



The Raven

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CONTENTS

Page

The 1954 Blue Ridge Foray Report By Paul S. Favour, Jr. and F.R. Scott	2
Virginia Christmas Bird Counts - 1954	12
Chincoteague	Charlottesville
Cobb Island	Warren
Chesapeake Bay	Sweet Briar
Chincoteague Inlet	Lynchburg
Back Bay	Peaks of Otter
Little Creek	Shenandoah National Park
Norfolk	Harrisonburg
Newport News	Rockingham County
Toano	Lexington
Hog Island (Surry County)	Roanoke
Hopewell	Blacksburg
Ft. Belvoir	Abingdon
Brooke	Mt. Rogers
Summary of 1954 Christmas Counts in Virginia By John Grey	26
Ten Years of Christmas Bird Counts in Arlington By Arthur H. Fast	29
Advance Notice of Blue Ridge Foray	31

THE 1954 BLUE RIDGE FORAY REPORT

By Paul S. Favour, Jr., and F.R. Scott

For the third consecutive year, the Skyland - Big Meadows area of Shenandoah National Park was the setting for the VSO's Blue Ridge Foray, held in 1954 on June 18 and 19 and attended by 29 persons.

Situated in the northern part of Virginia, Shenandoah National Park encompasses a 70 mile stretch of the well-known Blue Ridge, a range extending some 550 miles in its entirety from southern Pennsylvania to northern Georgia and forming the easternmost principal range of the Southern Appalachians. Within and visible from the Park is to be found some of the most outstanding scenery in the eastern United States.

The Skyland - Big Meadows portion of Shenandoah National Park, covered during the Foray, is a rugged, mountainous area roughly ten miles long by eight miles wide which varies in elevation from 1000 to 4000 feet. Here the mountains are composed chiefly of ancient igneous rocks - granites and granitic gneisses which are capped along the main ridge crest and on certain lower slopes by Catoclin greenstone, a very hard, fine-grained rock formed from metamorphosed lava flows. The forest growth which blankets the summits and slopes is mainly second-growth mixed hardwood, with either red or chestnut oak greatly predominant. Variations in the vegetative cover occur in the form of open or brushy meadowlands, in relatively small stands of coniferous trees - hemlock, pine and fir - and in one swampy area. Because of its numerous natural features of especial interest, its network of connecting trails, and its lodge, cottage, and campground facilities, this section from Skyland to Big Meadows is generally considered to be the Park's center of interest and activity.

As in the two previous years, headquarters for the Foray were at Skyland, the Park's largest concession unit with facilities for accommodating over 200 persons. Most of the group arrived in time on the 17th to attend Favour's illustrated talk on the scenery and natural history of the Park.

The Foray program consisted of six scheduled trips for those interested in accompanying one of the park naturalists to observe not only the birdlife but also the scenery and plant life of interest; the more intensive habitat investigations which were handled by Scott; and an additional evening program by Max Carpenter who showed a number of wildlife films.

On Friday morning, the 18th, trips were led concurrently to Whiteoak Canyon and Dark Hollow, with each person taking his choice. This resulted in the advantage of smaller groups and in additional territory covered. Friday afternoon saw the entire group take the scheduled 38-mile auto tour from Skyland (3600 ft.) down the Old Rag Fire Road to Syria (600 ft.) at the east base of the Blue Ridge; thence up the east slope again via the Rapidan Fire Road to Big Meadows; and finally back to Skyland over the Skyline Drive. Stops were made at various elevations to sample the bird life. The trip served to demonstrate more completely the topographical characteristics of the

Blue Ridge and its attendant influence on the distribution of certain species.

Two mountain-top trips were offered Saturday morning. One group climbed to the summit of 4,049-foot Hawksbill to find there with its stand of balsam firs the nearest approach in the Park to the Canadian Life Zone. The second group ascended 4,010-foot Stony Man immediately adjacent to Skyland. The final trip of the Foray Saturday afternoon went to the Big Meadows area with its combination of open meadow, brush and swamp habitats all in close proximity.

In all of these field trips, particular emphasis was given to the obtaining of complete nesting data on all nests found during the course of the Foray. The group's contribution to this effort was the recording of nests or other breeding data for 23 species.

1954 Foray Register

Mr. and Mrs. W. Gerald Akers	Norfolk
Betty Atwood	Virginia Beach
Mrs. H.C. Bentley	Ellerson
Bill Bentley	Ellerson
Mr. and Mrs. S.E. Breneiser	Norfolk
Buddy Brown	Richmond
Max Carpenter	Dayton
Paul Favour	Shenandoah National Park
Frederic R. Freund	Richmond
Mike Griffin	Norfolk
D.E. Hoffmaster	Shenandoah National Park
Jimmy Oglesby	Virginia Beach
Mr. and Mrs. Jack E. Perkins	Virginia Beach
Mauvine and Charles Perkins	Virginia Beach
Tom Pretlow	Warrenton
Gertrude Prior	Sweet Briar
W.F. Rountrey	Norfolk
F.R. Scott	Richmond
Dr. and Mrs. Hugh Spencer	Charlottesville
Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Spratley	Ellerson
Paul Sykes	Norfolk
R.L. Stevens	Arlington

Habitat Investigations

Attempts were made to investigate three definite types of habitats on the three mornings of the Foray. These field trips differed from regular "bird listing" in that only the following birds were counted: (1) those in the specific study area, (2) male birds of pairs, and (3) birds apparently breeding in the study area at the time of study. The birds are listed in the order of their relative abundance, and the figures shown are the actual number of males counted.

These surveys differ from formal breeding-bird censuses in that they were made in one field trip each, instead of a number of trips, and no attempt was made to calculate densities of the various populations.

Area no.1. North Slope of Hawksbill Mountain (3600 feet) June 18. Steep, rough, wooded mountainside 100-200 feet below summit cliffs, cut by a number of open rocky talus slopes. Tree growth is low and quite bushy, the principal species being red oak, yellow birch, mountain maple, striped maple, withh-hazel, mountain-ash, ninebark, and chestnut sprouts.

<u>Birds</u>	<u>Relative Abundance</u>
Canada Warbler	14
Slate-colored Junco	7
Wood Thrush	6
Veery	5
Black and White Warbler	5
Red-eyed Towhee	4
Black-throated Blue Warbler	3
Red-eyed Vireo	2
Oven-bird	2
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2
Blue Jay	1
Catbird	1
Chestnut-sided Warbler	1

Area no.2. Swampy Area in Big Meadows (3500 feet) June 19. Low, marshy growth, interspersed with and surrounded by tall, dense thickets of bushes and small trees (Spiraea, Cornus, rose, Crataegus, gray birch, etc., with gray birch being dominant.)

<u>Birds</u>	<u>Relative Abundance</u>
Chestnut-sided Warbler	13
Catbird	7
Red-eyed Towhee	6
Robin	3
Yellowthroat	3
Song Sparrow	3
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1
Brown Thrasher	1
Wood Thrush	1

Area no.3. Center Section of Lumberlost (3250 feet) June 20. Mature forest growth growing mostly in semiswamplike conditions. Principal overstory species are hemlock, red oak, white oak and red maple, with hemlock predominating. Other common growth is red spruce, black birch, yellow birch, chestnut oak, Canada yew, mountain-laurel, witch hazel and chestnut sprouts.

<u>Birds</u>	<u>Relative Abundance</u>
Blackburnian Warbler	11
Black-throated Blue Warbler	8
Canada Warbler	5
Veery	4
Wood Thrush	3
Solitary Vireo	3
Acadian Flycatcher	2
Hooded Warbler	2
Scarlet Tanager	2
Crested Flycatcher	1
Red-eyed Vireo	1
Black and White Warbler	1
Oven-bird	1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1
Slate-colored Junco	1

Annotated List

The following annotated list includes only those birds seen from June 18 to 20. Naturally, this is too short a time to enable one to draw too many generalizations about the distribution and abundance of the birds of the area. Hence, where there seems some doubt as to the proper interpretation to be made from the field records, no such interpretation is attempted, and the observations are given in detail. Furthermore, in such a report as this a scarcity of records for a given bird may mean merely that the bird's song period was over or that its habits make it difficult for large groups of people to observe it.

Any unusual variance from past field work in the area has been noted. For a fuller account of the birds of Shenandoah National Park, see the list by Alexander Wetmore, Shenandoah Natural History Association, Bulletin Number One, September, 1950; Supplement, August 15, 1952; Additions, Atlantic Naturalist 8: 200, March-April, 1953.

For the benefit of future compilers any species seen solely outside the Park boundaries is so noted. A number of such observations occurred near Syria, Madison County, altitude 900-1000 feet.

The total list includes 80 species, of which 64 were seen within the Park. Breeding information (nests or young birds) was obtained for 23 species.

Turkey Vulture. Cathartes aura.

Rather common in small numbers at all elevations. Not over 5 reported by any one party.

Black Vulture. Coragyps atratus,

A single bird on June 19 at Skyland and on Stony Mann, possibly the same bird.

Red-tailed Hawk. Buteo jamaicensis.

Two records: one at Skyland, June 18, and the other at Fisher's Gap, June 19.

Red-shouldered Hawk. Buteo lineatus.

One near Hoover's Camp, June 18. The Hawksbill trip on June 19 reported three.

Broad-winged Hawk. Buteo platypterus.

Fairly common, reported from a number of localities.

Ruffed Grouse. Bonasa umbellus.

Single birds reported from Hoover's Camp and Hawksbill Gap. A female with young was seen June 19 on Hawksbill Mountain.

Bob-white. Colinus virginianus.

Rather common in open areas. Surprisingly, most were found at Big Meadows at 3500 feet elevation.

Mourning Dove. Zenaidura macroura.

Several recorded near Syria on June 18, outside the Park boundaries.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Coccyzus americanus.

Single birds found in White Oak Canyon, Limberlost, and near Syria.

Black-billed Cuckoo. Coccyzus erythrophthalmus.

One record: a single individual at Fisher's Gap on June 19.

Barred Owl. Strix varia.

Two were found near Hoover's Camp on June 18.

Chimney Swift. Chaetura pelagica.

A few were seen every day flying over Skyland or Big Meadows.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Archilochus colubris.

Fairly common.

Yellow-shafted Flicker. Colaptes auratus.

Fairly common, but not over 2 reported by any one party.

Pileated Woodpecker. Dryocopus pileatus.

Single birds seen along Old Rag Fire Road, at Limberlost and on the north slope of Hawksbill.

Downy Woodpecker. Dendrocopus pubescens.

Single birds reported from White Oak Canyon, Rapidan Road, and Hawksbill.

Eastern Kingbird. Tyrannus tyrannus.

One bird near Syria (about 1000 feet) on June 18, outside the Park boundaries. It was incubating eggs in a nest 45 feet up in a sycamore tree (Scott and others).

Crested Flycatcher. Myiarchus crinitus.

Fairly common.

Eastern Phoebe. Sayornis phoebe.

Common. Four nests found:

(1) June 18. Cottage porch at Skyland, altitude 3540 feet. Contents unknown. Mrs. J.B. Spratley.

(2) June 18. Porch of Big Meadows Lodge, altitude 3600 feet. Three young birds. Hoffmaster, Favour and others.

(3) June 18. Porch of Big Meadows Lodge. Four eggs, Hoffmaster, Favour and others.

(4) June 19. On board nailed to floor joist of building at Skyland, Three or four newly hatched young. Sykes and Griffin.

Acadian Flycatcher. Empidonax virescens.

Fairly common in the hollows, up to 3250 feet in Limberlost. This appears to be an altitude record for the Park.

Wood Pewee. Contopus virens.

Rather common. Nest, June 19, contents unknown, at Big Meadows Lodge, 15 feet up in a red oak; Mrs. Scott, Favour and others.

Barn Swallow. Hirundo rustica.

Four birds near Syria, June 18, outside the Park boundaries.

Rough-winged Swallow. Stelgidopteryx ruficollis.

A flock of 8 near Syria on June 18, outside the Park boundaries.

Blue Jay. Cyanocitta cristata.

Fairly common but local. None reported around Skyland.

Common Raven. Corvus corax.

A number seen along the main ridge at various places, the maximum being a flock of 8 at Big Meadows on June 19. Favour found 2 adults with 2 young at Pinnacles Overlook on June 19.

Common Crow. Corvus brachyrhynchos.

A few seen in the mountains along the ridge but more common around Syria.

Carolina Chickadee. Parus carolinensis.

Fairly common.

Tufted Titmouse. Parus bicolor.

Only three records, all of single birds.

White-breasted Nuthatch. Sitta carolinensis.

Several reported from Hawksbill and Stony Men mountains.

House Wren. Troglodytes aedon.

Fairly common, particularly around the various groups of cabins.

Three nests found:

(1) June 18. Behind bark on side of cabin at Skyland, altitude 3540 feet. Young birds. Sykes and Griffin.

(2) June 19. Behind loose window frame on cabin at Big Meadows, altitude 3600 feet. Young birds. Favour, Perkins and others.

(3) June 20. Behind bark on side of cabin at Skyland. Young birds. Scott.

Mockingbird. Mimus polyglottos.

Two near Syria on June 18, outside the Park boundaries.

Catbird. Dumetella carolinensis.

Common. Nest with one egg on June 19 at Big Meadows, 6 feet up in a nine-bark bush (Scott).

Brown Thrasher. Toxostoma rufum.

Rather common.

Robin. Turdus migratorius.

Common. Nest under construction, June 19, at Skyland, 24 feet up in a small red oak (Carpenter and Scott).

Wood Thrush. Hylocichla mustelina.

Common. Two nests found:

(1) June 18. Skyland, in Virginia pine about 3 feet above ground. Two young about two-thirds grown. Sykes and Griffin. Favour found same nest next day.

(2) June 19. Near Hawksbill Shelter, about 4 feet up in a crotch of sapling white oak. Three eggs. Rountrey, Sykes and Griffin.

Veery. Hylocichla fuscescens.

Common, recorded down to 2700 feet in White Oak Canyon.

Common Bluebird. Sialia sialis.

A number found on June 18 near Syria, outside the Park boundaries, but none actually in the Park. This bird is ordinarily considered fairly common in the Park.

Cedar Waxwing. Bombycilla cedrorum.

