Western,2; Yellow,4)	6	Chickadee	52
Prairie Warbler	2	Golden-crowned Kinglet	4
Ovenbird	18	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	17
Kentucky Warbler	1	Wood Thrush	18
Connecticut Warbler	1	Veery	5
Mourning Warbler	1	Gray-cheeked Thrush	4
Yellowthroat	31	Olive-backed Thrush	9
Yellow-breasted Chat	8	Hermit Thrush	17
Hooded Warbler	3	Robin	106
Canada Warbler	2	Bluebird	43
Redstart	4	Winter Wren	1
English Sparrow	1	Pine Warbler	5
Mockingbird	24		

91 species - totaling 6181

(Probably the most interesting feature of the Arlington meeting of the V.S.O. was the demonstration of trapping and banding at the home of Mrs. M.B. Peacock. The above list summarizes her work for three and a half years.  
- Editor)

-- Route 2  
Fairfax, Virginia

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#### REPORT ON THE 1953 BLUE RIDGE FORAY

By Robert J. Watson

The second annual VSO Blue Ridge foray was held at Skyland, in the Shenandoah National Park, on June 19 and 20, 1953. About thirty VSO members and visitors attended the foray and participated in the various field trips which were conducted under the able leadership of Park Naturalist Paul G. Favour.

The following areas were covered during the foray: Thoroughfare Mountain, via the Thoroughfare Mountain fire road; Limberlost, via Old Rag fire road; Big Meadows, along the Rapidan fire road; Hazel Wilderness, via the Hazel Mountain fire road; and Little Stony Man cliffs.

The consolidated list of birds observed during the two days follows: Turkey Vulture, Broad-winged Hawk, Ruffed Grouse, Bob-white, Barred Owl,



Whip-poor-will, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Crested Flycatcher, Phoebe, Acadian Flycatcher, Wood Pewee, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, Raven, Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Mockingbird, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Wood Thrush, Veery, Cedar Waxwing, Starling, Solitary Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Black-and-White Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Ovenbird, Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Hooded Warbler, Canada Warbler, Redstart, Meadowlark, Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Goldfinch, Red-eyed Towhee, Vesper Sparrow, Carolina Junco, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

-- Chastleton Hotel, Apt. 527  
Washington, D.C.

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#### DIVIDEND PAYERS: AN INTERESTED CITIZENRY

By Mrs. L.W. Machen

Four times the ringing of the telephone has given some of the bird watchers in the Hampton-Newport News area the thrill of a lifetime.

In late April of 1949 an article in the newspaper about "strange white birds" submitted by a curious and observant citizen lead to the identification of the Wood Ibis. The birds, in a flock of fifty, came to various parts of Hampton Creek. On May 3rd they were seen in flight and their flight was followed to the cove where they were roosting. The flock decreased in size from day to day, but many citizens charted their course from creek bank to creek bank with enough interest to keep us posted by telephone. On May 10th there remained nine in the flock. The lowest number seen was three. By mid-May they had gone. It may well be that the lone individual observed May 8th of that year at York River was one of this flock.

Last year, 1952, on March 10th another interested observer among the laymen called to describe a bird, fifty of which were in her yard at that time. It sounded like the Evening Grosbeak. Obliging this flock of Evening Grosbeaks, for that is what they were, stayed in the vicinity of her house for over a month affording excellent observations to many bird lovers. Other citizens saw them in other parts of Hampton and the county, watched them carefully, telephoned us about them and so helped us determine fairly accurately how well scattered they were, when they arrived and when they left. Our last date was May 10th.

Again last year a group of school pupils and night school students taking a class in Bird Identification helped keep a lone Snowy Egret accurately recorded. Appearing on February 6, 1952, he was watched until the end of March when there were no more observations. Then on December 9 the bird reappeared and was on the creek until March 13 of this year.

Just the other day, Monday, April 20, a woman telephoned in a wonderful observation, so accurately given as to prove her own identification absolutely correct. Next morning two of us went to her home during her breakfast hour and we seated ourselves in chairs before her window feeders. The lady fed her three children and her husband while we kept our eyes riveted to the window. Peterson's Guide to the Western Birds was on the arm of the chair. At 8:15 a.m. the bird came, dull in coloring, far from spectacular, but undoubtedly the bird we had come to see and which she had so positively identified: the Green-tailed Towhee. What made her observation more than remarkable was the fact that she had studied birds only from those seen at her feeder. Had the bird been colorful or freakish in any way it would have made her careful observing less noteworthy, perhaps. There, mingling with Chipping Sparrows with rufous crowns and White-throated Sparrows with white throats, was another bird! She had been discriminating enough to know that the combination of rufous crown, white throat, greenish back and grey underparts was something different. She had tracked it down in the big volume "Birds of America" and had told us what she thought it was over the telephone. Her children knew it by sight. They had been watching the bird since the very last of February!

Bird watchers of the Hampton-Newport News area will be forever grateful to these citizens who observed with interest these unusual birds and then took time to telephone us about them.

-- 322 Marshall Street  
Hampton, Virginia

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#### GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE AT AMELIA, VIRGINIA

By Mr. & Mrs. John R. Gatewood

In Amelia County, Virginia, near Amelia Court House, on Mr. James G. Campbell's farm, my wife, her father, and I made the observations contained in this summary. We were visiting the Campbells, my wife's people, and we also did a lot of bird watching. We had binoculars (8x30 and 8x24), a 60 mm. Bausch and Lomb spotting scope with a 30-power eyepiece, Peterson's field guide, and use of the Audubon guide to small land birds.

On Tuesday morning, April 7, 1953, we first saw a bird which we thought at first was a Swamp Sparrow. However, during this first observation I noticed the yellowish cast of the lower part of the wing, the grayish coloration of the rest of the wing and the back, and the size, all of which were different from the Swamp Sparrow. It was in company with a Cardinal, a Song Sparrow, and at least one White-throated Sparrow, and I could see that it was fully as large as if not larger than the White-throated Sparrow; it even chased the White-throat and the Song from the immediate area in which it was feeding. This area was under a small pine tree just at the edge of a newly-plowed garden which is bordered on this edge by a downward sloping field of small pines, bushes, and honeysuckles.



My wife and I later saw the same bird several times feeding around the stable lot, and it had evidently been feeding there long enough to be somewhat tamed because one time I walked to within a few feet of it.

I had checked through the field guides and could find no bird other than the Green-tailed Towhee which looked like what we had seen. We had already observed that the bird had a chestnut red crown, a very white throat with the white extending farther down onto the upper breast and more to the sides of its throat than the White-throated Sparrow, and with a medium gray back. Now, during an observation of about five minutes through the scope (at the equivalent distance of less than two feet since we had it set up about forty feet from the bird), I observed that there was a thin dark line, apparently black, on each side of the throat, but still in the white, and that the white of the throat was not separated from its surroundings by any dark edging. Also, the reddish color of the crown had no dark edging. The bill was not quite so stubby as that of the Eastern Towhee. The gray of the back and wings was unstreaked and seemed to have a blight olive cast. The lower part of the folded wing and the top of the tail had a light yellowish-green appearance (mainly yellow) with this color on the tail a little darker in appearance than on the wing. Thus the lower part of the wing had a suffused yellow appearance, while the rest of the wing was about the same medium gray as the back. The breast was a clear pearly gray, darker toward the throat. The leg feathers were also light. The legs were of medium length, perhaps slightly longer than the White-throated Sparrow's. We observed the bird scratching, apparently with both feet at once. I saw it eating a grain which it had scratched out of the loose straw and hay in the walkway in front of the stable lot. There were some loose oats stored in the feed house nearby.

Altogether, on April 7, 9, 10, and 11, we observed the bird in several situations and postures, in varying light, and at different times of the day. Through the scope we observed it at the edge of a garden and in front of the draw-bars of the stable lot; and through the binoculars, on the tops of posts, in bushes, and on the ground beside the stable, and at the edge of the pasture fence close to the stable. Finally, both my wife and I heard a soft, low "mow" directly from the place to which we had just seen the bird fly.

-- 2621 Old Lexington Road  
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

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#### AN UNUSUAL BIRD RECORD FOR THE BLUE RIDGE

By William O. Lewis, Katherine M. Lewis, and Robert J. Watson

On May 17, 1953, immediately after turning off Route 250 onto the Skyline Drive, we were surprised to see a Florida Gallinule standing by the side of the road. The bird was located within a few hundred yards of Route 250, near the beginning of the wooded area on the east side of the Drive. It was apparently unable to fly because of injury, and made no effort to fly

off as we passed. We attempted to capture it, but it escaped by slipping into a dense tangle of weeds and low undergrowth. There were no bodies of water nearer than the foot of the mountain, and we surmised that the bird had injured itself by flying into an obstruction, probably while trying to cross the ridge at this point, and had been forced to come to rest in this unlikely spot.

Another observation made the same day, which may be of interest, was a singing male Cerulean Warbler along the Drive inside the Shenandoah National Park near the 96-mile post. Wetmore, in his List of Birds of the Shenandoah National Park, lists only two records for this species within the Park.

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### LOBLOLLY PINE AS A FOOD FACTOR FOR RED-WINGS

By F.R. Scott

In Tidewater and the eastern part of Piedmont, Virginia, occur large stands of Loblolly Pine (Pinus taeda); generally considered to be the most important commercial tree in the state. Such a forest would seem to be a strange place for Red-wings (Agelaius phoeniceus) to be found, but on December 18, 1952, the writer found a flock of 30 apparently feeding on the cones of a pure stand of these trees on Hog Island, Surry County, Virginia.

In more northern forests the cones of coniferous trees are generally thoroughly utilized as a food, particularly by the Cardueline finches. On the other hand there seem to be no species which are well-known for utilizing Loblolly Pine seeds for food. The Red-wing may well occupy this available niche more frequently than is realized.

-- Richmond, Virginia

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### VIRGINIA NOTES

The Purple Sandpiper (Erolia maritima) at Little Creek.

On March 27, 1953, while coming into Little Creek on the Chesapeake Bay Ferry, two Purple Sandpipers were seen near the end of the east jetty. Two years ago seven of these birds were noted in almost exactly the same place. As the boat went by, we were looking for them, and we had excellent views, noting the eye ring, and the yellow-orange legs. It would be most interesting to find out if these sandpipers spend the entire winter on this jetty. In the New York area there are two somewhat similar jetties



on Long Island, and on both of these, a small group of Purple Sandpipers may invariably be found throughout each winter, yet they occur almost at no other place for miles along the South Shore. There are also certain small offshore rocks in Long Island Sound, off the southern Connecticut Shore where one may find numbers of Purple Sandpipers on any winter's day, yet they seem never to leave these particular rocks.

The Glaucous Gull (Larus hyperboreus) at Lynnhaven.

Just south of Lynnhaven Inlet, on a large sand bar which was exposed at low tide two Glaucous Gulls were seen. This was on March 27, 1953. As both Herring Gulls (Larus argentatus) and Ring-billed Gulls (Larus delawarensis) were sitting with these gulls, it was very simple to compare them for size, and both the white-winged gulls appeared definitely larger than the Herring Gulls. While watching them, one flew up and came to rest on a perch very near the bridge, affording a fine close-up view. It is of interest to note that much earlier the same day another Glaucous Gull was found on a field close by the New Jersey Turnpike in southern New Jersey. In the New York area there was also a number of these birds seen throughout the winter, and they appeared in the East River for the first time.

-- Locke Mackenzie  
Clement Cobb  
Richard Harrison

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#### THE 1952 FALL MIGRATION IN VIRGINIA

By F.R. Scott

The fall season was very dry in general until late November, when heavy rains (snow in parts of the mountains) broke a drought that had started in early October. Temperatures were about normal with a cool October and early November. North and east of Virginia the season was astonishingly mild, producing, together with the dry weather, one of the most spectacular crops of early arrivals and late departures ever seen in Virginia. The early arrivals were most pronounced in the ducks, where every regularly wintering species was specifically reported before the end of October with the exception of the Golden-eye, Greater Scaup and American Merganser. Examples of early duck arrivals were Canada Geese at Yorktown and Back Bay in late September, Mallard near Richmond on September 17, Pintail at Richmond on October 2, Shovellers at Roaches Run on October 11, Gadwalls (35) near Clarksville, Mecklenburg County, on October 4 (R. Eggleston and W. McMann), and White-winged Scoter at Yorktown on October 10. Other early arrivals were Coots at Richmond on September 9, Red-breasted Nuthatches on September 20 and Brown Creeper on September 24 on Big Flat Mountain, Albemarle County, Pipits migrating over Big Flat Mountain on September 20, 21, and 24 (F.R. Scott, C.E. Stevens, R.E. Watson), Yellow-throated Warbler near Clarksville on October 4 (RE & WM). Late records included a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Alexandria on November 11 (J.K. Meritt, E.G. Davis), a Black-poll Warbler at Roaches Run on November 2 (R.R. Kerr),

a Prairie Warbler at Quimby, Accomack County, On October 25 (FRS), an Orchard Oriole at Alexandria on September 29 (J.A. Abbott), and a Baltimore Oriole near Alexandria on November 27 (JKM).

The outstanding record of the season was the discovery of a Brewer's Blackbird at Roaches Run on October 8 by J.A. Abbott (Atlantic Naturalist 8 (3): 148, January-February, 1953). This is a first record for Virginia and now takes its place on the hypothetical list.

Pelagic Birds. A Red-necked Grebe at Cape Charles on October 25 is probably the earliest Virginia record (FRS). An early Pied-billed Grebe was found near Newport News on August 9 by R.A. Glassel, and 3 were picked up by Park Service rangers along the Skyline Drive on September 16, a new record for the Shenandoah National Park. A Double-crested Cormorant was found near Clarksville on October 4 (RE & WM).

Hérons. Egrets appear to be making use of the new Buggs Island Reservoir in Mecklenburg County, and 22 American and 3 Snowy Egrets were found there near Clarksville on September 6 (RE & R. Lyle). Eggleston also found a Snowy at Danville on August 29. Louisiana Herons are now appearing regularly west of the Chesapeake, and Glassel had a maximum of 15 at Grandview, Hampton, on August 9. C.C. Stairly reported individual birds at Hog Island, Surry County, on August 8 and near Newsome, Southampton County, on August 27. Yellow-crowned Night Herons were reported as usual in southeastern Virginia, and a new locality record is Clarksville, where an immature was seen on October 4 (RE & WM).

Swans, Geese, Ducks. Nine Whistling Swans appeared at Fort Eustis, Warwick, on October 22 and 3 remained until October 25 (Howard Lindquist). In spite of the general early arrival of most ducks and geese, Snow Geese did not arrive at Back Bay until after mid November (John H. Groy, Jr.), probably because of good feeding conditions farther north. Three Blue Geese spent October 15 to 25 at Stumpy Lake, Norfolk (W.F. Rountrey). Because of dry conditions Shovellers did not arrive at Stumpy Lake until November 23 (WFR). Ducks made good use of the new Buggs Island Reservoir in Mecklenburg County, and there was a maximum of 1300 rafting near the eastern end on November 18 (FRS).

Hawks. A number of observers cooperated during September to get counts of migrating hawks along the mountain ridges of the state. The total hawk count for Virginia, from the Blue Ridge west, was approximately 9600, with Broad-winged Hawks amounting to 9300 of these (based on incomplete data). Generally, the best reports were along the northern Blue Ridge, the highest single day's count being made by C.E. Stevens on Big Flat Mountain, Albemarle County. On September 24 he found 1736 hawks, of which 1712 were Broad-wings. An interesting late report, not included in the above totals, was "hundreds" of Broad-wings at Mt. Rogers on October 12 (Shields).

One Golden Eagle was reported: an immature at Great North Mountain just south of Hayfield, Frederick County, on September 20 (W.R. DeGarmo et al). Pigeon Hawks were a feature of the survey on September 20, with 3 at Philh Farm just north of Route 7, Clark and Loudoun counties (George Hall); one at Great North Mountain (WRD); and one at East River Mountain near Bluefield, Bland County (Lawrence Hicks). An incredibly early Rough-legged Hawk was seen near Paris, Loudoun-Clark-Fauquier counties, on September 21 (Neill Phillips, et al), and another at Arlington on November 12.



Rails and Shorebirds. Bruce McCartney and others found King Rails common in fresh-water marshes along the York River, Virginia Rails were regular through November, and Sora were abundant in the marshes of the Lower Peninsula, the last record being November 5 at Harpersville (FRS). A recently developed mud flat just south of Alexandria (Hunting Creek) is beginning to produce some excellent shorebird records, including 4 White-rumped Sandpipers on August 19 and a Golden Plover on September 14 (JMA). A number of interesting shorebirds turned up on the Lower Peninsula, including several new records for the area. Some of these included 2 Oystercatchers at Seaford on November 5 (FRS), a Golden Plover at Grandview on November 2 (RAG & HL), the latest record for the state, and a Willet near Newport News on August 10 (RAG & HL). Elsewhere, E.O. Mellinger had 4 Avocets at Chincoteague Refuge from September 25 to October 18, with a single bird remaining until November 2. He also found several Marbled Godwits there on September 25 and 28. Inland, a Red-backed Sandpiper was found at Lexington on September 22 and 27 (J.J. Murray) and another near Clarksville, October 4 (RE & WM). Murray also had Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers at Lexington on August 8, the earliest by far for either. A fatigued Northern Phalarope was closely observed at Yorktown on September 11 by R.J. Beasley and Capt. Jos Churan. Another was seen in Chesapeake Bay 7 miles south of Kiptopeke on October 24, the latest record for the state (FRS).

Gulls and Terns. On November 22 J.K. Wright found an immature Iceland Gull in first year plumage just south of Alexandria, and the bird was later seen by J.A. Abbott. The second inland occurrence of the Great Black-backed Gull in Virginia was reported on November 22 at Byrd Park, Richmond, an immature bird (FRS). A highly unusual inland record was a Least Tern at Roaches Run on August 3. A very high count of Royal Terns was 325, including 200 young, at Wachapreague on August 16 (S.A. Briggs *et al*). Black Terns were reported from several localities, with a maximum of 15 at Warwick on September 1 (RAG). Singles were seen at Lexington on August 20, September 1 and October 5 (J. Womeldorf).

Cuckoos to Vireos. A late Yellow-billed Cuckoo was found at Stumpy Lake on October 25 (WFR) and a Black-billed Cuckoo at Warwick on September 14 (RAG). Four Short-eared Owls (1 collected) were found on some islands in the eastern projection of Halifax County on November 3 and 9 (John Westbrook *et al*). The area is now entirely covered by Buggs Island Reservoir. A large migration of Nighthawks occurred at Arlington on September 1 when 1200 were seen (L. Griffin). A Western Kingbird at Seaford, York County, on September 7 is a new record for the area (RJB). Single Traill's (Alder) Flycatchers were banded at Pine Ridge on August 29 and September 16 (Elizabeth D. Peacock), and one was seen September 14 at Big Meadows, Shenandoah Park (P.A. DuMont). Late Least Flycatchers were found at Lexington on September 22 (JJM) and at Fort Belvoir on October 5 (JMA). A Bank Swallow near Alexandria on October 11 was very late (JMA), and a Bowick's Wren at Pine Ridge on October 27 was unusual (EDP). Alexander Wetmore found a Long-billed Marsh Wren high in the Shenandoah National Park on September 27, a new Park record. It was in a dry area with a cover of weeds. S.M. Russell had 2 Long-bills at Abingdon on October 5. The Veery, Olive-backed and Gray-checked Thrushes were all reported from Warwick (RAG), all locally uncommon to scarce. There were 3 fall records of single Philadelphia Vireos: Pine Ridge, September 2 (EDP); Lexington, September 8 (JJM & R.O. Paxton); Warwick, October 11 (RAG), a late record.