A few found at Skyland and Big Meadows.

Loggerhead Shrike. Lanius ludovicianus.

Three on June 18 near Syria, outside the Park boundaries.

Starling. Sturnus vulgaris.

A number on June 18 near Syria, outside the Park boundaries.

Yellow-throated Vireo. Vireo flavifrons.

One in White Oak Canyon on June 18.

Solitary Vireo. Vireo solitarius.

Rather common. One bird feeding young on June 18 in White Oak Canyon (Favour and others).

Red-eyed Vireo. Vireo olivaceus.

Common. Nest with eggs (bird incubating) on June 18, Old Rag Post Office site, 6 feet up in fork in small dogwood (Griffin and Hoffmaster).

Black and White Warbler. Mniotilta varia.

Rather common.

Worm-eating Warbler. Helminthophila vermivorus.

One singing bird on June 18 near Syria, outside the Park boundaries.

Parula Warbler. Parula americana.

A few reported from White Oak Canyon, Dark Hollow, and near Syria.

Yellow Warbler. Dendroica petechia.

Several found on June 18 near Syria at 1000 feet, outside the Park boundaries. A pair feeding young here (Favour and others).

Black-throated Blue (Cairns's) Warbler. Dendroica caerulescens.

Common above 2500 feet. Nest with 4 young, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile above Rose River Falls (altitude 2700 feet), 1 foot above ground in dead hemlock (Breneiser and others).

Black-throated Green Warbler. Dendroica virens.

Single birds found in White Oak Canyon and near Hawksbill Gap (2400 feet); several in Limberlost. Wetmore called it a "local summer resident", but only up to 3000 feet.

Blackburnian Warbler. Dendroica fusca.

Common in White Oak Canyon and Limberlost; one recorded on Hawksbill. Not recorded elsewhere. Apparently restricted to coniferous trees, especially mature hemlocks. Wetmore termed it uncommon. It proved to be the most common bird in Limberlost.

Chestnut-sided Warbler. Dendroica pensylvanica.

Common at high elevations; found down to 1650 feet on Rapidan Road; probably a low-altitude record for the Park.

Prairie Warbler. Dendroica discolor.

Several found below 2600 feet along Old Rag Fire Road to Syria. Two singing birds on June 19 at Big Meadows, 3500 feet, an altitude record for the Park.

Ovenbird. Seiurus aurocapillus.

Common. A pair feeding young in White Oak Canyon on June 18 (Favour and others). Nest on ground with 4 eggs found June 19 by two groups on Stony Man Mountain (Mr. and Mrs. Akers and Mr. and Mrs. Breneiser; Mrs. Spratley and Mr. Hoffmaster).

Louisiana Waterthrush. Seiurus motacilla.

A few found in White Oak Canyon. An immature was found here being fed by an adult on June 18 (Sykes and others).

Kentucky Warbler. Aporornis formosus.

Two were found June 18 on Rapidan Road at 1650 feet. Not seen elsewhere.

Yellowthroat. Geothlypis trichas.

Fairly common locally, principally at Big Meadows and near Syria. Two young birds found June 18 near Old Rag Post Office.

Yellow-breasted Chat. Icteria virens.

Fairly common, more so at low elevations, but recorded up to Big Meadows at 3500 feet.

Hooded Warbler. Wilsonia citrina.

Rather common, found as high as 3500 feet at Big Meadows.

Canada Warbler. Wilsonia canadensis.

Common, especially at high elevations, but somewhat local. Abundant on north slope of Hawksbill. Adult young out of nest at Limberlost June 20 (Scott).

American Redstart. Setophaga ruticilla.

Fairly common but somewhat local. Most birds found at Big Meadows.

House Sparrow. Passer domesticus.

Found only near Syria, outside the Park boundaries.

Common Meadowlark. Sturnella magna.

A few seen at Big Meadows and near Syria.

Red-winged Blackbird. Agelaius phoeniceus.

Several found near Syria, outside the Park boundaries. One nest with young here on June 18, 8 feet over a stream in a small tree (Sykes and Favour).

Orchard Oriole. Icterus spurius.

Two found June 18 near Syria, outside the Park boundaries, feeding several young birds (Scott and others).

Baltimore Oriole. Icterus galbula.

Four seen June 18 near Syria, outside the Park boundaries. One adult was feeding one immature bird (Scott and others.)

Purple Grackle. Quiscalus quiscula.

One was found at Big Meadows on June 18, an interesting record for early summer. The same day a number were seen near Syria, outside the Park boundaries, including one young bird being fed by an adult.

Common Cowbird. Molothrus ater.

A single bird was seen at Hawksbill Gap on June 18 (Scott). There seem to be no other published records for the Park highlands in summer.

Scarlet Tanager. Piranga olivacea.

Fairly common.

Summer Tanager. Piranga rubra.

One bird June 18 near Syria (900 feet), outside the Park (Favour).

Cardinal. Richmondia cardinalis.

Surprisingly few seen. One near the Old Rag Post Office and 5 near Syria on June 18 were the only records.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Phenicurus ludovicianus.

Fairly common above 3000 feet.

Indigo Bunting. Passerina cyanea.

Fairly common.

American Goldfinch. Spinus tristis.

Common at all altitudes. Seen mainly in small flocks, and so assumed not to have started nesting.

Red-eyed Towhee. Pipilo erythrophthalmus.

Common at all altitudes.

Grasshopper Sparrow. Ammodramus savannarum.

Three on June 18 near Syria, outside the Park boundaries.

Vesper Sparrow. Poocetes gramineus.

Three singing birds June 19 in Big Meadows.

Slate-colored (Carolina) Junco. Junco hyemalis.

Common above 3000 feet. Four nests were found. Since this is supposed to be a ground-nesting species, it was of decided interest to find two of the nests in trees.

(1) June 18. Skyland, 6 feet above ground near end of limb of thick red spruce. Under construction (bird flushed from nest three times during foray). Scott and Favour.

(2) June 19. Big Meadows Lodge, in niche of stone wall of lodge next to front door, 4 feet above ground. Three young. Favour and others.

(3) June 19. Hawksbill trail, 7 feet above ground near end of limb of balsam fir. Three or four eggs. Sykes, Rountrey and Griffin.

(4) June 19. Near summit of Hawksbill, on ground under grass clump at edge of trail. Five eggs, Favour, Perkins and others.

Chipping Sparrow. Spizella passerina.

Fairly common. Two adults feeding 2 young birds on June 18 in White Oak Canyon. Nest with young, about 15 feet up in Virginia pine at Skyland, June 18, Sykes and Griffin.

Field Sparrow. Spizella pusilla.

Common.

Song Sparrow. Melospiza melodia.

Several at Big Meadows; one near Syria.

VIRGINIA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS - 1954

Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, Va. (Assateague Island south of Maryland line, Chincoteague Island and Causeway, Wattsville, Horntown, and part of western shore of Chincoteague Bay; open farmland 9%, pine and mixed woodland 25%, scrub pine and bayberry 15%, brackish marshes and impoundments 15%, salt marshes and bay shore 15%, dunes 5%, mud and sand flats 6%, ocean beach 10%.) December 29; 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Overcast; temp. 53° to 56°; wind S, 1-6 m.p.h.; ground bare; water open. Eight observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours, 35 (31 on foot, 3 by car, 1 by boat); total party-miles 124 (50 on foot, 70 by car, 4 by boat). Common Loon, 1; Horned Grebe, 52; Pied-billed Grebe, 7; Gannet, 2; Great Blue Heron, 53; American Egret, 2; Louisiana Heron, 1; Black-crowned Night Heron, 3; Canada Goose, 138; American Brant, 3200 (est.); Snow Goose, 457; Blue Goose, 2; Mallard, 320 (est.); Black Duck, 2850 (est.); Gadwall, 770 (est.); American Widgeon, 206; Pintail, 1195 (1100 est., 95); Green-winged Teal, 960 (est.); Shoveller, 605; American Golden-eye, 16; Buffle-head, 1; Old-squaw, 3; White-winged Scoter, 2; Surf Scoter, 278; American Scoter, 2; Ruddy Duck, 2; Hooded Merganser, 49; Red-breasted Merganser, 3; Turkey Vulture, 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 3; Red-tailed Hawk, 2; Red-shouldered Hawk, 2; Marsh Hawk, 9; Peregrine Falcon, 3; Sparrow Hawk, 3; Bob-white, 48; Clapper Rail, 2; Virginia Rail, 2; American Coot, 17; Killdeer, 9; Black-bellied Plover, 118; Wilson's Snipe, 17; Greater Yellow-legs, 35; Lesser Yellow-legs, 2; Red-backed Sandpiper, 633; Dowitcher, 12; Semipalmated Sandpiper, 20; Sanderling, 154; Great Black-backed Gull, 11; Herring Gull, 745; Ring-billed Gull, 330; Mourning Dove, 10; Screech Owl, 1; Horned Owl, 5; Barred Owl, 1; Belted Kingfisher, 13; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 68; Hairy Woodpecker, 7; Downy Woodpecker, 16; Horned Lark, 68; Tree Swallow, 350 (est.); American Crow, 4500 (est.); Fish Crow, 100 (est.); Black-capped Chickadee, 2; Carolina Chickadee, 12; Tufted Titmouse, 4; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 5; Brown Creeper, 2; Winter Wren, 5; Carolina Wren, 20; Short-billed Marsh Wren, 1; Mockingbird, 1; Catbird, 2; American Robin, 24; Hermit Thrush, 13; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 1; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1; Water Pipit, 65; Common Starling, 295; Orange-crowned Warbler, 1; Myrtle Warbler, 2650; House Sparrow, 68; Eastern Meadowlark, 131; Red-winged Blackbird, 620; Rusty Blackbird, 2; Boat-tailed Grackle, 96; Purple Grackle, 1; Brown-headed Cowbird, 20; Cardinal, 41; Common Redpoll, 9 (R.R.K., E.O.M.); Pine Siskin, 15; American Goldfinch, 66; Eastern Towhee, 40; Savannah Sparrow, 13; Sharp-tailed Sparrow, 3; Slate-colored Junco, 15; American Tree Sparrow, 1; Field Sparrow, 29; White-throated Sparrow, 684; Fox Sparrow, 4; Swamp Sparrow, 148; Song Sparrow, 145; Snow Bunting, 28; Total, 104 species; about 23,783 individuals. -- R.R. Kerr, J.E. Knudson, E.O. Mellinger, W.F. Minor, F.R. Scott (compiler), C.C. Steirley, C.E. Stevens, Jr., J.W. Terborgh.

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Cobb Island, Va. (entire length of Cobb Island, Cobb Bay, and Sand Shoal Channel west nearly to Oyster; open bay water 30%, sand dunes 30%, ocean beach 25%, salt marsh 10%, mud flats 5%). -- December 28; 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mainly clear, but with heavy fog from 11:30 to 3:30; temp. 44° to 56°; wind S, 5-15 m.p.h.; ground bare; water open. Two observers in 1 and 2 parties. Total party-hours, 11 (8 on foot, 3 by boat); total party-miles, 33 (16 on foot, 17 by boat). Common Loon, 19; Red-throated Loon, 1;

Horned Grebe, 45; Pied-billed Grebe, 12; Great Blue Heron, 3; Louisiana Heron, 2; American Brant, 15; Snow Goose, 11; Black Duck, 50; Buffle-head, 6; Old-squaw, 28; White-winged Scoter, 8; Surf Scoter, 408; American Scoter, 1; Red-breasted Merganser, 13; Marsh Hawk, 1; Ring-necked Pheasant, 1 female (flushed from brushy edge between the salt marsh and dune grass; pheasants have been stocked on parts of the mainland, but not, so far as is known, on this island); American Oyster-catcher, 19; Piping Plover, 2; Ringed Plover, 6; Black-bellied Plover, 295; Red-backed Sandpiper, 2200 (est.); Semipalmated Sandpiper, 1; Western Sandpiper, 60; Sanderling, 80; Great Black-backed Gull, 3; Herring Gull, 390; Ring-billed Gull, 457; American Crow, 3; Common Starling, 70; Eastern Meadowlark, 45; Ipswich Sparrow, 1; Savannah Sparrow, 19; Song Sparrow, 5. Total, 34 species; about 4280 individuals. Most of the shorebirds were found roosting in large flocks at high tide on the beach or washed sand flats. Species seen on the mainland about Oyster were purposely omitted in order to avoid introducing habitats not typical of the main part of the count. The north end of Cobb Island seemed far more suitable for nesting terns than the south end; apparently, emphasis in recent years has been badly misplaced.-- F.R. Scott (compiler), C.C. Steirly.

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Chesapeake Bay, Va. (a strip census 15 miles long, taken from the Little Creek-Kiptopeke Beach Ferry just within the mouth of Chesapeake Bay; no closer than 2 miles to land; open water 100%).-- December 27; 12:05 to 1:15 p.m. Clear; temp. 56°; wind S, 5 m.p.h.; water smooth. Two observers together. Total party-hours, 1.17 (by boat); total party-miles, 15 (by boat). Common Loon, 1; Horned Grebe, 6; Gannet, 15; Black Duck, 72 (2 miles off Little Creek); Old-squaw, 2; White-winged Scoter, 6; Surf Scoter, 372; Great Black-backed Gull, 2; Herring Gull, 230; Ring-billed Gull, 20; Bonaparte's Gull, 1. Total, 11 species; about 727 individuals. The large rafts of scoters present all last winter off Kiptopeke Beach either had not as yet arrived or more probably were farther north off Cape Charles out of reach of the ferry. -- F.R. Scott, C.C. Steirly.

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Chincoteague Inlet to Winter Quarter Lightship. January 3, 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. One observer - by boat. Total miles covered; approximately 19 nautical. Clear to partly cloudy, wind NW 7-18 m.p.h., temperature 44° to 55°. Sea, 2 to 3 feet. Common Loon, 27; Red-throated Loon, 1; Horned Grebe, 2; Gannet, 25; Brant, 800 est.; White-winged Scoter, 4; American Scoter 1; Sanderling, 5; Herring Gull, 600 est.; Total, species 9; individuals, 1465. Robert B. McCartney.

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Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Va. (same area as in previous years: refuge area and much of mainland of Princess Anne County; open farm land 20%, pine woodland 10%, deciduous woodland 20%, ocean beach 5%, marshes and inland bays 45%. December 27, 5:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Clear; temp. 38° to 62°; wind SE, 5 m.p.h.; ground bare, and water open. Seventeen observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours, 39 (34 on foot, 1 by motorboat, 4 by car), total party-miles, 235 (13 on foot, 207 by car, 15 by motorboat).

Common Loon, 4; Red-throated Loon, 6; Horned Grebe, 15; Pied-billed Grebe, 15; Gannet, 4; Double-crested Cormorant, 14; Great Blue Heron, 16; American Egret, 4; Whistling Swan, 4,137; Canada Goose, 15,100; Snow Goose, 952; Mallard, 18; Black Duck, 700; Gadwall, 2; American Widgeon, 40,150; Pintail, 1,128; Green-winged Teal, 2; Blue-winged Teal, 1; Shoveller, 4; Redhead, 5,002; Ring-necked Duck, 701; Canvas-back, 4,000; Lesser Scaup, 1,500; Buffle-head, 25; Old-squaw, 1; White-winged Scoter, 2; Surf Scoter, 37; American Scoter, 2; Ruddy Duck, 5,216; Hooded Merganser, 4; Red-breasted Merganser, 2; Turkey Vulture, 52; Black Vulture, 7; Cooper's Hawk, 4; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Red-shouldered Hawk, 21; Bald Eagle, 5; Marsh Hawk, 36; Peregrine Falcon, 2; Pigeon Hawk, 3; Sparrow Hawk, 34; Bob-white, 8; King Rail, 4; American Coot, 20,150; Killdeer, 157; Black-bellied Plover, 4; Wilson's Snipe, 22; Greater Yellow-legs, 5 (L.E.B.); Sanderling, 47; Herring Gull, 722; Ring-billed Gull, 163; Great Black-backed Gull, 44; Bonaparte's Gull, 27; Forster's Tern, 5; Mourning Dove, 171; Barn Owl, 1; Barred Owl, 1; Belted Kingfisher, 3; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 94; Pileated Woodpecker, 3; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 12; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 2; Hairy Woodpecker, 4; Downy Woodpecker, 21; Eastern Phoebe, 6; Horned Lark, 9; American Crow, 127; Fish Crow, 60; Carolina Chickadee, 31; Tufted Titmouse, 16; White-breasted Nuthatch, 5; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 22; Brown Creeper, 3; Winter Wren, 8; Carolina Wren, 79; Long-billed Marsh Wren, 2; Short-billed Marsh Wren, 10; Mockingbird, 41; Catbird, 43; Brown Thrasher, 10; American Robin, 96; Hermit Thrush, 9; Eastern Bluebird, 110; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 22; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 3; Water Pipit, 709; Loggerhead Shrike, 6; Common Starling, 822; Orange-crowned Warbler, 3; Myrtle Warbler, 2,000; Pine Warbler, 6; Common Yellowthroat, 1; House Sparrow, 138; Eastern Meadowlark, 338; Red-winged Blackbird, 417,550; Purple Grackle, 91,543; Brown-headed Cowbird, 61,158; Cardinal, 57; Pine Siskin, 1; American Goldfinch, 270; Eastern Towhee, 38; Ipswich Sparrow, 2; Savannah Sparrow, 257; Slate-colored Junco, 138; American Tree Sparrow, 2; Chipping Sparrow, 28; Field Sparrow, 51; White-throated Sparrow, 570; Fox Sparrow, 11; Swamp Sparrow, 492; Song Sparrow, 357; Snow Bunting, 78. Total, 116 species; 677,916 individuals. Additional species not on the above list - Little Blue Heron, 1; Yellow-crowned Night Heron, 1; Florida Gallinule, 1 (F.G.R., W.F.R.); House Wren, 1 (F.C.R., W.F.R.). -- Dr. W.G. Akers, Mr. & Mrs. S.E. Breneiser, Mrs. L.E. Burford, M.T. Griffin, Miss Gisela Grimm, H. Hespenheide, J.E. Perkins, R.H. Peake, Jr., F.C. Richardson, W.F. Rountrey, Miss M.E. Stephens, P.W. Sykes, Jr. (compiler), Miss E. Thomas, E. Webster, Jr., J.R. Withrow, Miss Janie Whitehill (Cape Henry Bird Club).

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Little Creek, Va. ($7\frac{1}{2}$ mile radius centering approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles NE of Kempsville, including Lynnhaven Inlet, Little Creek, eastern portion of Norfolk City, Stumpy Lake; open farmland 25%, pine woodland, 10%, deciduous woodland, 50%, salt marsh, sand beach, bay, rivers 10%, city suburbs 5%. December 28; 5:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Partly cloudy; temp. 46° to 67° ; wind South, 10-16 m.p.h. Ground bare, water open. Six observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours, $16\frac{1}{2}$ ($12\frac{1}{2}$ on foot, 3 by car, 1 by motorboat), total party-miles, 137 (7 on foot; 128 by car, 2 by motorboat). Common Loon, 2; Red-throated Loon, 1; Horned Grebe, 10; Pied-billed Grebe, 18; Double-crested Cormorant, 3; Great Blue Heron, 13; Canada Goose, 4; Mallard, 15; Black Duck, 79; Green-winged Teal, 8; Wood Duck, 5; Ring-necked Duck, 2;

Canvas-back, 1; Greater Scaup, 235; Lesser Scaup, 3; Buffle-head, 4; Ruddy Duck, 78; Hooded Merganser, 56; American Merganser, 2; Red-breasted Merganser, 11; Turkey Vulture, 13; Black Vulture, 10; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Red-shouldered Hawk, 6; Bald Eagle, 4; Marsh Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 15; Bob-white, 10; Clapper Rail, 1; Killdeer, 106; Wilson's Snipe, 6; Sanderling, 1; Great Black-backed Gull, 6; Herring Gull, 750; Ring-billed Gull, 676; Bonaparte's Gull, 50; Forster's Tern, 18; Mourning Dove, 11; Screech Owl, 1; Barred Owl, 1; Belted Kingfisher, 6; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 17; Pileated Woodpecker, 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 5; Red-headed Woodpecker, 3; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 6; Eastern Phoebe, 1; Blue Jay, 6; American Crow, 59; Fish Crow, 18; Carolina Chickadee, 13; Tufted Titmouse, 9; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 5; Brown Creeper, 3; Winter Wren, 3; Carolina Wren, 22; Mockingbird, 15; Catbird, 4; Brown Thrasher, 6; American Robin, 80; Hermit Thrush, 2; Eastern Bluebird, 15; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 71; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 4; Water Pipit, 10; Loggerhead Shrike, 2; Common Starling, 1,100; Orange-crowned Warbler, 2; Myrtle Warbler, 675; Pine Warbler, 3; House Sparrow, 270; Eastern Meadowlark, 122; Red-winged Blackbird, 2,500; Purple Grackle, 244; Brown-headed Cowbird, 650; Cardinal, 13; American Goldfinch, 45; Eastern Towhee, 22; Savannah Sparrow, 12; Slate-colored Junco, 125; Chipping Sparrow, 10; Field Sparrow, 12; White-throated Sparrow, 112; Fox Sparrow, 8; Lincoln's Sparrow, 1 (R.H.P.); Swamp Sparrow, 129; Song Sparrow, 90; Total, 89 species; 8,660 individuals. Seen in count area on December 29, 4 Purple Sandpipers. The absence of Gannets and Sea Ducks was due to a strong offshore wind. -- C. Barefield, B. Bennett, Mrs. L.E. Burford, R.H. Peake, Jr., P.W. Sykes, Jr. (compiler), J.R. Withrow.

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Norfolk County, Va. (7½ mile radius centering approximately 6½ miles NE of Wallaceton, including eastern edge of Dismal Swamp, western part of Northwest River, Great Bridge, Butts Station, Fentress, Deep Creek; open farm land 30%, wooded swamp 24%, mixed woodland 30%, deciduous woodland 5%, pine woodland 10%, marsh land 1%. December 30, 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Clear and very windy; temp. 47° to 69°; wind SW, 6-22 m.p.h., ground bare. Three observers in 1 party. Total party-hours, 10 (7 on foot, 3 by car), total party-miles, 99 (5 on foot, 94 by car). Turkey Vulture, 16; Black Vulture, 27; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 2; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Red-shouldered Hawk, 6; Bald Eagle, 1; Marsh Hawk, 2; Pigeon Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 14; Bob-white, 1; Killdeer, 4; Wilson's Snipe, 5; Herring Gull, 16; Ring-billed Gull, 35; Mourning Dove, 6; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 13; Pileated Woodpecker, 3; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 4; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 6; Eastern Phoebe, 2; Blue Jay, 5; American Crow, 25; Fish Crow, 2; Carolina Chickadee, 7; Tufted Titmouse, 3; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Brown Creeper, 1; Winter Wren, 1; Carolina Wren, 25; Mockingbird, 11; Catbird, 1; Brown Thrasher, 3; American Robin, 69; Hermit Thrush, 2; Eastern Bluebird, 27; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 1; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 8; Water Pipit, 130; Loggerhead Shrike, 1; Common Starling, 450; Myrtle Warbler, 85; House Sparrow, 34; Eastern Meadowlark, 19; Red-winged Blackbird, 2,000,000; Purple Grackle, 129; Brown-headed Cowbird, 1,650; Cardinal, 12; American Goldfinch, 84; Eastern Towhee, 17; Savannah Sparrow, 7; Slate-colored Junco, 82; Chipping Sparrow, 3; Field Sparrow, 35; White-throated Sparrow, 218; Fox Sparrow, 3; Swamp Sparrow, 60; Song Sparrow, 45. Total, 60 species; 2,003,485 individuals. Seen in count area on December 24, Little Blue Heron, and several Orange-crowned Warblers; also on this date a dead Least Bittern and a Barred Owl were found. -- M.T. Griffin, R.H. Peake, Jr., P.W. Sykes, Jr. (compiler). (Members of Cape Henry Bird Club)

Newport News, Va. (same territory as last year - except Grandview Beach). January 2; 7 observers in 3 parties. Red-throated Loon, 2; Horned Grebe, 63; Pied-billed Grebe, 12; Great Blue Heron, 3; Mallard, 24; Black Duck, 40; Gadwall, 100; Baldpate, 538; Canvas-back, 53; Lesser Scaup Duck, 16; Golden-eye, 46; Buffle-head, 47; Surf Scoter, 39; White-winged Scoter, 1; American Scoter, 5; Ruddy Duck, 14; Hooded Merganser, 14; Red-breasted Merganser, 12; Turkey Vulture, 44; Black Vulture, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Rough-legged Hawk, 1 (Mr. & Mrs. W.P.S.); Bald Eagle, 10; Marsh Hawk, 2; Pigeon Hawk, 2 (S.M.); Sparrow Hawk, 15; Bob-white, 5; Killdeer, 16; Wilson's Snipe, 1; Greater Yellowlegs, 2; Great Black-backed Gull, 1; Herring Gull, 993; Ring-billed Gull, 82; Bonaparte's Gull, 112; Forster's Tern, 1; Common Tern, 7 (C.H. & B.B. at Mill Creek, Ft. Monroe, black noted extending around back of head, Forster's nearby for comparison); Royal Tern, 1 (C.H. & B.B. at Grandview, close range); Mourning Dove, 2; Yellow-bill Cuckoo, 1 (W.E.H. & N.P. in deep woods off Sawyers Point, spots in tail clearly seen as against bars); Belted Kingfisher, 11; Flicker, 13; Pileated Woodpecker, 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 15; Red-headed Woodpecker, 4; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 22; Phoebe, 2; Tree Swallow, 5; Blue Jay, 1; Crow, 184; Fish Crow, 10; Carolina Crow, 98; Tufted Titmouse, 66; White-breasted Nuthatch, 9; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 1; Brown Creeper, 4; Carolina Wren, 57; Mockingbird, 31; Brown Thrasher, 5; Robin, 10; Hermit Thrush, 1; Bluebird, 56; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 36; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 7; Pipit, 25; Cedar Waxwing, 1; Starling, 703; Myrtle Warbler, 250; Pine Warbler, 3; English Sparrow, 382; Meadowlark, 163; Red-wing, 120; Purple Grackle, 2; Cowbird, 15; Cardinal, 45; Purple Finch, 12; Pine Siskin, 54; Goldfinch, 156; Towhee, 47; Savannah Sparrow, 25; Slate-colored Junco, 378; Field Sparrow, 124; White-throated Sparrow, 355; Fox Sparrow, 15; Swamp Sparrow, 15; Song Sparrow, 21. Total, 88 species; 5899 individuals. -- Mrs. Betty Blair, Charles Hackler, M.E. Hathaway, Norman Pope, Sidney Mitchell, Mr. & Mrs. Walter Post Smith.

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Toano, Va. (Same area as last year and also Warren's Pond, Jolly's Pond, and marshes of Chickahominy on Nettles Creek; salt marsh 5%, fresh marsh 30%, fresh ponds 15%, deciduous woods 40%, open farmland 10%). December 27; 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Clear, temp. 32° to 50°, wind SW, 5 m.p.h., ground bare, ponds iced. Five observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 15 (10 on foot, 5 in car), total party-miles 50 (15 on foot, 35 by car). Common Loon, 1; Pied-billed Grebe, 1; Great Blue Heron, 4; American Egret, 10; Mallard, 1; Black Duck, 36; Wood Duck, 5; Ring-necked Duck, 48; Canvas-back, 59; American Golden-eye, 8; Buffle-head, 6; Ruddy Duck, 225; Turkey Vulture, 27; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Bald Eagle, 3; Marsh Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 4; Bob-white, 3; King Rail, 1; Virginia Rail, 3; Sora, 5; Killdeer, 3; Wilson's Snipe, 1; Herring Gull, 1; Mourning Dove, 9; Barred Owl, 1; Belted Kingfisher, 4; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 11; Pileated Woodpecker, 6; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 7; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 6; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 8; Eastern Phoebe, 4; Blue Jay, 8; American Crow, 50; Carolina Chickadee, 14; Tufted Titmouse, 15; Winter Wren, 10 (2 singing); Carolina Wren, 13; Long-billed Marsh Wren, 1; Mockingbird, 30; Catbird, 1; American Robin, 6; Hermit Thrush, 1; Eastern Bluebird, 20; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 10; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1; Water Pipit, 75; Cedar Waxwing, 50; Loggerhead Shrike, 2; Common Starling, 100; Myrtle Warbler, 220; House Sparrow, 50; Eastern

Meadowlark, 90; Red-winged Blackbird, 1,450; Purple Grackle, 25; Cardinal, 25; Pine Siskin, 37; American Goldfinch, 65; Eastern Towhee, 35; Savannah Sparrow, 35; Sharptailed Sparrow, 1; Slate-colored Junco, 400; Field Sparrow, 40; White-throated Sparrow, 585; Swamp Sparrow, 16; Song Sparrow, 29. Total, 68 species; 6,010 individuals. — Mrs. Frank Claiborne, Geraldine Claiborne, Katherine Claiborne, John Grey (compiler), and Bruce McCartney.