Warblers to Finches. A Golden-winged Warbler at Lexington on August 18 is the third record for Rockbridge County. Blue-winged Warblers were seen at Warwick on August 14 (RAG), a very early date, and September 14 (RJB). Tennessee Warblers, rare in eastern Virginia, were reported at Warwick (6 birds) on September 27 and one at Fort Eustis, October 17 (RAG). A late record was one at Alexandria on November 1 (JKW). Murray collected a Newfoundland Yellow Warbler near Lexington on September 8, a new record for Virginia. Away from the Arlington area, the following single Connecticut Warblers were reported: Richmond area, September 29 and October 16 (FRS); Big Flat, Albemarle County, September 20 (CES et al); and Skyland, Shenandoah Park, about September 1 (RJB). A Mourning Warbler was banded at Pine Ridge on September 5 (EDP). The only Evening Grosbeak report was a single bird at Pine Ridge on October 1, the earliest fall record for the state (EDP). Pine Siskins arrived early and in good numbers, and by the end of October they had become rather common east to Norfolk and Cape Charles with counts up to 50 birds. R.A. Glassel found 2 early Ipswich Sparrows at Buckroe Beach on November 9 and a Lark Sparrow at the same place on September 26. A real rarity was a Sharp-tailed Sparrow at Abingdon on October 5 (S.M. Russell). There were several records of Lincoln's Sparrows about Arlington, including one banded on the early date of September 21 at Pine Ridge (EDP). The first Richmond record was obtained on October 3 (FRS). There was an excellent flight of White-crowned Sparrows about Alexandria, the first record being 18 birds on October 11 (JMA). E.O. Mellinger reported a number of Snow Buntings during the fall at the Chincoteague Refuge.

-- 27 Malvern Avenue  
Richmond 21, Virginia

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#### FROM THE PRESIDENT'S FILES

Officers of an organization, like ministers, should practice what they preach. I have been urging attendance to our various field trips such as the recent Blue Ridge Foray. I had fully intended to attend when suddenly I decided to rush up to northern Michigan to attend the meeting of the Wilson Club. It may appear as though I was deserting the home group for a foreign group. I hasten to explain that I have been a member of the Wilson Club for a number of years. Also I used the excuse that I will have ample opportunity to attend Blue Ridge Forays but perhaps never again will I have the chance to see the bird life of northern Michigan under the supervision of experienced ornithologists. I was very sorry to miss the Blue Ridge trip.

The Wilson Meeting was held at the University of Michigan Biological Station, Douglas Lake, Michigan. Monday and Tuesday, June 15-16, were devoted to papers and motion pictures with items of business interspersed. Some of the more interesting papers with comments follow. "Niche Requirements of Birds as Illustrated by their Community Distribution in the Douglas Lake Region" produced some interesting discussion. It was emphasized that whereas temperature plays the principal role in general distribution, competition is the chief factor in determining the niche. "Introgressive Hybridization in Flickers" caused the question to be raised whether our



yellow-shafted flicker and red-shafted flicker are two really distinct species. "The Development of Vocal Patterns in a Hand-raised Meadowlark" was illustrated by use of tape. For a period of time the song was very uncertain, that is, the meadowlark imitated and picked up phrases from other birds. Later it developed its own distinct meadowlark song. The why of "The Distribution of Kirtland's Warbler" still remains unsolved. "Variations in the Song of the Red-eyed Towhee" was illustrated by Areatas A. Saunders in his characteristic way of whistling bird songs. "The Analytical Studies of Bird Songs" and "The Song Types of the Alder Fly-catcher" were both illustrated with tape recordings. "A Hybrid Between the Chipping and Clay-colored Sparrow" seems to be definitely proved. "The Use of Embryology in Field Ornithology" came as a surprise to a number present, but according to the speaker embryology can make a definite contribution to field studies especially if definite ages of the embryos is desired.

I was impressed with the number of papers devoted to bird songs, especially to the analysis of songs with tape recordings. There seems to be an increasing interest in this type of study, that is, the recorded song is played at one-half to one-eighth normal speed in order to catch all the notes and variations in pitch which are not picked up by the human ear as the song is normally sung.

Field trips were scheduled for Tuesday morning before breakfast and Wednesday all day. The Tuesday morning trip took us to a bog, a nesting area where we heard the winter wren, hermit thrush, veery, golden-crowned kinglet, northern water-thrush and purple finch singing. Other warblers familiar to us all were also seen and heard singing. On Wednesday I chose the field trip to the Jack Pine area to see the Kirtland's warbler whose breeding range is limited to the Jack and Red Pine area about 90 miles by 60 miles in the north central part of the lower peninsula of Michigan. Just why it is so limited in its range is not known; Jack Pines grow in other areas but the warblers are not there. We were fortunate in seeing males, females and nests with eggs and young. One nest was under a tuft of bearberry and another under a tuft of dried grass. Pine warblers were singing in the nearby taller red pines.

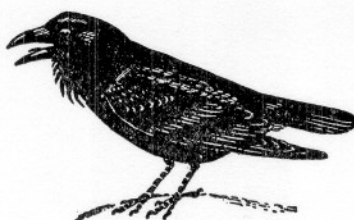
The following announcement was received from the National Audubon Society - "Please be advised that the 49th Annual Convention of the National Audubon Society and its branch and affiliated Societies will take place November 14-17, 1953, in New York City, with our new Audubon House, at 1130 Fifth Avenue, as headquarters. The Annual Dinner will take place on Tuesday evening, November 17, and will be the concluding event of the convention. We trust that you will put these dates on your calendar now and that you will wish to make plans at once so that you will be represented by one or more delegates at the 49th Convention". Signed by John H. Baker, President.

-- D. Ralph Hostetter

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#### NOTICE

The latest number of Bent's Life Histories is now available. It is "The Life History of North American Warblers", 734 p., \$4.50, from Supt. of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C. Order by name and number - SL3:3:203.



# The Raven

BULLETIN OF THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY

J. J. MURRAY, EDITOR  
LEXINGTON, VA.

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## ANNUAL EASTERN SHORE SUMMER TRIP

By C.C. Steirly

The third annual VSO summer field trip to Wreck and Cobb Islands on August 8 was attended by 56 persons, most of whom were members of the VSO and affiliated bird clubs. Forty-four of the group began the day of bird study at the Little Creek ferry slip. Twelve others joined the group at Oyster, a small fishing village on the Eastern Shore, not far from Cheriton.

By 9:30 a.m. the group proceeded in two boats for Wreck Island, where, as usual, it was greeted by a large flock of black skimmers. After all persons were ferried ashore the group explored the northern end of this sandy island with its sparse vegetation and wide sandy beaches. Here a number of species of shorebirds were observed at fairly close range. A dowitcher permitted itself to be approached quite closely. Semipalmated plovers, oyster-catchers, black-bellied plovers, Hudsonian curlews, sanderlings, Wilson's plovers, piping plovers, least sandpipers, gull-billed terns, common terns, Forster's terns and song sparrows were observed here.

Aside from birds, members of the group had ample opportunity to observe and study seashore biology including ghost crabs, king crabs, hermit crabs, coelenterates, echinoderms, mollusks, the vegetation peculiar to these somewhat sterile islands, and other forms of life including a diamond-backed terrapin.

After eating lunch on board the boats in the lee of Wreck Island we entered the rather rough bit between Wreck and Cobb Islands and landed on Cobb Island. Here two members fell in while disembarking, the first of such mishaps on a VSO Cobb Island trip.

On Cobb Island, which has a magnificent beach facing the sea and an extensive tidal marsh area, the group observed, in addition to many of the birds listed above, green herons, Louisiana herons, pectoral sandpipers, willets and a knot. This latter was one of the highlights of the day ornithologically speaking. The number of Wilson's plovers observed was somewhat unusual.

On the return journey to Oyster a vast expanse of tidal marsh was passed. Here a number of snowy egrets, little blue herons, great blue herons and American egrets were observed at favorable ranges. Other birds observed on the whole trip included redwings, least terns, tree swallows, barn swallows, ospreys, bald eagle, black duck, double-crested cormorants, and from the ferry, a number of Wilson's petrels.

A complete list for the trip is as follows; by habitats:

Open water. Wilson's petrel, Double-crested Cormorant, Laughing gull, Herring gull, Ring-billed gull, Royal tern.

Oyster marshes and creeks. Great blue heron, snowy egret, Little blue heron, Green heron, Lesser yellowlegs, Bald eagle, Black duck, Spotted sandpiper, Osprey, Hudsonian curlew, Willet, American egret, Tree swallow, Barn swallow.

Beaches, Cobb and Wreck Islands. Ruddy turnstone, Knot, Semipalmated plover, Sanderling, Western sandpiper, White-rumped sandpiper (Eike and Watson), Least sandpiper, Black-bellied plover, Dowitcher, Gull-billed tern, Common tern, Least tern, Forster's tern, Piping plover, Wilson's plover, Oystercatcher, Black skimmer, Pectoral sandpiper.

Marshy interior of islands. Louisiana heron, Green heron (nest with 2 young), Seaside sparrow, Song sparrow, Sharp-tailed sparrow, Redwing.

Upland near Oyster. Crow, Fish crow, Starling, Bluebird, Chimney swift, Meadowlark, Mockingbird, Kingbird, Killdeer.

The committee in charge of this trip assessed each participant \$2.50 for truck transportation, boat rental and a gratuity for the boat crews. Upon paying off these obligations it found that it had a surplus of \$53.40. Rather than try to refund fractional parts of this amount to each participant the committee decided to put the money in the VSO treasury, earmarked as a special trip fund for future trips.

-- Waverly, Virginia

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#### THE 1952-1953 WINTER SEASON IN VIRGINIA

By F.R. Scott

The season was very mild and open with winter temperatures averaging over 30° above normal at Richmond. Precipitation was fairly heavy, but there was almost no snow in eastern Virginia except for a light fall in early March. The lack of a general freeze kept many water birds, such as Wood Ducks, around in highly unusual numbers. As would be expected, there were numerous records of unusual wintering species, and many birds which 20 years ago would have been considered rare in winter continue to increase in numbers. One wonders how a succession of hard winters would affect the winter bird life as we know it today.

Pelagic Birds. On a boat trip around the mouth of the York River on February 11, F.R. Scott counted 1111 Horned Grebes, 79 Red-throated Loons, but only 18 Common Loons. The Pied-billed Grebe, which is usually rare in winter at Lexington, was found there December 23 (J.J. Murray) and February 6 and 9 (J.J.M., J.Owan).

Hérons. An American Egret was found at Kiptopeke on December 28 and another at Back Bay on December 27. Most surprising of all was a Snowy Egret which wintered at Hampton from January 9 on (Mrs. L. Machen), the second year this has happened. A Green Heron at Alexandria on December 7 was a noteworthy record (J.M. Abbott et al.)



Swans, Geese, Ducks. R. Eggleston found 3 Whistling Swans, 2 adults and 1 immature, near Clarksville on December 7 on the new Buggs Island reservoir. Canada Geese were far more common than usual all over the eastern part of the state including the Eastern Shore. Brant are happily increasing now in the state, and E.O. Mellinger reported a maximum of 20,000 during the winter about Chincoteague. A flock of 5 was seen from the Cape Charles ferry on December 26, the first Chesapeake Bay record in many years (FRS). A maximum of 24 Blue Geese was seen at Presquille, between Richmond and Hopewell, on February 7 (J. DeLine), but the only record at Chincoteague was 2 on February 5 (EOM). Others were reported at Hog Island (Surry County) and Back Bay. Some interesting high counts of ducks were 400 Mallards above Yorktown on January 1 (B. McCartney), 410 Shovellers at Chincoteague, December 27 (R.J. Beasley, EOM, FRS), 233 Oldsquaw off the mouth of the York River on February 11, and 329 Buffleheads in the Yorktown area on December 23. Ruddy Ducks wintered much less commonly than usual, and American Mergansers were almost entirely absent from Richmond south and east, although they are usually very common in this area. An exception was Hog Island which had over 3000 Ruddy Ducks and many American Mergansers in late December.

Birds of Prey. W.F. Minor found a Golden Eagle at Swift Run Gap on the Skyling Drive on December 27. A very late Osprey was seen near Alexandria on December 20 (E. Jeanne Stivers), and a Peregrine Falcon at Arlington the same day.

Marsh and Shore Birds. McCartney found both King and Virginia Rails in fair numbers throughout the winter above Yorktown, and John Terborgh found a King Rail near Falls Church on December 20. Clapper Rails wintered rather commonly in the Chincoteague marshes, which is not always the case. An unusual record of a wintering Sora was one near Abingdon on December 27 (S.M. Russell). Five Ringed Plovers were seen at Oyster, Northampton County, on December 28 (FRS) and one Piping Plover at Seaford, York County, on January 31 (RJB). A Woodcock at Lexington on December 23 was an interesting record for the Valley (JJM). Wilson's Snipe were also found at Lexington, one on December 8 and 4 on December 23 (JJM), but perhaps even more interesting was one at Big Meadows, Shenandoah National Park, on December 26, which at 3500 feet was possibly a winter altitude record for the state (P.G. Favour). Four Lesser Yellow-legs in the Arlington-Alexandria area on December 20 were a highly unusual record for an inland locality. R.A. Glassel found 2 to 3 Purple Sandpipers at Fort Monroe, Hampton, from December 6 to 28.

Jaegers, Gulls, Terns. A Pomarine Jaeger off Rigby Island, Mathews County, on February 10 was a rare bird for winter and the first record along the western shore of Chesapeake Bay (FRS). Jack Perkins found an Iceland Gull on the beach at Back Bay Refuge on January 29. The Great Black-backed Gull continues its increase and is now found with some regularity up the York River to Yorktown. Two specimens of the Kittiwake were picked up, thus adding a new bird to the Virginia list. Cooper Barfield found a live bird in Broad Bay, near Cape Henry, on January 3, and E.K. Sloane picked up a dead specimen at Sandbridge, near Back Bay, on January 18. A Laughing Gull was found near Mt. Vernon on December 28, a very late date. Small flocks of Forster's Terns wintered both in Hampton Roads (Fort Monroe) and about the entrance to Lynnhaven Inlet. Seven Royal Terns, seen from the Cape Charles ferry on December 29 flying in a southward direction, were very late.

Woodpeckers to Warblers. Red-headed Woodpeckers wintered in good numbers over the state, and a few were found even at Lexington. A flock of 60 Fish Crows at Brooke, Stafford County, on December 22 was a large number for winter in upper Tidewater (fide E.T. McKnight). Black-capped Chickadees were reported at Arlington on December 13 and 30, 3 were seen at Blacksburg on December 27 (C.O. Handley, Sr.), and 2 at Lexington on December 23 (fide JJM). There were only a very few reports of Red-breasted Nuthatches. A number of House Wrens were reported from east of the mountains, and the first winter record for the Valley was made at Lexington on December 23 (R. Paxton, JO). Another was seen there December 28 to January 3 (J. Womeldorf). While Long-billed Marsh Wrens winter often in good numbers along the coast, their occurrence along the upper Tidewater at this season is always interesting. As in the previous winter, a number were reported around Alexandria with a maximum of 13 at Mt. Vernon on December 28 (fide J.M. Abbott). G.M. Shear gave a good description of a wintering Nashville Warbler which remained at Blacksburg from December 8 to February 10. Palm Warblers were found at Falls Church, Mt. Vernon, Charlottesville and Blacksburg, and Rountrey reports them as "observed daily" near Norfolk throughout the winter. Wintering Yellow-breasted Chats were found at Grandview, Hampton, on January 1 and at Fort Eustis, Warwick, on January 20 (both by RAG). There were many records during the winter from the northeastern states. A female or immature Black-capped Warbler was seen at Indian Point, Stafford County, on December 14 and 22 (ETMcK and T.B. Nolan).

Orioles to Sparrows. The only report of a Baltimore Oriole was one at Warwick, December 14 (RAG). A large concentration of wintering blackbirds was found on the lower James River near Hog Island, Surry County, and flocks moving into and out of this roost were seen frequently as far away as Jamestown and Yorktown. The best estimate, which included only a fraction of the total number of birds, was 210,000 on December 22. These were mostly Redwings but also included 30,000 Purple Grackles and 10,000 Cowbirds (FRS et al.). This was an interesting year for northern finches. The Pine Siskin invasion covered the entire state with counts ranging up to nearly 200 birds. Purple Finches were very erratic, scarce in some sections and rather common in others. The only Evening Grosbeak report was 3 at Arlington on December 13 (L. Griffin). A female Common Redpoll was seen at Norge, near Williamsburg, on February 14 (BMcC), and 2 were seen at Norfolk for several days during February (WFR). Crossbills provided some very interesting records, and there were the following reports of Red Crossbills: 14 at Lewis Mountain near Charlottesville on November 20 (R.R. Kerr and R.H. Peake); 20 on the Skyline Drive on December 29 (RRK); and one on Mt. Rogers on December 28 (fide SMR). Individual White-winged Crossbills were reported at Alexandria on February 8 (J.K. Wright et al.) and at Pine Ridge on February 13 (Mr. and Mrs. W. Scott). After the excellent fall flight of White-crowned Sparrows a few remained about Alexandria throughout the winter. A Sharp-Sparrow at Clarksville on December 7 is one of the few Piedmont records for this bird (RE). A single flock of 40 Chipping Sparrows near Cape Charles on December 28 was a high number for a bird that is generally considered to be rare in winter. Five Snow Buntings were seen at Fort Monroe on February 8 (RJB, Col. J.R. Hughes, Capt. J. Churan), and 2 were seen on Mt. Rogers at 5100 feet on December 28 (SMR). This not only is an altitude record for the state, but it is also one of the few records of this bird away from the coast.



## SHOREBIRDS FROM THE CHINCOTEAGUE MARSHES

By C.C. Steirly

Ray J. Beasley, Frank C. Richardson and C.C. Steirly combined VSO business with pleasure on May 23 when they visited the Chincoteague Island area as an exploratory committee responsible for the summer VSO trip to the Eastern Shore.

The long causeway leading to the village of Chincoteague was reached at just the right ebbing of the tide to make the adjacent expanses of salt marsh and mud flats most productive of shore birds and other birds frequenting such a habitat. Needless to say the car was stopped at about every hundred yard interval and every likely pool, mud flat or assemblage of birds was carefully studied.

Boat-tailed grackles were soon regarded as quite common. After about the third stop the snowy egret was written off as common, although binoculars were trained on every one observed in the hopes of turning up an American egret, but none of this species was seen. The first good mud flat held a group of sandpipers which after much argument, observation and discussion, was agreed upon as containing least, semipalmated and western sandpipers. Willets were regarded as common and of course each one seen and heard added immeasurably to the pleasure of the trip. Two were observed perched atop the telephone poles that run parallel to the causeway. Flocks of dowitchers kept the observers on their toes for other shorebird possibilities among them. Now and then redwings, tree swallows, barn swallows, mourning doves and turkey vultures flew overhead.

At several stops clapper rails were heard in the marsh grass clumps and finally several were seen; one of these was actually swimming in a small tidal gut. Laughing gulls, cormorants and least terns were seen around the larger bodies of water and in one of them the party saw a horned grebe. Green herons were seen now and then.

A particularly interesting mud flat contained a large flock of black-bellied plover. Near them were several greater yellowlegs, red-backed sandpipers and spotted sandpipers.