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Hog Island, Surry County, Va. A continuation of the Surry, Virginia censuses of 1952 and 1953 except that this year's effort confined only to the Hog Island State Waterfowl Refuge in north east Surry County on the James River. Marshes 25%, river beach 10%, ponds 25%, pine forest 15%, open fields 25%, (considerable edge effect in fields and ponds). January 1; 6:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Heavy overcast; temp. 40° to 60°; wind S, 3 m.p.h., ground bare, water open. Three observers two hours, two observers seven hours, (all in same party). Total party-hours 9 (2 in car, 7 on foot), total party-miles 18 (4 by car, 14 on foot). Great Blue Heron, 12; Canada Goose, 1041 (500 est., 541); Snow Goose, 1; Mallard, 414 (400 est., 14); Black Duck, 102; Pintail, 2; Green-winged Teal, 52; Ring-necked Duck, 229 (100 est., 129); Canvasback, 8; Lesser Scaup, 164; American Golden-eye, 31; Ruddy Duck, 296 (200 est., 96); Hooded Merganser, 2; American Merganser, 15; Red-breasted Merganser, 2; Turkey Vulture, 9; Black Vulture, 2; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Marsh Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 2; Clapper Rail, 2; Killdeer, 36; Wilson's Snipe, 6; Herring Gull, 12; Ring-billed Gull, 269 (200 est., 69); Laughing Gull, 12; Great Horned Owl, 2; Kingfisher, 5; Flicker, 4; Pileated Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 4; Tree Swallow, 5; Blue Jay, 2; Common Crow, 34; Fish Crow, 4; Carolina Chickadee, 10; Tufted Titmouse, 2; Carolina Wren, 12; Short-billed Marsh Wren, 2; Mockingbird, 3; Bluebird, 5; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 12; Starling, 5; Myrtle Warbler, 82; Meadowlark, 12; Redwing (10,700 est.); Purple Grackle, (3500 est.); Cowbird, 1; Cardinal, 4; Goldfinch, 12; Towhee, 8; Slate-colored Junco, 5; White-throated Sparrow, 44; Fox Sparrow, 3; Swamp Sparrow, 12; Song Sparrow, 23. Total, 57 species, about 17253 individuals.--C.C. Steirly, R.J. Beasley, J.E. Bryant.

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Hopewell, Va. (Presquile National Wildlife Refuge, Curles Neck, Richmond Battlefield Park, Shirley, Meadowville, Hopewell, and Jordan Point; this is a realignment of the Richmond, Va., count held from 1944 to 1952; open farmland 30%, brushy fields 10%, marshes and river shore 10%, deciduous wooded swamp 10%, woodland 40%). January 2; 6:15 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Clear; temp. 50° to 67°; wind SW to NW, 5-20 m.p.h.; ground bare; water open. Four observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours, 32 (23½ on foot, 3½ by car, 5 by boat); total party-miles, 155 (23 on foot, 120 by car, 12 by boat). Pied-billed Grebe, 1; Great Blue Heron, 33; Canada Goose, 8000 (est.); Snow Goose, 4; Blue Goose, 34; Mallard, 4500 (est.); Black Duck, 3340 (est.); Cadwall, 3; American Widgeon, 1; Pintail, 35; Green-winged Teal, 12; Shaveller, 7; Wood Duck, 300 (est. by Mr. and Mrs. J.L.D.); Ring-necked Duck, 14; Lesser Scaup, 31; Ruddy Duck, 96; American Merganser, 7; Turkey Vulture, 81; Black Vulture, 18; Red-tailed Hawk, 6; Red-shouldered Hawk, 7; Bald Eagle, 5; Marsh Hawk, 5; Sparrow Hawk, 7; Bob-white, 41; Turkey, 1; Killdeer, 58; American Woodcock, 1; Wilson's Snipe, 13; Herring Gull, 4; Ring-billed Gull, 1250 (est.); Mourning Dove, 211;

Horned Owl, 3; Barred Owl, 1; Short-eared Owl, 1; Belted Kingfisher, 5; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 42; Pileated Woodpecker, 12; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 25; Red-headed Woodpecker, 9; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 6; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 26; Eastern Phoebe, 5; Horned Lark, 5; Blue Jay, 15; American Crow, 244; Carolina Chickadee, 57; Tufted Titmouse, 49; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 6; Brown Creeper, 7; Winter Wren, 10; Carolina Wren, 65; Long-billed Marsh Wren, 1; Mockingbird, 36; Catbird, 1; Brown Thrasher, 1; American Robin, 97; Hermit Thrush, 6; Eastern Bluebird, 79; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 24; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 14; Water Pipit, 3; Cedar Waxwing, 84; Loggerhead Shrike, 11; Common Starling, 600 (est.); Myrtle Warbler, 57; House Sparrow, 135; Eastern Meadowlark, 198; Red-winged Blackbird, 47; Brown-headed Cowbird, 850 (est.); Cardinal, 103; Evening Grosbeak, 15 (C.E.S.); Purple Finch, 72; Pine Siskin, 13; American Goldfinch, 118; Eastern Towhee, 36; Savannah Sparrow, 29; Slate-colored Junco, 360; American Tree Sparrow, 4; Field Sparrow, 114; White-throated Sparrow, 564; Fox Sparrow, 1; Swamp Sparrow, 48; Song Sparrow, 88. Total, 86 species; about 22,532 individuals. The high numbers of Mallards, Black Ducks, and Wood Ducks were due not only to an unusual concentration of these birds but also to the fact that for the first time a relatively complete census was made of the Presquile and Curles Neck swamps. -- Mr. & Mrs. J.L. DeLine, F.R. Scott (compiler), C.E. Stevens, Jr.

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Fort Belvoir, Va. ($7\frac{1}{2}$ mile radius centering on Ft. Belvoir, and including Mt. Vernon, Lebanon and Mason's Neck, Occoquan, and Woodbridge, Va., Potomac River from Little Hunting Creek to Occoquan Creek: Tidal water 30%, deciduous woods 25%, pine woods 15%, pasture 10%, open fields 10%, town suburbs 5%, cattail marsh 5%). December 26; 5:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Clear; temp. 17° to 58°; wind WNW, 2-5 m.p.h.; ground bare, marshes and inlets frozen but river ice free. Twenty-four observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours, 185 (127 on foot, 58 by car), total party-miles, 428 (103 on foot, 325 by car). Great Blue Heron, 7; Canada Goose, 188; Mallard, 75; Black Duck, 350; Ruddy Duck, 77; American Merganser, 42; Turkey Vulture, 55; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 2; Cooper's Hawk, 4; Red-tailed Hawk, 15; Red-shouldered Hawk, 10; Bald Eagle, 10; Marsh Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 2; Bob-white, 67; Turkey, 1 (heard; tracks of 64; JMA); Killdeer, 52; Herring Gull, 26; Ring-billed Gull, 165; Mourning Dove, 24; Horned Owl, 5; Barred Owl, 5; Belted Kingfisher, 12; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 66; Pileated Woodpecker, 10; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 51; Hairy Woodpecker, 10; Downy Woodpecker, 68; Horned Lark, 16; Blue Jay, 186; American Crow, 375; Fish Crow, 8; Black-capped Chickadee, 17; Carolina Chickadee, 286; Tufted Titmouse, 111; White-breasted Nuthatch, 34; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 15; Brown Creeper, 11; Winter Wren, 4; Carolina Wren, 100; Long-billed Marsh Wren, 1; Mockingbird, 121; American Robin, 8; Hermit Thrush, 9; Eastern Bluebird, 83; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 46; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 2; Cedar Waxwing, 124; Loggerhead Shrike, 1; Common Starling, 3,438; Myrtle Warbler, 66; House Sparrow, 171; Eastern Meadowlark, 81; Red-winged Blackbird, 185; Rusty Blackbird, 79; Purple Grackle, 4; Brown-headed Cowbird, 6; Cardinal, 173; Purple Finch, 32; Pine Siskin, 69; American Goldfinch, 336; Eastern Towhee, 8; Savannah Sparrow, 11; Vesper Sparrow, 1; Slate-colored Junco, 955; American Tree Sparrow, 76; Field Sparrow, 144; White-crowned Sparrow, 2; White-throated Sparrow, 475; Fox Sparrow, 1; Swamp Sparrow, 55; Song Sparrow, 188. Total, 72 species; 9,514 individuals. -- J.M. Abbott (compiler), Elting Arnold, Dr. Paul Bartsch, Ed Bierley, S.A. Briggs, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Connor, Jim Eike, J. Gibson,

M. Gilbert, G. Golding, Mr. & Mrs. I.C. Hoover, C.R. Hough, Sr. & Jr., Enoch Johnson, D. Pierce, B. Rosenburger, George Siegel, Harriet Sutton, K. Trever, C. Wall, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Watson.

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Brooke, Va. (triangular area with Brooke, Widewater, and mouth of Potomac Creek at the 3 apices; waterfront 25%, marsh 15%, fields 13%, hedgerows 13%, slash 5%, mixed forest edge 22%, deciduous woods 5%, pine woods 2%). December 26; 7:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. Clear, temp. 16° to 39°; no wind; ground bare; Potomac River open, tidal creeks nearly covered with fresh ice in a.m. which lingered throughout the day in sheltered coves. Eight observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours, 36 (34 on foot, 2 by car); total party-miles, 27 (20 on foot, 7 by car). Great Blue Heron, 12; American Bittern, 1; Whistling Swan, 375; Canada Goose, 65; Mallard, 110; Black Duck, 350; Gadwall, 3; American Widgeon, 40; Redhead, 1; Ring-necked Duck, 60; Canvas-back, 1200; Lesser Scaup, 1; American Golden-eye, 5; Buffle-head, 40; Ruddy Duck, 7000; Hooded Merganser, 2; American Merganser, 1600; Red-breasted Merganser, 110; Turkey Vulture, 21; Cooper's Hawk, 2; Red-tailed Hawk, 2; Red-shouldered Hawk, 2; Bald Eagle, 7; Marsh Hawk, 4; Pigeon Hawk, 1 (somewhat larger than Sparrow Hawk, gray upperparts, pointed wings, continuous wing beat - T.B.N.); Sparrow Hawk, 4; American Coot, 2; Killdeer, 14; Wilson's Snipe, 1; Herring Gull, 200; Ring-billed Gull, 300; Mourning Dove, 30; Barred Owl, 1; Belted Kingfisher, 8; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 35; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 5; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 3; Hairy Woodpecker, 8; Downy Woodpecker, 22; Eastern Phoebe, 4; Blue Jay, 90; American Crow, 180; Fish Crow, 3; Carolina Chickadee, 45; Tufted Titmouse, 21; White-breasted Nuthatch, 6; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 7; Brown Creeper, 3; Winter Wren, 4; Carolina Wren, 30; Mockingbird, 33; Brown Thrasher, 1; American Robin, 175; Hermit Thrush, 16; Eastern Bluebird, 105; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 10; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 6; Cedar Waxwing, 190; Loggerhead Shrike, 2; Common Starling, 100; Myrtle Warbler, 90; House Sparrow, 50; Eastern Meadowlark, 65; Red-winged Blackbird, 200; Cardinal, 70; Evening Grosbeak, 60; Purple Finch, 11; Pine Siskin, 3; American Goldfinch, 150; Eastern Towhee, 39; Savannah Sparrow, 2; Slate-colored Junco, 320; American Tree Sparrow, 80; Field Sparrow, 150; White-throated Sparrow, 260; Swamp Sparrow, 40; Song Sparrow, 160. Total, 78 species; about 14,429 individuals. -- C.A. Anderson, A.A. Baker, Luna B. Leopold, Edwin T. McKnight (compiler), Thomas B. Nolan, W.W. Rubey, Robert L. Smith, Robert E. Wallace.

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Charlottesville, Va. (same area as in previous years; farmland 25%, riverbottom 25%, lakes and ponds 25%, deciduous woods 20%, pine woods 5%). December 26; 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fair; temp. 26° to 51°; wind S, 0-10 m.p.h.; ponds partly frozen. Six observers in 4 parties; Total party-hours, 26 (23 on foot, 3 by car); total party-miles, 112 (29 on foot, 83 by car). Great Blue Heron, 1; Mallard, 91; Black Duck, 27; American Widgeon, 1; Wood Duck, 4; Greater Scaup, 2; (W.F.M.); Turkey Vulture, 43; Black Vulture, 20; Red-tailed Hawk, 3; Red-shouldered Hawk, 2; Bob-white, 7; Killdeer, 1; Mourning Dove, 95; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 6; Pileated Woodpecker, 6; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 11; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 2; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 23; Eastern Phoebe, 2;

Horned Lark, 63; Blue Jay, 104; American Crow, 330; Fish Crow, 1; Carolina Chickadee, 149; Tufted Titmouse, 46; White-breasted Nuthatch, 21; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 16; Brown Creeper, 4; Winter Wren, 7; Carolina Wren, 16; Mockingbird, 33; American Robin, 2; Hermit Thrush, 2; Eastern Bluebird, 36; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 6; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 4; Cedar Waxwing, 14; Loggerhead Shrike, 10; Common Starling, 204; Myrtle Warbler, 20; House Sparrow, 32; Eastern Meadowlark, 8; Cardinal, 132; Purple Finch, 35; Pine Siskin, 36; American Goldfinch, 82; Eastern Towhee, 4; Slate-colored Junco, 333; American Tree Sparrow, 17; Field Sparrow, 33; White-throated Sparrow, 87; White-crowned Sparrow, 16; Swamp Sparrow, 4; Song Sparrow, 86. Total, 56 species; 2,343 individuals. Scarcity of Golden-crowns most unusual. -- Mrs. C.O. Gregory, David P. Gregory, Mrs. R.K. Jones, Kenneth Lawless, William F. Minor, Charles E. Stevens, Jr.

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Warren, (Albemarle County), Va. (same area as last year minus Hardware River; open farmland, 50%, riverbottom 25%, deciduous woods 15%, pine woods 5%, pond 5%). December 27; 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fair; temp. 28° to 60°; wind SW, 0-10 m.p.h. Pond partly frozen. Three observers in 2 parties in a.m., 3 parties in p.m. Total party-hours, 26 (22 on foot, 4 by car); total party-miles, 147 (27 on foot, 120 by car). Great Blue Heron, 1; Mallard, 170; Black Duck, 17; American Widgeon, 1; Green-winged Teal, 1; American Golden-eye, 2; Bufflehead, 1; American Merganser, 3; Turkey Vulture, 65; Black Vulture, 29; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 3; Red-tailed Hawk, 4; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 2; Bob-white, 12 (1 covey); Killdeer, 8; Mourning Dove, 308; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 14; Pileated Woodpecker, 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 16; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 3; Hairy Woodpecker, 4; Downy Woodpecker, 23; Eastern Phoebe, 8; Horned Lark, 22; Blue Jay, 29; American Crow, 381; Carolina Chickadee, 79; Tufted Titmouse, 28; White-breasted Nuthatch, 17; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 3; Brown Creeper, 1; Winter Wren, 1; Bewick's Wren, 1 (1st winter record for county - K.L.); Carolina Wren, 20; Long-billed Marsh Wren, 1 (present since fall; 1st winter record for county - W.F.M., C.E.S.); Mockingbird, 26; American Robin, 29; Hermit Thrush, 5; Eastern Bluebird, 76; Water Pipit, 2; Cedar Waxwing, 60; Loggerhead Shrike, 9; Common Starling, 218; Myrtle Warbler, 32; House Sparrow, 21; Eastern Meadowlark, 65; Red-winged Blackbird, 3; Brown-headed Cowbird, 37; Cardinal, 116; Evening Grosbeak, 4; Purple Finch, 19; Pine Siskin, 35; American Goldfinch, 129; Slate-colored Junco, 261; American Tree Sparrow, 3; Field Sparrow, 112; White-throated Sparrow, 113; White-crowned Sparrow, 1; Swamp Sparrow, 8; Song Sparrow, 71. Total, 63 species; 2,738 individuals. No Golden-crowns to be found. -- Kenneth Lawless, William F. Minor, Charles E. Stevens, Jr.

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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 woodlands 10%, lake edge 5%). January 2; 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sunny; NW wind starting around 10:00 a.m. and continuing all day at 5-15 m.p.h.; Temp. 40° to 55°; ground bare; ponds unfrozen; seven observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours, $16\frac{1}{2}$ (15 by foot, $1\frac{1}{2}$ by car); total party-miles, 26 (12 by foot, 14 by car). Mallard, 2; Turkey Vulture, 20; Black Vulture, 8; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 2; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 1;

Killdeer, 1; Mourning Dove, 8; Flicker, 8; Pileated Woodpecker, 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 4; Downy Woodpecker, 6; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 4; Phoebe, 1; Blue Jay, 14; Crow, 30; Carolina Chickadee, 13; Tufted Titmouse, 8; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 8 (common this year); Brown Creeper, 2; Winter Wren, 1; Carolina Wren, 15; Mockingbird, 10; Robin, 1; Bluebird, 11; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 3; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1; Starling, 91; Myrtle Warbler, 7; House Sparrow, 22; Cardinal, 22; Purple Finch, 2; Goldfinch, 17; Towhee, 1; Slate-colored Junco, 114; Tree Sparrow, 3; Field Sparrow, 9; White-crowned Sparrow, 79; White-throated Sparrow, 50; Song Sparrow, 28; Total, 42 species; 633 individuals. The wind kept many of the land birds under cover. -- Ernest Edwards, Robert Giles, Jr., Dr. Sam Guss, Mrs. Edward Morse (early a.m.), Wendy Morse (early a.m.), Miss Gertrude Prior, John Withrow (compiler). Red-breasted Nuthatches common in pines. Hermit Thrushes scarcer. White-crowned Sparrows on increase. (This years count is very conservative.)

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Lynchburg, Va. (Riverside Park, Six Mile Bridge on James River, Lynchburg College woods, Airport, ~~Timber~~ Lake, down Tomahawk and Blackwater Creeks to College Lake; stream bottom 35%, deciduous woods 5%, pine woods 6%, pine-oak woods 24%, farmlands 24%, swamp 3%, lake front 3%). December 31; 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. A few cirrus clouds; temp. 32° to 46°; wind N to SW, 4-5 m.p.h. Ground bare, streams open, James River in slight flood stage. Nine observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours, 63 (50 on foot, 13 by car), total party-miles, 384 (41 on foot, 343 by car). Great Blue Heron, 1; Mallard, 10; Black Duck, 6; Bufflehead, 3; Red-breasted Merganser, 1; Turkey Vulture, 10; Black Vulture, 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Marsh Hawk, 1; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 20; Pileated Woodpecker, 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 10; Red-headed Woodpecker 7; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 2; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 27; Eastern Phoebe, 5; Horned Lark, 4; Blue Jay, 79; American Crow, 153 (60 est. plus 93); Carolina Chickadee, 64; Tufted Titmouse, 49; White-breasted Nuthatch, 11; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 21; Brown Creeper, 7; Winter Wren, 21; Carolina Wren, 19; Mockingbird, 17; American Robin, 33; Hermit Thrush, 1; Eastern Bluebird, 33; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 1; Loggerhead Shrike, 1; Common Starling, 384 (300 est. plus 84); Myrtle Warbler, 17; House Sparrow, 20; Eastern Meadowlark, 4; Purple Grackle, 700 (est.); Cardinal, 62; Purple Finch, 19; Pine Siskin, 2; American Goldfinch, 59; Eastern Towhee, 7; Savannah Sparrow, 5; Slate-colored Junco, 181; American Tree Sparrow, 12; White-throated Sparrow, 58; Fox Sparrow, 1; Swamp Sparrow, 2; Song Sparrow, 50. Total, 53 species; 2206 individuals. -- Alan Brinkley, Larry L. Farmer, David R. Freer, Jane E. Freer, Ruskin S. Freer (compiler), Robert H. Giles, Jr., Gertrude Prior, M.B. Tillotson, John Withrow (early a.m.).

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Peaks of Otter, Va. December 2; one hour; 4 to 5 p.m.; clear and warm; little wind. Black Vulture, 5; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Belted Kingfisher, 1 (in Goose Creek Valley, below Sharp Top); Flicker, 1; Black-capped Chickadee, 5; Junco, 8. -- December 5; two hours; 2 to 4 p.m.; damp and foggy, visibility often less than 100 feet; little wind. Ruffed Grouse, 2; American Crow, 1 or 2 heard; Black-capped Chickadee, 5; Cardinal, 2; Junco, 10. -- William Lord.

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Shenandoah National Park, Va. (Same area as in last 4 years; $7\frac{1}{2}$ mile radius centering on Skyland, altitudes 1000-3680 feet). December 30; 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Clear; temp. 40° to 50° ; wind SE to N, 1-8 m.p.h.; ground bare. Two observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours, 5 (3 on foot, 2 by car); total party-miles, $62\frac{1}{2}$ ($2\frac{1}{2}$ on foot, 60 by car). Turkey Vulture, 17; Red-tailed Hawk, 2; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 2; Blue Jay, 16; Common Raven, 2; American Crow, 30; Carolina Chickadee, 10; Tufted Titmouse, 5; Carolina Wren, 2; Mockingbird, 1; Hermit Thrush, 1; Eastern Bluebird, 1; Common Starling, 118; Myrtle Warbler, 1; Cardinal, 6; Purple Finch, 6; American Goldfinch, 15; Slate-colored Junco, 16; White-throated Sparrow, 10; Song Sparrow, 1; unidentified, 4. Total, 20 species; 266 individuals. -- Howard H. Chapman, Park Naturalist Paul G. Favour, Jr. (compiler).

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Harrisonburg, Va. (Waterman Wood to Tide Spring, a total distance of 12 miles including oak-hickory-juniper-pine woodlot 80%, oak-hickory woodlot 10%, a small village bordering College Campus 10%, juniper-pine wasteland, 5%, pasture field and fence rows 15%). Small pond in oak-hickory woodlot covered with ice. December 27; 8:10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Clear blue sky, frost on ground. Temp. at start, 34° ; at noon, 56° ; at close, 57° . Wind from south 9-15 m.p.h. Three observers working within calling distance of each other. Total party-hours, 21. Turkey Vulture, 21; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Bob-white, 14; Killdeer, 1; Mourning Dove, 36; Flicker, 1; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 2; Red-headed Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 9; Blue Jay, 6; Crow, 57; Carolina Chickadee, 62; Tufted Titmouse, 17; White-breasted Nuthatch, 11; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 3; Carolina Wren, 4; Mockingbird, 15; Robin, 8; Bluebird, 1; Starling, 64; Myrtle Warbler, 3; English Sparrow, 97; Cardinal 30; Goldfinch, 3; Slate-colored Junco, 93; Tree Sparrow, 13; White-throated Sparrow, 8; Song Sparrow, 2. Total, 29 species; 584 individuals. -- Daniel B. Suter, Richard Weaver, D. Ralph Hostetter. On Tuesday, December 21, on Route 33, top of Shenandoah Mountain, an Evening Grosbeak flew from the bank in front of the car, turned about and flew back into the bushes.--D. Ralph Hostetter.

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Rockingham County, Va. (Within $7\frac{1}{2}$ mile radius from Ottobine). December 26; 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Weather clear; 20° at start, 62° at 2 p.m., 34° at finish. Two observers plus pointer dog, on foot and in car; two observers at feeding stations; two observers in car and on foot

shorter periods. Elevation 1160 to 3200 feet; habitats, cottonwood-sycamore river bottom, open farm land and farm woodlot, lawns and shade trees in town, mixed Appalachian conifers and hardwoods in mountains. Ground clear, except snow on north slopes of mountains. Pied-billed Grebe, 1; Mallard, 500; Black Duck, 4; Gadwall, 10; Baldpate, 33; Pintail, 19; Green-winged Teal, 1; Ring-necked Duck, 1; Turkey Vulture, 79; Black Vulture, 3; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 2; Sparrow Hawk, 2; Ruffed Grouse, 5 (3 drumming); Bob-white, 13 (2 coveys); Coot, 10; Screech Owl, 1; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Flicker, 1; Pileated Woodpecker, 3; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 8; Horned Lark, 17; Blue Jay, 16; Raven, 1; American Crow, 60; Fish Crow, 2; Black-capped Chickadee, 28; Carolina Chickadee, 1; Tufted Titmouse, 5; White-breasted Nuthatch, 3; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Winter Wren, 1; Carolina Wren, 2; Mockingbird, 5; Robin, 1; Bluebird, 4; Migrant Shrike, 1; Starling, 160; Yellow Palm Warbler, 1; English Sparrow, 40; Meadowlark, 2; Cardinal, 14; Evening Grosbeak, 12; Goldfinch, 1; Slate-colored Junco, 3; Tree Sparrow, 1; White-crowned Sparrow, 29; Song Sparrow, 6. Total, 49 species; 1129 individuals. Max M. Carpenter, Nell K. Boitnott, Harriet Jopson, H.D. Shaver, M. Leon Powell, Harry G.M. Jopson.

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Lexington, Va. (same as last year). December 27; 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.; 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.; Clear; temp. 32° to 55°; no wind; ground frozen, thawing in p.m.; streams open, ponds mostly open. Sixteen observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours, 27 (24 on foot, 3 by car); total party-miles, 119 (39 on foot, 80 by car). Horned Grebe, 1; Pied-billed Grebe, 3; Great Blue Heron, 2; Black Duck, 1; Turkey Vulture, 81; Black Vulture, 52; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 4; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Bob-white, 14; Killdeer, 11; Wilson's Snipe, 10; Mourning Dove, 96; Belted Kingfisher, 3; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 9; Pileated Woodpecker, 16; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 12; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 4; Downy Woodpecker, 18; Eastern Phoebe, 9; Horned Lark, 7; Blue Jay, 38; American Crow, 401; * Carolina Chickadee, 73; Tufted Titmouse, 19; White-breasted Nuthatch, 30; Brown Creeper, 2; Carolina Wren, 32; Mockingbird, 33; American Robin, 18; Hermit Thrush, 5; Eastern Bluebird, 41; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 2; Loggerhead Shrike, 9; Common Starling, 1,222; Myrtle Warbler, 6; House Sparrow, 241; Eastern Meadowlark, 2; Rusty Blackbird, 35; Red-winged Blackbird, 1; Cardinal, 172; Purple Finch, 13; American Goldfinch, 57; Eastern Towhee, 1; Slate-colored Junco, 234; American Tree Sparrow, 40; Field Sparrow, 26; White-crowned Sparrow, 25; White-throated Sparrow, 43; Song Sparrow, 29. Total, 52 species; 3254 individuals. -- C.W. Barritt, R.F. Carroll, Ann Carroll, Robert Carroll, Jr., Gordon Echols, Mrs. Gordon Echols, Nancy Echols, Gordon Foster, Oscar Gupton, J.J. Murray, Mrs. J.J. Murray, James Murray, Jr., Charles Ritchey, Harry Quick, Hallam Walker, Joshua Womeldorf.