The end of the causeway loomed up altogether too soon but in a marsh beyond Chincoteague the ruddy turnstone, fish crow, song sparrow and seaside sparrow were added to the list.

Although having nothing to do with Chincoteague it is of interest to report that from Kiptopeke-Little Creek Ferry, on the return trip, a gull-billed tern was observed. Also on this trip were seen the bald eagle, ring-billed gull, laughing gull, herring gull and cormorant.

-- Waverly, Virginia

## AUDUBON CAMP OF MAINE

By Mrs. Hawes Coleman, Jr.

To attend the Audubon Camp of Maine is an opportunity open to all members of the Virginia Society of Ornithology. Having once attended, it is the rare camper who does not return home fired with the enthusiasm to tell everyone else about it, and to wish and hope to return again and again.

For where can one have a two weeks' vacation with all the advantages the Audubon Camp of Maine offers? And there are many. You are in daily association with persons of kindred interest from all over the United States; you have the opportunity to learn, without effort, many things about not only birds, but plant life, marine life and insects, stars, weather, rocks and minerals, and to develop an interest and skill in many nature crafts. Through the daily field trips the camper becomes acquainted with many forms of life in their natural habitats, and learns, through this firsthand experience the interdependence of all living things, and the power, and value of them, one to the other. This practical conservation, or resource use education is then self evident. One very thrilling point is the opportunity each camper has in being taught by an excellent staff of instructors who are themselves willing and eager to impart their thorough knowledge. I would like to at least mention their names: Allan Cruickshank, Birds; Jo Cadbury, Birds; Bartram Cadbury, Marine Life; Dr. Donald Borrow, Insects; Miss Farida Wiley, Plants; Mrs. Margaret Wall, Nature Activities.

Besides this most interesting and invigorating study session, there is ample time for rest, or writing and reading, or exploring on one's own. Any man or woman, over eighteen, regardless of professional background, is 'eligible' and is welcome as a camper. The training is aimed at those who may want a boost in their knowledge and education, who serve in some phase of spreading that knowledge gleaned, in schools, camps, museums, libraries, recreation and youth group activities, or in any phase of conservation. But the camp staff is just as interested in you and me, the non-professional, the one with nature as a hobby.

The number of campers is limited to fifty, for the best benefit of all. By the end of the two week camping period there are many fast friendships made. Campers are adequately housed in framed buildings, either dormitories or one or two-bed rooms; with lavatory facilities, electric lights and hot and cold salt water showers. Housekeeping is down to its simplest point. And the clothes one wears - the most suitable seem to be the oldest, the roughest, - there is no pride in being the best dressed!

The Audubon Camp of Maine is in the Todd Wildlife Sanctuary, on spruce covered Hog Island in Muscongus Bay, about sixty miles northeast of Portland, Maine, and ten miles east of Damariscotta, Maine. The camp is located on the sheltered northern end of the island, one-eighth mile from the mainland.

I have not yet mentioned Mr. Carl Buchheister, who is Vice-President of the National Audubon Society. Since the inception in 1936 of the Audubon Camp of Maine, Mr. Buchheister has been its director, its inspired director, for without him, his leadership and direction the thirteen days of invigorating nature study vacation could not have so deep a meaning and purpose for each of its more than six thousand campers and graduates!



Ninety dollars is the entire cost for any two week session; each summer, there are five sessions of two weeks duration of similar training. You have no opportunity to spend any more money during the entire time, except a few nickels for Hershey bars, or a few dollars for nature books, and you may even have them autographed by the authors, who drop in to visit us!

If we keep this in mind throughout the winter, there may be a number of us who can get off for such an invigorating vacation, and can possibly attend one of the sessions together next summer. More about this in a spring issue of the Raven - details, what you may expect to see (wildlife), and dates of each session for the summer of 1954. Let us keep this in the back of our thoughts. In the meantime you may want to write to Audubon House, National Audubon Society, 1130 Fifth Avenue, New York 28, New York, for more information about Audubon Summer Camps.

-- 1513 Palmyra Avenue  
Richmond 27, Virginia

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#### RED-LETTER DAY FOR V. S. O. MEMBER IN OHIO

By Nannette Livingstone

On April 26, 1953 at 7:30 a.m., two of my friends and I started for Evans Lake. This lake is in the Youngstown, Ohio, area, near Greenford and North Lima. It is owned by a private corporation which leases water to mills in Youngstown. Neither boating nor shooting is allowed at Evans Lake. My two friends had visited the lake the day before, and they felt that a trip there should hold much of interest for me.

Although the sky was cloudy and a few drops of rain showed occasionally on the windshield our spirits were not in the least "dampened". One of my friends had placed her wonderful Argus Telescope carefully beside her in the back of the car when we started. All three of us had binoculars, and we carried with us Roger Tory Peterson's A Field Guide to the Birds.

We had been enthusiastically commenting upon such things as the beauties of nature, the scarcity of traffic, and the pity that apparently many people were sleeping away the morning hours, when we came upon a large, swampy spot on the left-hand side of the road. Suddenly my friend in the back seat exclaimed, "Wait a minute, Helen! I think I see .....!" Helen stopped the car immediately, and, in no time at all, we were "spotting" birds through the telescope. Before we left that place, we had seen the Lesser Yellow-legs, the Greater Yellow-legs, the Wilson's Snipe, and the Woodcock. To me, the Wilson's Snipe was the most interesting of the four, with his long beak jabbing up and down into the mud.

Feeling that we had had an extra good start for the day, we continued our journey to Evans Lake. After about twenty minutes on the road, our driver began to go very slowly. I soon learned that we were nearing a green field on the edge of Evans Lake where my friends had seen Canada Geese on the day before.

At first it seemed as though the geese had moved to another feeding ground, but upon further looking, we saw them far back in the field near a farmyard fence. To see them through the telescope sitting close together, so straight and still, they might remind one of a family group posing for a picture. Just before leaving the lake, however, our hither-to-silent friends gave us a lovely water show. All of them landed in the water about the same time, honking as they did so. Eight of them separated themselves from the others, and, making a pretty V, swam up the lake, while the remaining fifteen formed a line in the water and swam toward the shore from which they had flown.

We "spotted" a Loon far up the lake. Through our binoculars, it appeared as a tiny speck, but the telescope brought it so close that we were sure that it was not a Common Loon. It must have been a Red-throated Loon.

There were many Coots, some on the shore and some swimming about near the shore in large flocks. We saw Baldpates, Pintails, Blue-winged Teal and Green-winged Teal. The white crescent on the face of the Blue-winged Teal and the white patch in front of the wing of the Green-winged Teal helped us to identify these birds. There were Lesser Scaup Ducks, Ruddy Ducks, Mallards, and Ring-necked Ducks.

We had splendid views of the Spotted Sandpiper and the Pectoral Sandpiper. There were more of the latter species than the former. We were especially glad to see the Pectoral Sandpipers. The most distinguishing mark was the decided line which divided the "bib" from the white belly.

What a busy place the lake was, with ducks and gulls flying back and forth overhead and each little creature on the water enjoying life to the fullest in its own way! Some ducks bobbed about like big corks on the water. Other ducks seemed to be modeling their fine feathers as they gracefully turned all the way around, sometimes pausing for a moment to look straight at us. Of the gulls, we saw what Peterson describes as two of the "most common gulls away from salt water", the Herring Gull and the Ring-billed Gull.

For me nothing at the lake afforded a more complete feeling of relaxation and delight than the graceful flying and expert diving of the Caspian Tern. There were two of these birds. One of them must have been hungrier than the other, for he kept circling around overhead and making forceful dives from "way up", seeming actually to puncture the surface of the water as he hit it with his long, red beak. Watching this lovely, long-winged creature, which conducted itself with such perfect abandon, could but fill one with admiration for its performance and exhilaration at the sight of it.

April 26, 1953, was indeed a Red-Letter Day for me. A remarkable experience it was to have taken place in approximately one hour and a half of bird-watching at a small inland lake.

-- Pulaski, Virginia



## BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPERS AT BACK BAY

By C.C. Steirly

On September 26, 1953, while walking through a freshly plowed field on Long Island, Back Bay Refuge, a buff-breasted sandpiper, Tryngites subruficollis, was observed by Rountrey, Richardson, Perkins and the writer at fairly close range. The bird was with a flock of six semipalmated plover and was quite tame, permitting the observers to approach rather closely. In the same field were several black-bellied plover and a Hudsonian curlew. The buff-breasted sandpiper remained with the small flock of semipalmated plover all of the time while under observation.

Later in the day, while returning to Sandbridge, three of the group observed another buff-breasted sandpiper. This one was associated with a small flock of sanderling and was observed on the sandy beach very close to the water's edge.

Reference to the writings of Forbush, Sprunt and Todd revealed that this is a rare species on the Atlantic seaboard since it migrates principally along the Mississippi from its Arctic breeding grounds west of Hudson's Bay.

-- Waverly, Virginia

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S FILES

Competition for use of the bird bath outside our kitchen window was very keen during the hot and dry months of July and August. Early in the morning three to five birds perched on the small limb above the bath awaiting their turn while one or two were bathing. Frequently two use the bath at the same time, or one was bathing while another was on the rim drinking. Robins, mockingbirds, brown thrashers, catbirds, flickers, purple grackles, a few starlings and English sparrows used the bath daily either for drinking or bathing. All this is evidence to the fact that birds need water constantly, and it should be supplied as regularly during the summer as we do food during the winter.

A recent letter from Mr. John H. Baker, President of the National Audubon Society, contains a concern which I would like to share with the V.S.O. membership. The letter is too lengthy to include all, so I will select pertinent paragraphs.

"At a recent meeting of the Waterfowl Advisory Committee with the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, a member said he felt it important to emphasize that the primary responsibility of the Federal Government in establishing migratory bird hunting regulations is to provide maximum hunting opportunity in relation to supply. In response it was pointed out that the texts of the Migratory Bird Treaty and the Enabling Act of 1918 clearly

specify that the primary responsibility of the Federal Government is to protect the resource and that the provision of hunting opportunity is secondary ...