* Black-capped Chickadee, 48

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Roanoke, Va. (Murray's Pond, Carvins Cove, Woodrum Field Airport, Salem, Bennett Springs). December 26; 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Temp. 20° to 48°; no wind; ground thawing in afternoon; Murray's Pond partly frozen. 26 miles in car - 6 on foot. Black Duck, 10; Turkey Vulture, 5; Cooper's Hawk, 2; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Mourning Dove, 258; Kingfisher, 2; Flicker, 1; Red-headed Woodpecker, 2; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 5; Phoebe, 1; Northern Horned Lark, 10*; Prairie Horned Lark, 1*; Blue Jay, 9; Crow, 15; Black-capped Chickadee, 1; Carolina Chickadee, 13; Tufted Titmouse, 3; White-breasted Nuthatch, 3; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 4; Carolina Wren, 3; Mockingbird, 14; Bluebird, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 2; Shrike, 1; Starling, 506 (est.); English Sparrow, 33; Cardinal, 11; Pine Siskin, 10; Goldfinch, 13; Junco, 19; Field Sparrow, 8; White-crowned Sparrow, 11; White-throated Sparrow, 13; Song Sparrow, 10. Total, 36 species; 1018 individuals. -- Leigh Hawkins, C.H. Lewis, Mrs. Frank Venn, Dr. P.F. Kendig, A.O. English.

* Horned Larks observed by Kendig - 27th.

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Blacksburg, Va. (Residential areas in town and along northern edge, V.P.I. campus, Struble's Creek to New River, Tom's Creek and Brush Mountain to New River, New River from mouth of Struble's Creek to Giles County line, Roanoke River Valley from Bennetts Mill to about 1 mile below Ellett; same area as last year with addition of Roanoke River valley; pasture and plowed land 20%, town and suburbs 10%, virgin white oak woodlots 15%, mixed pine-oak woods 20%, river and creek bottom 35%). December 28; 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Cloudy; temp. 38° to 55°; wind, none at start, about 10 m.p.h. by end of day; several light showers during day; ground bare; ponds unfrozen. Fourteen observers in 8 parties. Total party-hours, 52½ (48½ on foot, 4 by car), total party-miles, 112½ (63½ on foot, 49 by car). Horned Grebe, 1; Pied-billed Grebe, 2; Mallard, 72; Black Duck, 44; Gadwall, 5; American Widgeon, 125; Pintail, 8; Green-winged Teal, 1; Ring-necked Duck, 53; Canvas-back, 16; Lesser Scaup, 228; American Golden-eye, 37; Buffle-head, 90; Ruddy Duck, 3; Hooded Merganser, 8; Turkey Vulture, 13; Black Vulture, 6; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 4; Red-shouldered Hawk, 2; Sparrow Hawk, 6; Ruffed Grouse, 5; Bob-white, 16 (1 covey); Wilson's Snipe, 5; Mourning Dove, 77; Screech Owl, 1; Short-eared Owl, 1 (R.J.W.); Belted Kingfisher, 8; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 22; Pileated Woodpecker, 7; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 20; Red-headed Woodpecker, 8; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 3; Hairy Woodpecker, 12; Downy Woodpecker, 45; Eastern Phoebe, 9; Horned Lark, 152; Blue Jay, 193; American Crow, 1,086 (650/, 436); Black-capped Chickadee, 7; Carolina Chickadee, 175; Tufted Titmouse, 82; White-breasted Nuthatch, 45; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 18; Brown Creeper, 4; Winter Wren, 7; Carolina Wren, 45; Mockingbird, 43; American Robin, 4; Hermit Thrush, 6; Eastern Bluebird, 17; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 3; Loggerhead Shrike, 4; Common Starling, 1,773 (1,280/, 493); Myrtle Warbler, 7; House Sparrow, 343; Eastern Meadowlark, 15; Red-winged Blackbird, 8; Rusty Blackbird, 20; Purple Grackle, 18; Brown-headed Cowbird, 15; Cardinal, 151; Purple Finch, 10; Pine Siskin, 5; American Goldfinch, 172; Eastern Towhee, 2; Slate-colored Junco, 265; American Tree Sparrow, 120; Field Sparrow, 111; White-crowned Sparrow, 83; White-throated Sparrow, 41; Swamp Sparrow, 2; Song Sparrow, 208. Total, 73 species; about 6,224 individuals. (Remarks: Three birds believed to have been

Brewer's Blackbirds were observed and carefully studied at close range by C.O.H., Jr. Although the identification seems good, the record is being listed as hypothetical, inasmuch as there is only one previous Virginia record.) -- A.L. Dean, Mrs. E.A. Smyth, Jr., Allan Smyth, G.M. Shear, C.W. Roane, M.G. Hale, H.S. Mosby, C.H. Hanson, John Cooper, C.O. Handley, Sr., C.O. Handley, Jr., J.M. Handley, J.W. Murray, R.J. Watson (compiler).

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Abingdon, Va. (same area as in previous years; farmland and pastures 40%, deciduous woodland 30%, mixed pine and deciduous woodland 15%, marsh and creek bottoms 10%, lake 5%). December 25; 6:45 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Clear; temp. 14° to 57°; wind NW, 0-5 m.p.h.; ponds and lakes frozen; no snow. Three observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours, 22 (20 on foot, 2 by car); total party-miles, 49 (24 on foot, 25 by car). Pied-billed Grebe, 3; Great Blue Heron, 2; Mallard, 60; Black Duck, 19; Wood Duck, 7; Hooded Merganser, 13; Turkey Vulture, 25; Black Vulture, 4; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Marsh Hawk, 3; Sparrow Hawk, 8; Bob-white, 2; Sora, 1; Kibbdeer, 4; Wilson's Snipe, 4; Mourning Dove, 54; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 2; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 4; Downy Woodpecker, 7; Eastern Phoebe, 1; Horned Lark, 13; Blue Jay, 41; American Crow, 225; Black-capped Chickadee, 1; Carolina Chickadee, 100; Chickadee (sp.), 30; Tufted Titmouse, 9; White-breasted Nuthatch, 6; Winter Wren, 1; Carolina Wren, 17; Mockingbird, 40; Hermit Thrush, 1; Eastern Bluebird, 16; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 12; Cedar Waxwing, 5; Loggerhead Shrike, 2; Common Starling, 400; House Sparrow, 90; Eastern Meadowlark, 107; Red-winged Blackbird, 41; Brewer's Blackbird, 1, (distinct purplish head reflections noted by observer familiar with the species, second state record-S.R.); Brown-headed Cowbird, 40; Cardinal, 76; Evening Grosbeak, 20; Pine Siskin, 13; American Goldfinch, 200; Eastern Towhee, 1; Savannah Sparrow, 8; Leconte's Sparrow, 2 (one collected, new addition to state list-S.R.); Slate-colored Junco, 226; Field Sparrow, 114; White-crowned Sparrow, 36; White-throated Sparrow, 20; Swamp Sparrow, 60; Song Sparrow, 128. Total, 57 species; 2,329 individuals. (Seen in area December 24th Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Brown Creeper, 1; American Robin, 16.) -- Richard L. Diener, Carl F. Fleenor, Stephen M. Russell (compiler). (The Sora was found at its usual wintering spot at a mill pond within the city limits of Abingdon.)

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Mt. Rogers, Va. (same area as previous years with additional coverage of eastern approaches to Mt. Rogers: First Peak, Second Peak, Third Peak, Stone Mountain and Pine Mountain; elevation range 4400 to 5719 ft. (highest point in Virginia); deciduous forest 40%, grassy fields 38%, spruce-fir forest 22%). December 26; 7:45 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Clear; temp 26° to 59°; wind SE, 0-5 m.p.h.; snow ranging in depth from 12 in. in Elk Garden Gap to 28 in. crusted snow on summit; little ice on streams. Six observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours, 27; total party-miles, 30 (all on foot). Ruffed Grouse, 4; Pileated Woodpecker, 2; Hairy Woodpecker, 9; Downy Woodpecker, 14; Horned Lark, 7; Blue Jay, 1; Common Raven, 6; American Crow, 20; Black-capped Chickadee, 1; Carolina Chickadee, 17; Tufted Titmouse, 13; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 3;

Brown Creeper, 2; American Robin, 12; Eastern Bluebird, 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 2; Pipit, 1 (sp.?- identified in flight by call as Sprague's - R.D.); Cedar Waxwing, 5; Evening Grosbeak, 27; Pine Siskin, 10; American Goldfinch, 7; Crossbill, 1; Red; Slate-colored Junco, 19. Total, 24 species; 188 individuals. -- Fred W. Behrend, Richard L. Diener, Douglas A. Patterson, Stephen M. Russell (compiler), A. Randolph Shields, Edwin O. Willis. (Notes: There are no new cones on the spruce and fir trees this year compared to the very heavy crop of last year. This is certainly at least partially responsible for the marked drop in numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches, Siskins, White-breasted Nuthatches and Tufted Titmouse also were in reduced numbers. Snow fall this winter is much above average. The mountain had not been bare of snow on top since very early November, and the accumulated snow averaged 28-30 inches. However, this snow cover has prevented the ground temperature from dropping below 34° (Dec. 26). Grouse were way below usual numbers. The four seen this year were recorded on the additional area which was new this year; none were seen on the same route that produced 18 in 1952. The two Pileated Woodpeckers were seen at 4600' in the new coverage. This is the highest these birds have been noted at any season in the vicinity of the mountain. The Horned Larks constitute the first census record but have been recorded there in December. The Robins were noted as they flew over Elk Garden Gap (4450'). The Evening Grosbeaks were seen by all parties but in all cases were in flight over the mountain. They apparently preferred the valley. Junco's were low, probably due to the snow. No birds seen above 5200' on Mt. Rogers; Red-breasted Nuthatch at 5500' on White Top.)

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SUMMARY OF 1954 CHRISTMAS COUNT IN VIRGINIA

By John Grey

It was an unusually interesting count which broke a lot of records. It was our best year as to: - total counts, 25; observers, 162; species, 170, compared to 154 previously; individual birds, 2,812,529; Back Bay found 116 species for a new high (108 previously) - Chincoteague had 104.

We added LeConte's Sparrow to the State list (Abingdon); got the second and third records of Brewer's Blackbirds (Blacksburg and Abingdon), the first one being October 8, 1952, at Boach's Run (Raven, 24:58). A dozen birds were added to the count list: Louisiana Heron, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Ring-necked Pheasant, Florida Gallinule, Oyster-catcher, Dowitcher, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Barn Owl, Brewer's Blackbird, Redpoll, LeConte's Sparrow, and Lincoln Sparrow. This brings the total species recorded to 194 and six subspecies.

For the first time we recorded all of the 138 species we consider regular - meaning they are found each year, or at least more than half the time. 1952 was our best previous year when we missed only Falcon and Short-eared Owl.

Northern birds: Evening Grosbeaks were at Brooke, Hopewell, Harrisonburg, Rockingham, and Abingdon; Black-capped Chickadees were along the northern part of the State, down the Valley and out to Abingdon. The Redpoll at Chincoteague is the only other unusual northern bird, for Purple Sandpiper, Red Crossbill, and Snow Bunting have been with us the past two years in similar numbers.

Surprising is the large number of southern birds scattered over the eastern counts: Blue-winged Teal, Sora, Ringed and Piping Plover, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Semipalmated and Western Sandpipers, Common and Royal Terns, Tree Swallow, Baltimore Oriole, and Vesper Sparrow. Norfolk even turns up a Least Bittern, but being dead he was not counted.

Three resident birds that have escaped us in the past were listed this year: Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Barn Owl, and Oyster-catcher.

Geographically our counts were: 13 east of the Falls line; three in Piedmont; two in the Blue Ridge; four in the Valley; and three in the Southwest corner. It is encouraging to see the thorough work done in so many cases with honors going to Chincoteague, Back Bay, Brooke, Ft. Belvoir, Hopewell, Lexington, Blacksburg, and Mt. Rogers.

The weather began cold with the result that some found a good bit of ice on ponds, but toward the end of the period it got quite warm with a high of 69° and many had over 60°. By contrast Mt. Rogers had three parties working 13 hours on foot and finding only 188 birds - snow in places was 30 inches deep.

Individual Trends

Loons were scarce, but grebes were found all across the State as in '52. No Red-necked Grebe for two years. Herons are increasing with Great Blue everywhere as expected; but Louisiana surprises us; American Egrets continue to winter in good numbers, Black-crowned Night were scarce; Yellow-crowned Night is so local that it is not surprising we have missed it in the past; Little Blue have been recorded once before.

Snow Geese recorded in five places but fewer birds. Blue Geese absent at Back Bay, while Curles Neck and Presquile Refuge surpass the best previous count.

Dabbling ducks: Mallard were again numerous with Presquile having 4,500; Blacks vary greatly, some places having half the usual number and other places having many more than formerly. Gadwall had a high count at Chincoteague, on the Peninsula, and at Blacksburg they are four times as common, with Rockingham also having some. A single Blue-winged Teal adds to our few winter records, although two counts had them last year. Wood Duck were reported at four places, Hopewell having 300; yet a few years back we wondered if these birds wintered with us.

Diving Ducks: Ring-necks and Canvas-backs were more common, with other species rather scarce. Greater Scaup at Little Creek only; Ruddy scarcer than usual. Surf Scoter were common as expected, but White-winged and American were very scarce. American Merganser only on the James and Potomac with Brooke having 1600.

Birds of prey: Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks were scarce; Red-shouldered more common; only one Rough-legged was noted; Marsh Hawks west of the Falls line are always scarce, but Lynchburg had one and Abingdon three; there were seven Pigeon Hawks at four places.

Grouse have been reported from Mt. Rogers in decreasing numbers for the past three years, but the Valley and Blacksburg saw more this year.

Rails turned up from the James, York, Chickahominy, and Potomac. Sora are again reported at Toano and Abingdon, each having reported them once before for our only winter records. Ten Coots in the Valley surprise us.

Shorebirds are much in evidence with 11 species reported in contrast to a few Sanderling and Black-bellied Plover of a few years back. More common this year are Black-bellied Plover, Snipe, and Red-backed Sandpiper.

Gulls and terns: there were more of all kinds of gulls this year and we notice especially the increase in Black-backed and Bonapartes; Laughing Gulls only at Hog Island. Forster's Terns have become regular in winter on the Bay, and there were good observations of a flock of Common and one Royal Tern.

Short-eared Owls only at Hopewell and Blacksburg. Red-headed Woodpeckers on seven counts as compared with four in '53. Sapsuckers are again scarce, or unreported, east of the Peninsula. Phoebe were everywhere, except Eastern Shore, where none reported for past three years. Jays continue to increase in the east with 11 birds in the Norfolk area.

Black-capped Chickadees reported from 11 places for a total of 98 birds in contrast to two at Lexington last year. Murray thinks most of these are probably the Appalachian form which we get regularly, though in smaller numbers. However, he collected three birds on House Mountain near Lexington and found he had three races: Northern Carolina, Eastern and Appalachian Black-capped - this is the only Virginia record for the Eastern outside the Washington-Arlington area.

Red-breasted Nuthatches are more widely distributed this year, even though the total number does not equal the Mt. Rogers count of last year. Brown Creepers were also more widely scattered.

House Wrens: a single bird at Back Bay; Long-billed Marsh Wrens at four places compared to two counts last year with each year yielding five birds. Catbirds and Brown Thrashers in the east to Brooke and Hopewell as usual.

Kinglets are a puzzle with Golden-crowned totalling the same number of birds on the last two counts - 640 birds compared to 400 in '52. However, several places got a single bird and considered them scarce. Ruby-crowned were more numerous this year and better distributed.

Warblers were scarce - though no lack of Myrtle east of the Falls line, and on the coast they were six times as abundant; Pine were scarce; our only Palm was a Yellow Palm in Rockingham; the only Yellow-throat was at Back Bay. Orange-crowned total six birds in four places.

House Sparrows: '52 - 737; '53 - 1064; '54 - 2352. Maybe they do not know they are supposed to decrease.

Redwings had one of their unbelievable years, with the Cape Henry region counting them at more than two and one half million. When you see one of these flights these figures do not seem fantastic, for the birds are everywhere, and they just keep on coming. Rusty Blackbirds seem to have concentrated at Ft. Belvoir. Boat-tailed Grackles only at Chincoteague, with no records on a count from Back Bay for the past few years. Newport News again had Baltimore Oriole; last year these birds were north to Massachusetts.

Purple Finches more numerous; Siskins with the same number as last year are much more widely scattered - but about half the big count of 1952. Sparrows are represented by 13 species. Savannahs from Lynchburg east and at Abingdon; Tree Sparrows nearly everywhere - except the Peninsula; Field more common in the west than last year; Fox more widely distributed; more Song Sparrows except at Brooks and Ft. Belvoir. Snow Buntings were in good numbers along the coast.

-- Williamsburg, Virginia

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TEN YEARS OF CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS IN ARLINGTON

By Arthur.H. Fast

For ten years we have taken Christmas Bird counts on our home acre, 4924 Rock Spring Road, Arlington, Virginia. Each of these counts was taken on the day sponsored by the Audubon Society of the District of Columbia, and was within the count period designated by the National Audubon Society. Our counts have been included (under Feeding Stations) in the Christmas Bird Counts published in the ATLANTIC NATURALIST (formerly the WOOD THRUSH) and in the Christmas Bird Count issues of AUDUBON FIELD NOTES. The annexed tabulation shows the results of our counts. It will be noted that many of the same species of birds are present each Christmas season; 12 of the total of 33 species were counted each year; another 6

species were counted each year but one. Generally speaking, even though such northern species as the Purple Finch, the Evening Grosbeak and the Pine Siskin are present in the area, they do not reach us until late January or early February.

Christmas Bird Counts

<u>Species</u>	<u>No. of years seen</u>	<u>1945 Dec. 23</u>	<u>1946 Dec. 21</u>	<u>1947 Dec. 20</u>	<u>1948 Jan. 2/49</u>	<u>1949 Dec. 31</u>	<u>1950 Dec. 30</u>	<u>1951 Dec. 31</u>	<u>1952 Dec. 20</u>	<u>1953 Jan. 2/54</u>	<u>1954 Jan. 1/55</u>
Sharp-sh. Hawk	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mourning Dove	6	5	-	-	2	-	-	2	3	3	5
Barred Owl	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Flicker	5	-	-	1	1	2	-	1	1	-	-
Red.-b. Woodpecker	10	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	2
Sapsucker	7	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	1
Hairy Woodpecker	9	1	3	2	1	2	2	-	1	2	2
Downy Woodpecker	10	3	4	4	3	4	4	2	4	4	4
Blue Jay	9	5	5	5	2	6	6	2	-	2	8
Crow	10	2	3	3	6	7	5	5	3	2	5
Black-c. Chick.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Car. Chickadee	10	2	4	4	3	4	2	4	4	4	2
Tufted Titmouse	10	4	5	6	4	5	3	3	4	4	3
White-b. Nuthatch	10	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3
Red-b. Nuthatch	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Brown Creeper	9	1	1	2	1	1	-	2	2	1	1
Car. Wren	10	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Mockingbird	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1
Bluebird	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	5	-	2	6
Ruby-c. Kinglet	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-
Starling	9	4	-	1	1	20	10	25	25	20	25
Myrtle Warbler	4	-	-	6	6	8	2	-	-	-	-
English Sparrow	9	25	20	15	5	1	3	-	10	25	10
Cardinal	10	6	12	8	6	6	8	8	6	6	6
Purple Finch	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Siskin	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-
Goldfinch	9	-	5	5	6	7	2	12	15	12	10
Red-eyed Towhee	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Slate-c. Junco	10	8	15	15	20	12	10	20	35	10	14
Tree Sparrow	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White-t. Sparrow	10	8	12	20	15	15	20	12	25	8	10
Fox Sparrow	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Song Sparrow	10	2	3	2	2	1	2	2	3	5	3
Total individuals		84	102	107	92	108	87	114	153	118	127
Total species		33	20	20	21	23	23	19	21	21	23

ADVANCE NOTICE OF BLUE RIDGE FORAY

The Annual Blue Ridge Foray will be held this year on June 10, 11 and 12 at Skyland in Shenandoah National Park.

The group will assemble at Skyland on the night of June 9 to discuss the itinerary with Park Naturalist Paul Favour who will conduct the foray. The present plan calls for the meeting to break up around one or two o'clock on the afternoon of the 12th.

Each person will have to obtain his or her own accommodation at Skyland, which is operated by the Virginia Sky-line Co. of Luray, Va. Rates at Skyland are as follows: Dormitory rooms with two twin beds in each are available at \$1.50 per person. Private cabins are available at \$3.00 to \$5.00 per night single, or, \$5.00 to \$8.00 double. Meals can be obtained at Skyland. Skyland is on the Skyline Drive ten miles south of Thornton Gap where U.S. 211 crosses the Drive.

No reservation fee will be charged for this meeting since the VSO is under no obligations for meals or other accommodations.

Those who cannot be present for the full 3-day foray may still find it worthwhile to attend the meeting for one or even two days.

Further details regarding this trip may be obtained by writing either Paul Favour, Jr., Shenandoah National Park, Luray, Va. or C.C. Steirly, Waverly, Va.

-- C.C. Steirly, Trip Chairman

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President Jack Perkins, in view of our objective in trying to bring about some legislation for the protection of hawks and owls in Virginia, recommends the reading of the following pamphlet:

BIRDS PROTECTED BY LAW, by Frederick C. Lincoln. Wildlife
Leaflet #327, May 1950.

This may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents,
Washington, D.C.



The Raven

BULLETIN OF THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY

J. J. MURRAY, EDITOR
LEXINGTON, VA.

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CONTENTS

	Page
The Richmond Area By F. R. Scott	33
Striking Back at Hawk and Owl Persecution By C. C. Steirly	37
The Brown-capped Chickadee in Virginia By Jackson M. Abbott	39
Brewer's Blackbird and Leconte's Sparrow in Southwest Virginia By Stephen M. Russell	40
A Possible Sight Record of Brewer's Blackbird for Virginia By Charles O. Handley, Jr.	40
Eastern Black-capped Chickadee and Appalachian Yellow- bellied Sapsucker at Lexington, Virginia By J. J. Murray	42
Mountain Vireo at Charlottesville By Charles E. Stevens, Jr.	43
The Fiftieth Annual National Audubon Convention By Mrs. Hawes Coleman, Jr.	44
VSO Trip to Back Bay Wildlife Refuge By Ray J. Beasley	45
What Kind of Material is 'Ravenworthy'? By J. J. Murray	46
News and Notes	48

THE RICHMOND AREA

By F. R. Scott

General

The Richmond Area has been drawn arbitrarily as an ellipse with the major axis running from Ashland and Hanover on the north to Petersburg on the south. Westward the area includes Midlothian and eastern Goochland County and extends eastward to Hopewell and central Charles City County.

As thus defined the Richmond Area includes most of the Richmond metropolitan area and enough of the outlying districts to give a good sample of the biotic communities in this section of the state. The Fall Line, or more accurately, the Fall Zone, passes through Richmond north and south and divides the Piedmont from the Coastal Plain. Geologically, this zone marks the beginning of the down-warping of the Piedmont. To the casual observer, however, it is more obvious as the zone that separates the rapids of the James from tidal action.

In a previous article (Raven 22: 45-78, 1951) I briefly described some of the most interesting places for ornithological field trips in the Richmond Area, and some of these were covered by Pettingill in his A GUIDE TO BIRD FINDING (1951: 559-560 and 567-568); I have described them in more detail farther along in this paper.

Local Factors Influencing Distribution and Abundance

In the Richmond Area there seem to be three main factors which cause differences in bird populations from one section to another.

(1) Geographic. In any area such as this which is 35 to 40 miles across there is bound to be some distributional discontinuities ascribable principally to geographic factors (distances from centers of abundance, climatic changes, etc.). Hence, the Brown-headed Nuthatch is more regular near Petersburg than farther north, and the Baltimore Oriole was once considered a summer resident in Hanover County, but not farther south (W. Palmer, fide J.J. Murray, Raven 6: 3-4, February-March, 1935).

(2) Physiographic. By physiographic factors I mean principally geologic and topographic features. The Fall Zone and the James River are the main ones. As far as can be determined, the Fall Zone exerts no direct influence on birds, but indirectly it is highly important as noted below. The James River has a local effect, but its main influence is also indirect. It can not in any way be considered a barrier to north-south movement.

(3) Biotic. The principal influence of the Fall Zone and the James River lies in their effect on biotic communities, which are one of the outstanding factors in bird distribution. This is essentially a problem of the prevalence of water areas and aquatic communities east of the Zone and the scarcity of these to the west. Hence, many birds relatively common on the Coastal Plain are rare, local, or absent on the Piedmont; e.g., Canada Goose, Ruddy Duck, Laughing Gull, Forster's Tern, and Prothonotary Warbler.

This grouping of main factors affecting bird distribution and abundance in the Richmond Area is quite arbitrary, and few, if any, problems can be explained by only one. The prevalence of Pine Warblers in the eastern part of the area is directly a result of extensive loblolly pine forests there. The relative scarcity of these pines in the northwestern part of the area is a result of both geographic and physiographic influences.

Distributional differences between the land birds of the Coastal Plain and those of the Piedmont seem to be mainly questions of differences in abundance, and these too can be answered by differences in the habitats. Therefore, where loblolly pine is so common in the east, the oak-hickory forest is similarly common in the west, although neither replaces each other entirely.

I stated earlier that the main effect of the James River was through its effect on biotic communities, but this is a simplification. As an example, the water and marsh areas caused by the river make possible the wintering of a large flock of Canada Geese, but these certainly would not occur in such numbers were it not for the extensive land feeding areas they have on nearby farms. Aside from its influence on biotic communities, the James is also important as a migration route. Birds seen utilizing the river for this purpose (i.e., birds observed in diurnal migration) include American Egret, Ring-billed Gull, various swallows, and Fish Crow. Other species, such as the Laughing Gull and Forster's Tern, use the river as a route for post-breeding movements that can not be classified as migrations. The principal migration route of most water birds here, however, seems to be in a north-south direction. The waterfowl flight between the Great Lakes and Chesapeake Bay occurs too far north and east for the James to be of much use except as an occasional resting area.

The City of Richmond Parks

Richmond may be well-known for a number of things, but an enlightened or even adequate park program is not one of these. Aside from a number of small neighborhood parks of a highly formal nature, there are only three parks worthy of the name in the entire city serving a city population of about 250,000 people. These parks are Forest Hill on the South Side, Bryan Park on the North Side, and Byrd Park and adjacent Maymont in the West End. All of these have been developed on the ancient theory that the less natural areas and the more grass and concrete, the better park.

Such a park is not productive of wildlife on the whole, but it is not a complete avian desert. The extensive grass plots make excellent feeding areas for Flickers and Robins, and the groves of mature oaks are ideal for Red-headed Woodpeckers. In all, the birds of the city parks are pretty much what might be expected; highly specialized and not at all representative of the region as a whole. All three of these parks have small lakes that occasionally attract waterfowl, but they are in general too formal and small to have any permanent attraction for birds. Indeed, it is a sad commentary on Richmond that open sewers drain directly into the stream feeding the Bryan Park lakes. Byrd Park is somewhat of an exception, for a flock of domestic ducks and geese and heavy artificial feeding attract a high winter population of feral waterfowl. The principal wintering species here are Mallards, Baldpates, Ring-necked Ducks, Ruddy Ducks, Coots, and Ring-billed Gulls. Some of these, especially the Mallards and the gulls, also spend considerable time on the nearby James River.

Pocahontas State Park

In the 1930's the Federal Government developed Swift Creek Recreational Demonstration Area as a 7,600-acre park project. Two large lakes with beaches were constructed, several group camps and picnic areas were developed, and a number of access roads and trails were built. In 1946 this area was turned over to the Virginia Department of Conservation and Development, and there was a statewide contest to choose a name for it. Pocahontas Memorial State Park won out, but the Memorial part was soon dropped. As far as residents of Virginia were concerned, this park, only 18 miles south of Richmond, might as well have passed out of existence at this point. No attempt was made to keep the trails open or to develop it any further, nor was attendance encouraged, in spite of this being the closest recreational area to a major city, which itself had inadequate park facilities. Recently and without the slightest fanfare, a large part of the park was turned over to the State Forest Service, and cutting was begun of some of the state's best stands of loblolly pines.