"In the official release it is stated with regard to the Pacific flyway, 'This increase of five days over last year represents an attempt to alleviate an acute depredation problem on both grain-raising and grazing areas'. This is another illustration of undermining of the basis on which the regulations have heretofore been determined. Almost every kind of animal causes some depredation somewhere. If the policy is now to be that depredations are to be controlled by opening hunting seasons earlier, with higher bag and possession limits, the effectiveness of the Migratory Bird Treaty and Act will approach zero ...

"The closing hour of daily shooting has been extended from one hour before sunset to sunset. This is most unfortunate, because, as waterfowl hunters know, this will considerably increase the kill and make enforcement of the regulations much more difficult ...

"There is to be a fifteen day 'experimental' season on Wilson's Snipe, which have been fully protected since 1941. Not only, in our opinion, is the total continental population of these snipe so small as not to warrant any open season, but it is almost certain that this provision will result in the illegal killing of a considerable number of other shorebirds, all species of which, other than the Wilson's Snipe and Woodcock, have been fully protected since 1918. It is represented that such an 'experimental' season is needed in order to find out how many Wilson's Snipe there are and what effect an open season would have on their total population. We are strongly opposed to this regulation and will urge its elimination in 1954."

-- D. Ralph Hostetter

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#### NOTES AND NEWS

##### V.S.O. Winter Field Trip

I have chosen two dates for the Annual Winter Field Trip to the Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge since the VSO has grown to such proportions that it has become impossible for me to provide transportation for everyone on the same date. The dates I have chosen are December 5th and 12th, both Saturdays. I do not like to keep the Hampton and Cape Henry Clubs separate from the remainder of the Society but it seems preferable that we request those two clubs to make their trip on the 12th and the rest of the VSO on the 5th.

This will make it possible for those members who can't possibly make it on one date to come on the other. Cards must be sent out in advance and advance reservations made for either date. I will have to know how many are coming so as to provide transportation and lunch.



Audubon Screen Tours at Charlottesville

Mrs. Colgate W. Darden announces the securing of the Audubon Screen Tours for Charlottesville this winter by the Turkey Sag Bird Club. The lectures will be given in Maury Hall at the University of Virginia. Prices will be lower than usual, since the lectures are subsidized by the Turkey Sag Club. Lecturers and dates are as follows:

October 22 - Walter H. Shackleton - "Oddities in Nature"  
February 15 - Fran William Hall - "South to Siesta Land"  
March 24 - Allan Cruickshank - "Below the Big Bend".

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Nest Boxes for Wood Ducks

VSO members who live near streams, swamps, or ponds of any size will be interested in a leaflet, "Suggestions for Building Wood Duck Nest Boxes". It can be secured from the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, 7 North Second Street, Richmond 13, Virginia.

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## REVIEWS

By J.J. Murray

A Guide to Bird Finding, West of the Mississippi, by Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr., Oxford University Press, New York, 1953, 709 pages, \$6.00. When the earlier volume, A Guide to Bird Finding, East of the Mississippi, came out in 1951, the present reviewer remarked that it was an altogether new kind of bird book, a book that told bird students not what birds look like, nor how they behave, but where, when the student comes into new territory, birds may best be looked for. Just before that time the reviewer had had occasion to make a brief trip to Dallas, Texas. With only an hour or so on two days of birding, he wanted to make the most of his time. It was only by good fortune that he found someone who could take him direct to a spot where Scissor-tailed Flycatchers could be seen. If this western volume had then been available, it would have been of the greatest help.

This volume does for the West what the former did for the eastern states. In 22 chapters it covers in alphabetical form the 22 states west of the Mississippi, including Minnesota and Louisiana. They are amply covered. Arkansas has 13 pages; Utah has 28; Texas, as befits its size, is allotted 58; and California, because of the diversity of its habitats and because of its metropolitan areas, is given 75 pages. In each state good birding spots, representing the different available types of habitat, are pointed out;

careful and detailed directions for finding them are given; and the birds which one might expect to see are named. Particular attention is paid to colonial breeding areas and wintering aggregations, also to commonly visited areas, such as the national parks, with mention of museums, libraries, research stations, and zoos. It is so admirably worked out that visitors to any western state will find it invaluable. The book is decorated, just as was the earlier volume, with delightful black and white sketches by George Sutton; in this case about 40 of them.

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Seashore Wildlife at Sea Isle, New Jersey, by Henry H. Collins, Jr., Caribou Press, Box 236, Bronxville 8, New York, 1953, 16 pages. This is another of the attractive little booklets published by the Caribou Press, earlier titles of which have been previously noted in The Raven. It describes briefly but interestingly the birds, shells and other animal life, as well as the plants, to be found on this island in New Jersey. Here, although it is a resort area, an effort is being made to protect nature. It is fully illustrated with photographs and with many good black and white drawings by Robert Verity Clem. The price is not stated, but it can probably be secured from the Mayor's Office, Sea Island City, New Jersey.

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#### A COOPERATIVE STUDY OF BIRD MIGRATION THROUGH THE USE OF SPRING ARRIVAL DATES

During the spring of 1951, members of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology launched a new study of the age-old problem of bird migration. By plotting arrival dates on a map they hoped to discover to what extent spring migration is influenced by the weather and whether or not birds move forward steadily or by occasional long hops.

Observations that spring indicated that the White-throated Sparrow, the only species then under study, moved northward by a series of hops, 7 to 10 days apart and that 300 miles might be covered in one hop. With such distances involved it was decided to increase the area under study. The support of cooperators from the Gulf <sup>to</sup> Southern Canada was enlisted. New species were added - the Mourning Dove, Baltimore Oriole, and Canada Goose.

So encouraging were the results for the spring of 1952 that it was decided greatly to increase the scope of study. For 1953 the help of co-operators from the area east of the Rockies to the Atlantic seaboard is being enlisted. Additional species have been added. Of the 28 selected, 14 winter in part or entirely within our borders: Canada Goose, Marsh Hawk, Killdeer, Mourning Dove, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Eastern Phoebe, Common Crow, House Wren, Redwing Blackbird, Myrtle Warbler, American Goldfinch, Slate-colored Junco, Chipping Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow.

(Arrival dates for above species are desired wherever wintering individuals will not be confused with spring migrants; when in doubt report first date anyway.)



An additional 14 winter to the south of us: Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Eastern Kingbird, Eastern Wood Pewee, Barn Swallow, Purple Martin, Wood Thrush, Black and White Warbler, Yellow Warbler, American Redstart, Baltimore Oriole, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting.

The arrival date only is desired for all species listed with the exception of the White-throat and Canada Goose. These latter are being studied in more detail. For them the following information is desired: dates of increases or decreases, main flights, date of departure of last birds, or, if possible, daily counts.

If you are already keeping arrival dates, we will appreciate having your 1953 dates for the species listed. If there is still time to obtain arrival dates for late migrants, please send them to us. The study will continue for at least five years so if you haven't heard about the project in time this year please plan to send in your reports for the spring of 1954 and thereafter.

Send all reports either to your regional Audubon Field Notes Editor or to Mr. Chandler S. Robbins, Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel, Maryland. A postcard listing species and arrival dates should be sufficient.

We are interested not only in your records but also in your support in finding additional cooperators. We should emphasize that we want the individual reports of each cooperator in a region and not local compilations of many records.

Already an able group of ornithologists are acting as advisors to this program. Early announcements will be forthcoming in many ornithological publications as to the progress of the study. The final goal is to interpret properly the effect of weather upon bird migration.

-- James H. Zimmerman  
John V. Dennis  
Chandler S. Robbins

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED IN THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY  
SINCE JANUARY 1, 1953

Dr. W.G. Akers	1138 Bolling Ave.	Norfolk 8, Va.
Mr. B.E. Allen, Jr.	458 E. St., Copeland Pk.	Newport News, Va.
Mr. W.B. Badenoch, Jr.	8019 Three Chopt Road	Richmond, Va.
Mr. Terry Baker	430 Draper Drive	Norfolk, Va.
Mrs. H.C. Bentley		Ellerson, Va.
Mrs. S.S. Burch	1537 Terrace Rd., S.W.	Roanoke, Va.
Mrs. Earl Van Buskirk	Bay Colony	Virginia Beach, Va.
Mr. John L. DeLine	Route 2	Chester, Va.
Mrs. John L. DeLine	Route 2	Chester, Va.
Mr. John V. Dennis	Route 1, Box 376	Leesburg, Va.
Miss Anne Fisher	1906 Dairy Road	Charlottesville, Va.
Mr. F.R. Freund	5700 York Road	Richmond, Va.
Miss Gisela Grimm	Box 207, Route 2	Hickory, Va.
Mrs. Mary C. Heaton	3423 Howard Road	Richmond, Va.
Mrs. Janet Helbert	338 Monticello Ave.	Harrisonburg, Va.
Mr. Irvin C. Hoover	2409 Arlington Blvd.	Arlington, Va.
Mr. John M. Irvine, Jr.	3401 Brook Road	Richmond 27, Va.
Mr. Renwick R. Kerr	4832 N. 33rd Road	Arlington 7, Va.
Mr. Ralph E. Lawrence	1410 Decatur St., N.W.	Washington 11, D.C.
Mr. C.H. Lewis	Box 229	Salem, Va.
Miss Louella Lowe	812 17th St., N.W.	Washington 6, D.C.
Mrs. Shirley Lynn		Villamont, Va.
Mrs. Nancy Lake McCarty		Warrenton, Va.
Mr. Clinton F.A. Miller	324 S. 22nd St.	Allentown, Pa.
Mr. Dale Miller		Inwood, West Va.
Mr. Melvin A. Mitchell, Jr.	R.F.D. 2	Evington, Va.
Mrs. Ernest C. Moore	1031 Windsor Ave., S.W.	Roanoke, Va.
Mr. Richard H. Peaks, Jr.	Box 292, R.F.D. 4	Norfolk, Va.
Mr. Joseph L. Shields		Hornsbyville, Va.
Mrs. J.B. Spratley		Ellerson, Va.
Mr. Arthur F. Striker	1415 N. Edison St.	Arlington 5, Va.
Miss Janet D. Turnbull		Casanova, Va.
Mrs. Ruth Smiley Venn	P.O. Box 22	Salem, Va.
Mrs. William A. Wachenfeld	787 E. Clarke Place	Orange, New Jersey
Mrs. E.P. Walker	320 W. Clifford St.	Winchester, Va.
Miss Lucile Walton	1116 E. Main St.	Danville, Va.
Mr. John Withrow	145 N. Princeton Circle,	Lynchburg, Va.





# The Raven

BULLETIN OF THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY

J. J. MURRAY, EDITOR  
LEXINGTON, VA.

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NOVEMBER-DECEMBER, 1953

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CHRISTMAS COUNT DATES: DECEMBER 25-JANUARY 3

(Mrs. Colgate Darden invites all V.S.O. members to the two remaining Audubon Screen Tours to be given under the auspices of the Turkey Sag Bird Club at Maury Hall, at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville. Each program will be at 8:00 P.M. The two lectures will be:

February 15 - Oddities in Nature - by W.H. Shackleton

March 24 - Below the Big Bend - by Allan D. Cruickshank

Since so much of the cost has been underwritten, the price at each lecture will be only 75¢.)

## IN THE GREAT DISMAL SWAMP

By T. Gilbert Pearson

(Reprinted from Ornithologist and Oologist, XVIII, No.2, 1893, pages 26-28)

What ornithologist is there in this country who has not wondered to himself if there did not somewhere in the jungles of this vast peat bog still lurk that prince of Woodpeckers, the Ivory-bill?

It had long been my desire to make an expedition into this lonely region and learn for myself if there were not still to be found in the vast wooded tracts specimens of the imperial principalis.

So while collecting in the eastern part of North Carolina last summer, I made it convenient to stop for a couple of weeks near the Dismal Swamp. From Sunbury, Gates County, as a radiating point, I visited several of the neighboring swamps, but found no signs of the object of my search. On the morning of the last day in May, 1892, arrangements having been made, we were off for the big swamp. The Dismal Swamp! What intelligent person does not think with interest of these words, of which the poet Moore spoke in his "Lake of the Dismal Swamp". Of those wild morasses of which Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote in her wonderful "Tale of the Dismal Swamp", and whose very name implies that, of all other swamps, this one is the most lonely and desolate. Our course for six miles lay along a sandy road through the pine woods before the canal was reached, which runs eastward twelve miles into the very heart of the swamp. Arriving at the canal, our guns and provisions were at once transferred from the cart in which we had come, to our boat, which lay tied up under the bank. A few strokes of the paddle and we had left the pines and were passing under the overhanging boughs of the oak and bay, whose limbs, spanning the twenty-foot stream, formed a complete arch overhead. In the semi-darkness of this almost subterranean canal we pushed on.

In the prow of the boat sat Coston, with his rifle across his knees, ready to bring down the bear which he verily believed he should see before the first half mile should have been covered. On the centre seat was Cross, who, with his paddle, was aiding me to propel the boat. The oak and bay soon gave way to tall forests of juniper, cypress and gum.

After passing for several hours through this primitive forest, we came suddenly upon a logging camp.

Extending far back into the shades of the forest were corduroy roads, over which juniper logs, cut into five foot blocks, are drawn by mules and afterwards rafted down to Norfolk. Near the wharf lay two boats just loaded, each with its man at the prow ready to convey these sixty-five foot crafts to their destination, which feat they accomplished by pushing on either bank with their long poles. This industry has been kept up ever since the revolutionary war. Washington at one time owned a large part of the swamp, and had some of the canals dug which are in use now.

Frequent unsuccessful attempts were made to penetrate the wilderness around us, but the ground was everywhere so soft that, after getting off the slight bank of the canal, we invariably sank up to our



knees in the peat. Even in the firmer places the ground could be shaken for a radius of eight or ten feet by simply springing the foot.

As we advanced still farther into the swamp small birds became more plentiful, although at no point was bird life abundant.

Warblers and Thrushes flitted across the way in advance only to plunge into the opposite thicket. Turtles tumbled off their favorite logs, and rarely, a water snake glided away on our near approach. Long stretches of reeds from ten to fifteen feet in height now came into view, and by climbing a juniper tree the eye swept away for miles over a vast expanse of reeds, broken only here and there by an isolated juniper or cypress. These reeds grew very thick, and it seemed to us almost impossible for any animal to force a passage through them. Yet it is said that only a few years ago a man succeeded in passing clear through the swamp on foot, accompanied by his dog. We camped at night upon some slightly elevated knoll, drawing the boat well up on shore and sleeping on the ground.

Thus wrapped in our blankets, we lay listening to the dreamy murmur of the mosquito and the clamorous love-cry of the ever present bull-frog; while ever and anon borne upon the night breeze came the distant hooting of the Barred Owl. A little after noon on the second day off, being now in the last of a series of three canals, through the opening ahead we discovered Lake Drummon, and half an hour later our little boat was tossing about on the waves while we were endeavoring to make fast to a cypress tree. Lake Drummon, situated as it is in the very heart of the swamp, has no sandy margin, but the waves, hurled by the wind, which here has a clear sweep of seven miles across the water, wash in among the cypress trunks far back into the interior. The lake as well as all the water in the swamp is dark red in color, being turned so by coming in contact with the roots of the juniper.

While the others ate their dinner I took a plunge beneath the dusky waves and found the water to be about eight feet deep at the spot where we were. The swimming was excellent. Two hours later we had left the "Dusky Lake" and were passing down one of those canals which forms its outlet. The water in this stream has about a two mile current. Once again we landed, and this time found the ground firm enough to bear our weight. Back into the forest we pressed for several hundred yards, the limbs of the giant trees completely shut out the sunlight.

Through this forest, whose shades were as dark, and whose ground was as treacherous as ever Livingston roamed over, here in the semi-darkness of the gloomy swamp, imprinted deep in the damp, black earth were found tracks of Coon and Wildcat. Not even an insect broke the melancholy silence of this weird forest.

The catacombs of Rome or the sepulchres of Egypt could not be more death like or silent. Not a blade of grass underfoot, nothing but fallen and decaying trunks and limbs of trees.

But alas the Capephilus principalis was never found, and my collection is still without a specimen of the Ivory-bill. With the exception of one Green Heron, not a single aquatic bird was seen in the swamp. The reason for this I suppose to be from the fact that the water is everywhere deep, thus affording no good place for waders to feed. Two or three droves

of Brown-headed Nuthatches were noted on the pine bluffs and once a Carrion Crow wheeled into view.

While a trip through the Dismal Swamp is well worth the trouble, yet as a point for collecting birds, other localities may be found which are both more desirable and profitable.

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#### BIRD ISLANDS OF HOG ISLAND BAY

By Lyle D. Miller

Rogue was the first island that we visited on the Eastern Shore on June 10, 1953. As we stepped ashore we were greeted by hordes of screaming birds. The first nest we examined held one egg of the Royal Tern. We saw several newly hatched young of this species and estimated that there were six pairs. Common Terns' nests holding three eggs were everywhere on the bare sand above the high water mark. In this same colony were about a dozen nests of the Gull-billed Tern, each holding the usual complement of three eggs. About four pairs of Oystercatchers were present, and we found two nests of two and three eggs, and saw several young birds. Black Skimmers' nests had three to four eggs well incubated for this date, June 10th. We found about 15 nests. We found this colony on the tip end of the island, which at high tide became a separate island. We waded across a shallow lagoon to the main island and searched for nests of the Willet in the heavy growth of marsh grass. Willets were abundant and much disturbed by our presence, but we found only one nest high on the beach placed in sparse grass on the bare sand. It held one fresh egg. Without doubt many young birds were hiding in the grass but a careful search failed to reveal any. We did, however, discover a nest holding four fresh eggs of the Seaside Sparrow. The nest resembled a Grasshopper Sparrows', being arched over with entrance hole on the side. These Sparrows were common.

We looked into an Osprey's nest and were surprised to find two eggs. We had expected to find young birds at this late date. The nest was in a dead pine stub at a height of only eight feet. Ten feet away from the nest of the Osprey, in some low myrtle bushes, were several nests of Green Herons. One nest held one egg but the rest were empty and beneath the nests were many broken eggs. Near the Herons' nests were many empty nests of Boat-tailed Grackles. Their nesting season had passed. We did see many adults and juveniles, however, flying about the islands.

The southern end of Hog Island proved to have the greatest concentration of nesting birds. Skimmers' nests were very numerous. Eggs numbered from two to six, in all stages of incubation. A goodly number of Common and about 15 pairs of Gull-billed Terns were present. Least Terns were just beginning to nest and we found a good many nests. Four pairs of Oystercatchers made this their home, and we found two more nests of two eggs each. In the midst of the colony, in a clump of marsh grass we came upon a nest holding eight eggs of the Clapper Rail. The nest was placed high and dry, the nearest water being 150 ft. away. We examined another Osprey's nest built right up from the beach against a dead pine stub. It also held two eggs.



We would have liked more time to examine the interior of the island as we were told that it held a good sized herony. A side note of interest was a rather belligerent buck sheep that watched us from a spot in the center of the colony. He refused to retreat as we approached, in fact he made it plain that we were invading his domain by shaking his head menacingly.

Highstone Marsh, a salt-marsh island, was the last spot we visited. Covered with dense, tall, heavy grass, it was an ideal spot for Laughing Gulls. Nests were everywhere, hundreds of them. They were well made of seaweed placed on bunches of seaweed that had been deposited on the grass by storm and tide. As we drove past the island the black heads of the Gulls just appearing above the grass made a very pretty picture. The nests held three to four eggs, heavily incubated. A good sized colony of Forster's Terns, at least 50 pairs, were nesting in one spot. The nests were built in the same manner as the Gulls. They held three heavily incubated eggs. They must have begun nesting at about the same time as the Gulls.

-- 650 Almyra Avenue  
Youngstown, Ohio

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#### LESSER SNOW GEESE AT LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA

By J.J. Murray

On September 23 six Lesser Snow Geese landed at a small pond at the Lexington Golf Course, two miles south of town. The record is interesting enough apart from the date, for the only positive record we have for the State is a specimen collected by the writer at another small pond near Lexington, November 18, 1948. But the date is amazing. I have not been able to search all pertinent literature, but Bent gives only three September dates for the United States, all in the far west.

All of the birds were in immature plumage but quite light. Four wore bands. Two or three days after arrival one of the banded birds was killed, reportedly by a muskrat but more probably by a turtle. Chandler S. Robbins, of the Fish and Wildlife Service, reports that this band (No. 527-42282) was issued to F. Graham Cooch of Ottawa, Canada, for use at Southampton Island. We later learned that Cooch banded the bird on July 31, 1953, at Boas River, Southampton Island, in Hudson Bay. The place indicates definitely that it was a Lesser Snow Goose, Chen hyperborea hyperborea, rather than the form which winters at Back Bay.

On November 11 the remains of another of the geese, an unbanded bird, were found in a field about 200 yards from the pond. Feathers on a fence where the bird had been pulled through seemed to indicate that a fox was the predator. The other four are still present on December 1.

The birds are quite tame, permitting close approach. They feed not only in the pond, but on the grass of the fairways, and seem to be fat and lazy. The workmen and golfers are interested, so that the only danger to the birds will be from animal predators.

-- Lexington, Virginia

## EASTERN REGIONAL TRIP

By C.C. Steirly

On October 17 the idea of a regional autumn field trip was tried out at the Hog Island State Waterfowl Refuge on the James River in Surry County. Some 37 members from the eastern portion of the state took part in this trip which covered a wide variety of habitats ranging from the pure pine forest type which was something of a void as far as birds were concerned to the more highly productive field and marsh edges. Other habitats visited included marshes, ponds, open fields, river beach and barn and yard areas.

Birds observed by those who were present for the whole trip included: Pied-billed grebe, double-crested cormorant, great blue heron, American egret, Canada goose (flock of 300 off shore), black duck, lesser scaup, ruddy duck, turkey vulture, sharp-skinned hawk, Cooper's hawk, red-shouldered hawk, marsh hawk, osprey, sparrow hawk, bobwhite, king rail, sora, coot, herring gull, laughing gull, Forster's tern, royal tern, Caspian tern, mourning dove, kingfisher, flicker, yellow-bellied sapsucker, downy woodpecker, tree swallow, blue jay, crow, Carolina chickadee, tufted titmouse, brown-headed nuthatch, brown creeper, Carolina wren, long-billed marsh wren, short-billed marsh wren, mockingbird, catbird, brown thrasher, robin, bluebird, golden-crowned kinglet, ruby-crowned kinglet, American pipit, starling, myrtle warbler, western palm warbler, pine warbler, Maryland yellowthroat, English sparrow, meadowlark, red-wing, cowbird, cardinal, indigo bunting, towhee, junco, field sparrow, white-throated sparrow, swamp sparrow, song sparrow (64 species).

In the pine forest the remains of a muskrat were found. The probability is that it was killed and eaten by a great horned owl. The finding of the larva of the spice bush swallowtail butterfly (*papilio trailus*) was of possible ornithological interest in that the creature was marked such that it closely resembled the head and neck of a snake and would perhaps thereby deter a bird from seeking it as food.

During the lunch session along the river shore the three species of terns were most conveniently perched on some nearby piling thus giving everyone an excellent opportunity to observe the distinguishing characteristics of the royal and Caspian terns.

John E. Bryant, manager of the refuge, gave a short talk on the operation and plans for the development of the refuge for the benefit of waterfowl. He also discussed various aspects of marsh ecology and quite readily identified many of the plants of this interesting habitat.

The group also observed what is reputed to be the largest holly tree in the state.

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Visitors to Southside Virginia who might wish to see a typical nest of the red-cockaded woodpecker without much trouble may find one according to the following directions: on Highway 460 about four miles down from Waverly toward Wakefield a state highway gravel pile will be observed on the left hand side of the road. Across the road from this gravel pile and near



a large billboard are a group of loblolly pines. Close inspection of this group of pines will reveal an active nest tree that is quite visible from the highway. The gravel pile area is very convenient for parking off the highway.

-- Waverly, Virginia

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## PROPOSED REVISION OF THE VSO CONSTITUTION

The following revision of the 1930 VSO constitution has been approved by the Executive Committee and will be presented to the entire membership for approval at the annual meeting in Lynchburg. Since there will not be time to read this revision at the meeting, members are urged to acquaint themselves with it beforehand. It should be pointed out that this is not a new constitution but rather a revision only, and the principal changes were merely to bring it into accord with the present practices of the Society. Other important changes were the inclusion of a life membership and a provision for institutional subscription to THE RAVEN.

### ARTICLE I Name and Objects

Section 1. This organization shall be known as the Virginia Society of Ornithology.

Section 2. The purpose of the Society shall be to promote the study of birds of Virginia, especially in the field, and to bring together and permanently record all accurate and authentic data relative thereto, both past and present, especially on the distribution, relative abundance, seasonal occurrence, breeding, feeding, song and other habits.

Section 3. All current data which is in the opinion of the Editor or the Executive Committee worthy of permanent record shall be published in a journal of the Society which shall be known as THE RAVEN. The issuance of other publications may be authorized by the Executive Committee.

Section 4. The Society shall also cooperate with State and Federal authorities in promoting better legislation and in bringing about better enforcement of all existing laws, both State and Federal, which protect bird life in Virginia.

Section 5. The Society shall also promote the establishment of local chapters in the several sections of the State as provided in the By-laws.

### ARTICLE II Membership

Section 1. Membership in the Society shall be of five classes: Junior, Regular, Sustaining, Life and Honorary.

Section 2. Any person of good character who is interested in bird study may be nominated for membership by any member in good standing, and may be admitted to membership by approval of the Executive Committee. Institutions may subscribe to THE RAVEN at the Regular membership rate. All members whose dues are not more than four (4) months in arrears shall receive THE RAVEN and all notices of meetings or other activities of the Society.

Section 3. Dues shall be established by the Executive Committee with the approval of a majority vote of members at any regular meeting of the Society. Junior membership is restricted to young persons attending school or college. Honorary membership is restricted to persons who in the opinion of the Executive Committee have accomplished outstanding achievement in the science of ornithology in Virginia. After recommendation by the Executive Committee such person may be elected to honorary membership by a majority of members present at any regular meeting.

Section 4. All members whose dues are not in arrears shall be entitled to vote, but Junior members shall not be entitled to hold office. All annual dues for the ensuing year shall be payable January 1. Members in arrears shall be dropped from the mailing list for THE RAVEN at the end of four (4) months and shall be dropped from the roll at the end of the year, provided such member has received two notices with interval of not less than two (2) months.

#### ARTICLE III Officers and Executive Committee

Section 1. The officers of the Society shall be President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer, and Editor. The duties of each shall be those usually pertaining thereto. The Editor shall have general supervision of the editing and publication of THE RAVEN.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall consist of the above officers, the immediate past President of the Society, and nine members-at-large, three of which shall be elected annually for a term of three years each. Each local chapter of the Society not represented on the Executive Committee shall be entitled to elect an additional member of the Executive Committee from their local group. One-third of the members shall constitute a quorum of the Executive Committee.

Section 3. Nominations for officers, with the exception of the Editor, shall be made by a nominating committee appointed by the President. Nominations may also be made from the floor by any member in good standing. Election shall be by majority vote of members present.

Section 4. The Editor and the Publisher of THE RAVEN shall be appointed annually by the Executive Committee.

Section 5. Vacancies in the staff of officers or members-at-large of the Executive Committee may be filled by appointment by the Executive Committee for the unexpired term only.



## ARTICLE IV Meetings

Section 1. The annual meeting shall be held at the time and place to be designated by the Executive Committee. Special meetings may be called by the Executive Committee, provided thirty days notice be given to all members. All members shall be notified at least thirty days in advance of each annual meeting.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall meet at the call of the President or at the request of three or more members of the Society.

Section 3. One-tenth of the members of the Society shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any usual business. Other members may be represented by proxy, but one member may carry not more than five proxies.

## ARTICLE V Accounts

A committee of two members shall be appointed by the President at each annual meeting whose duty it shall be to audit the accounts of the Treasurer.

## ARTICLE VI Amendments

This Constitution may be amended at any annual meeting by a two-thirds majority of members present provided the amendment has been approved by the Executive Committee and copies sent to all voting members one month prior to the annual meeting at which it is voted upon.

## ARTICLE VII By-Laws

By-Laws may be adopted or repealed at any annual meeting of the Society by a majority vote of the members present.

## BY-LAWS OF THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY

1. A program committee, of which the President shall be chairman, and a local committee on arrangements shall be appointed by the President at least ninety days in advance of the date of meeting.

2. A committee of three on resolutions shall be appointed by the President at the beginning of the annual meeting.

3. A complete file of THE RAVEN and all other records of scientific value shall be preserved by the Secretary.

4. Dues of Junior members shall be one dollar (\$1.00) per year, Regular members one dollar and fifty cents (\$1.50), and Sustaining members two dollars and fifty cents (\$2.50) per year. Life members shall pay a single sum of fifty dollars (\$50.00) or ten dollars (\$10.00) per year for five years. Honorary members shall not be required to pay dues.

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