The two lakes are too deep to have much attraction for wintering waterfowl, but both of them are utilized commonly in migration, especially by Pied-billed Grebes, Blue-winged Teal, and Lesser Scaups. A number of Wood Ducks nest in the surrounding forests, and flocks of up to 60 usually build up by late summer. A large beaver dam and pond in a rather inaccessible place at the head of Third Branch Lake has improved the area a great deal for surface-feeding ducks.

For land birds the park offers excellent examples of mature hardwood forests typical of the Piedmont. As a result both the Worm-eating Warbler and the Scarlet Tanager seem more common here as breeding birds than any place else in the Richmond area. Until very recently old fields growing up in young pines here were the northernmost regular station near the Fall Zone for Bachman's Sparrow.

The main park entrance, which is clearly marked on most highway maps, lies about 5 miles west of Chesterfield Court House on Virginia secondary route 655.

Curles Neck, Presquile, and Hopewell

Like most of the other rivers of eastern Virginia, the James turns abruptly south for about 10 miles as soon as it crosses the Fall Zone. Beginning where it turns eastward again and extending nearly to Hopewell is a series of meanders encompassing a number of wooded swamps and some open marshes. The most well-known of these and the easiest to reach are Curles Neck and Presquile.

Curles Neck, a large 5000-acre dairy farm, lies on the north side of the James approximately 10 miles southeast of the Richmond city limits on Virginia route 5 in Henrico County. Presquile National Wildlife Refuge, frequently called Turkey Island or Turkey Bend, lies in Chesterfield County, east of, and directly across the river from, Curles Neck and is reached via Bermuda Hundred off Virginia route 10. A navigation channel cut through the neck of the meander has made Presquile a true island, and access to the refuge is available only by prior arrangement via a private ferry. The refuge telephone is reached through a Hopewell exchange; the mailing address is Route 2, Chester, Virginia.

Both Presquile and Curles Neck are famous old Virginia estates, Curles Neck being first settled in 1611. In 1952 Adolphus Williams bequeathed Presquile to the State or Federal Government for a wildlife refuge. The offer was accepted by the Fish and Wildlife Service, and in early 1953 Mr. and Mrs. John L. DeLine arrived from St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge in Florida to manage the new refuge.

The tip of Curles Neck and most of Presquile consist primarily of wooded gum-maple swamps with small tidal "creeks" winding through them. There is relatively little cypress at Presquile and virtually none at Curles Neck. The creeks are passable only by small boats holding 3 or 4 people, an unfortunate situation for group field trips, and at low tide the creeks are generally impassable. If one is acquainted with the terrain and has a compass, he can normally walk or wade through the Curles Neck swamp, but Presquile is said to have softer soil. Foot travel is easiest when the swamp is dry in summer or frozen in winter.

The greatest ornithological attraction of this area is undoubtedly the flock of 5000 or more Canada Geese that winter here, frequently feeding in the fields at Curles Neck and Presquile as well as other nearby farms. Often one or more Snow or Blue Geese may be seen feeding with the Canadas. Many ducks winter here, principally Mallards and Blacks, with lesser numbers of Pintails, Green-winged Teal, and Wood Duck. In summer such birds as the Pileated Woodpecker and Prothonotary Warbler are common in the swamps, and the Yellow-throated Warbler is a characteristic bird of the pinewoods. One or more Dickcissels has been found almost every spring for the last 8 years at Curles Neck, the only place in Virginia where they have occurred regularly in recent years. A colony of Bank Swallows nest in the cut that divides Presquile from the mainland, and other colonies are suspected at Curles Neck where extensive gravel dredging is underway. This colony is the farthest southeast of any other in the state.

Hopewell, lying just below Presquile at the confluence of the James and Appomattox rivers, is best known for its waterfowl. These are observed easiest from the road leading to Jordan Point, just east of town off Virginia route 10, or from City Point within Hopewell itself. Jordan Point is the southern terminus of the Hopewell-Charles City ferry, which is itself often a good vantage spot for observing water birds. In late summer and fall this area is flooded with post-breeding Forster's Terns and Laughing Gulls, flocks occasionally numbering over 100 of each. Both of these species are regular up to Curles Neck and the Forster's Tern occasionally to Richmond, but Hopewell is the main point of concentration. At low tide the river shallows just below Jordan Point become excellent feeding areas for herons and egrets. Even in mid January as many as 60 Great Blue Herons have been seen here at one time.

There is normally a good flock of ducks in winter off the side of Jordan Point. This usually consists of Black and Ruddy Ducks, but sometimes large flocks of other species appear, such as Pintails and Ring-necked Ducks.

Conclusion

This paper is intended merely as an introduction to the possibilities of field observation in the Richmond Area, with an attempt to show some of the factors limiting bird distribution locally. Several spots are described in some detail, but others, such as the marshes of Appomattox, are only now being investigated for the first time. I hope the publication of this information will stimulate others to increase their field work and thereby increase our knowledge of Richmond Area birds.

-- Richmond, Virginia

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STRIKING BACK AT HAWK AND OWL PERSECUTION

By C. C. Steirly

"Ain't he a big one -- got him with a load of buckshot -- he won't catch no more game", was what I heard from a thicket nearby as I stopped along a Sussex County road to pick up a dead Red-tailed Hawk. I looked across the road and there stood a hunter with a self-satisfied grin on his face. Obviously the man was on a deer stand in a rather good deer hunting territory, yet he had discharged his gun to kill this hawk as it flew across the road. The man thought he was doing a fine thing, both for fellow hunters and for poultry raisers.

As I knelt down to retrieve the kill, I was in something of a rage, although I soon realized that it wouldn't do a particle of good to get angry with the hunter. He would probably have only laughed at me. I struggled to control myself, gathered up the hawk, walked across the road and asked the hunter if I might have the trophy. The answer was a jovial, "Yes, mister, he ain't good for nothing else". This was my cue. I told him that this was a Red-tailed Hawk, displaying the fanshaped tail of this well-named bird of prey. As I emphasized the broad tail I explained that I called these birds mouse hawks and the other kind I called small bird hawks. The man at first seemed to be stubborn so I told him that I spent much of my time studying birds and always took dead hawks home to dissect and study their food habits. I went on along these lines and stated that this was one of the farmer's best friends since the diet was mostly mice and rats. The hunter advised that he had never heard that before. Then I went on to tell of a recently killed copperhead snake that I once retrieved from a Sharp-shinned Hawk. Before I was through I had given the hunter quite a few facts regarding hawks, and I believe I left him with a little different slant on hawks and owls, even discussing the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary and pointing out that many states had laws protecting hawks because of their beneficial aspect as predators of injurious agricultural pests.

I was no doubt the first person who had ever told this man that hawks and owls had some value. His notions had been all gleaned from hearsay and the rural prejudice that is so rampart against any predator. He could not have been expected to behave otherwise than to shoot this Red-tailed Hawk when the opportunity presented itself.

This little occurrence along a back country road in Sussex County points to the need of much more educational work about hawks and owls throughout the state. We often talk among ourselves of the desirability of obtaining legislation to protect at least the Buteos, but what good is any law if it does not have public respect and backing? Before we get such a law enacted, or even if we do succeed in this, we must pave the way for general public acceptance. This can only be done through an educational program. All of us can and should do our bit in participating in such a program, if we are to save the hawks and owls. We have a great deal of ignorance and prejudice to overcome, yet much can be done if we exert ourselves a bit and perhaps become opportunists.

I give herewith several ways in which all or most of us can work toward a better understanding of the birds of prey.

1. Take advantage of opportunities such as that narrated above. The personal contact is by far the best method of conducting any campaign. In the above case it would have been folly to have become openly antagonistic. All of us should read up on the food and life histories of the more common hawks and owls.

2. Many of us, because of our hobby of bird study, are called on from time to time to make talks on birds to civic clubs, garden clubs, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H Clubs, Sunday School groups, etc. In such talks it would be unforgivable to omit comment on the value of hawks and owls. Here is a golden opportunity, especially with a youth group. In the case of the Sussex hunter no one had ever told him that hawks ate anything but game and chickens.

3. Some of us, perhaps those who have become "characters" because of our hobby, are often interviewed by newspaper reporters, magazine authors and all sorts of hack writers. Here is an opportunity that absolutely cannot be missed if we have the best interest of hawks and owls at heart. Yet, how many of us let this priceless item of valuable publicity slip through our fingers as we go on and on about garden birds, birds' nests, etc.? When the reporter is picking up all of our utterances he could easily be thrown a few choice bits on hawks and owls. (One of my very good ornithological friends and field companions recently missed such an opportunity in the Richmond Times-Dispatch.)

4. Members who are called on to contribute bird articles to various publications, and those of us who write nature columns, have an excellent opportunity to stab back at ignorance and prejudice through a few lines on birds of prey.

5. Those of us who have anything whatsoever to do with school or summer camp programs on nature or conservation have a wonderful chance to carry on the good work.

No opportunity to discuss hawk and owl lore should be overlooked. Perhaps others can add ideas to those expressed above.

If the needless killing of that Red-tailed Hawk on a lonely Sussex road on a late December afternoon will inspire only a handful of us to carry on the fight, then its slaughter will not have been merely the end of one more beautiful exponent of wild, free nature, but would serve as a symbol of the awakening of a new appreciation of its kind.

-- Virginia Forest Service
Waverly, Virginia

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THE BROWN-CAPPED CHICKADEE IN VIRGINIA

By Jackson M. Abbott

A new bird for the state of Virginia appeared at the feeding station of Mr. and Mrs. E.W. Benington, 224 Kent Road, Wellington, Fairfax, Virginia, on the afternoon of 29 January. The bird, a Brown-capped Chickadee, was suspected at first to be this species by Mrs. Benington, who is a member of the D.C. Audubon Society. After the bird appeared again at the feeder on the morning of the 30th, she studied it closely and was sure of its identity. She called Dr. E.G. Davis, who compiles bird records for the D.C. Audubon Society, and he called me to see if I would go and confirm it, since he couldn't get there right away.

I did, and had excellent views of the bird from the Benington's dining room window on the feeder only 6 feet away. There was no mistaking the bird - its dirty grey-brown plumage, rusty flanks, black bib and brown cap pronounced it a Brown-capped Chickadee. There were both Carolina and Black-capped Chickadees at the feeder for comparison.

The bird was seen later that day by Mr. and Mrs. I.C. Hoover of Arlington and Dr. Davis. The next day Shirley Briggs of the D.C. Audubon Society secured colored films of the bird at 6-10 feet. I notified Mr. James Eike, who called Arthur Fast and Dr. Aldrich. Mr. Fast will attempt to trap and band the bird and take it to Dr. Aldrich for subspecific identification.

This record is all the more interesting as it follows by about a month the collection of a specimen of the same species at Rockville, Maryland, which constituted Maryland's first record.

The Benington's have graciously welcomed into their house all who wish to see the bird, and it is hoped that if enough competent observers see it, that it won't require collection to make the record valid. Of course, if the bird can be trapped and identified subspecifically in the hand, collection of it as a specimen for a museum tray (a rather inhospitable way to treat a rare visitor) would be obviated.

-- 814 13th Street
New Alexandria, Virginia

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD AND LECONTE'S SPARROW
IN SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA

By Stephen M. Russell

During the Abingdon Christmas count on December 25, 1954, I observed a Brewer's Blackbird about 3 miles east of Green Springs. The bird was first noted from the car while I was driving through dominantly farm and pasture land. It was perched on a power line running parallel to the road and thus I was able to stop right beside it. The white eye immediately suggested the Rusty or Brewer's Blackbird, and the obvious purple head reflections positively identified it as the latter. J.M. Abbott reported a Brewer's Blackbird at Roaches Run on October 8, 1952 (Atlantic Naturalist, Vol.8, No.3, p.148). These two records constitute the only reported occurrence of this bird in Virginia.

Much of the land surrounding the South Holston Reservoir is no longer cultivated because of its proximity to the potential high water level. In this area are numerous grassy fields and weedy ravines and sinks. While squeaking to attract Swamp and Song Sparrows in one of the densely weed infested shallow sinks on December 25, 1954, I observed two Leconte's Sparrows and collected one. This specimen, which is now in the Louisiana State University, Museum of Zoology is apparently the only Virginia record.

-- Louisiana State University
Museum of Zoology
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

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A POSSIBLE SIGHT RECORD OF BREWER'S BLACKBIRD FOR VIRGINIA

By Charles O. Handley, Jr.

The annual Christmas bird count of the Blacksburg (Montgomery County, Virginia) area was taken on 28 December 1954. On that day skies were so overcast that some of the smaller land birds began resorting to their night retreats by mid-afternoon. About 3:00 p.m. I reached the Adams Aberdeen-Angus stock farm at Whitehome, where Tom's Creek empties into New River, 9 miles WSW Blacksburg. Here there are broad expanses of flat pastureland, interspersed with grain fields and protected by steep hills from the prevailing northwest winds.

This afternoon a flock of starlings, perhaps numbering as many as a thousand individuals was feeding in one of the stubble fields. Next to the stubble field and adjacent to the Adams homestead is a calving yard, amply littered with cow dung. More or less associated with the starlings, but feeding around the stock in the calving yard were 15 cowbirds and 3 blackbirds. The blackbirds, with grackle-like manners, attracted my attention from a long way off as they fed about the piles of dung.

When the starlings flushed because of my approach, the blackbirds flew up into a nearby tree. Their call notes were low, weak, and subdued, almost unblackbird-like. Logically, these should have been rusty blackbirds, which are common fall and spring migrants and irregular winter visitors in the Blacksburg area. However, I had never heard a rusty blackbird utter this call-note and my suspicions were aroused.

Soon the blackbirds flew back into the calving yard to resume feeding only forty or fifty feet from me. Now with my 8x50 binoculars I noted that all three were adult males without trace of rusty feather edgings on any part of the body. Male rusty blackbirds normally have the plumage more or less mantled with rusty until February or March. Only exceptional individuals have these feather edges worn off as early in the season as December.

Even in the poor light the bodies of these birds appeared to have a sheen of glossy metallic bottle green. Rusty blackbirds which have lost the rusty feather edges usually show a less pronounced bluish-green gloss, and are likely to appear just plain black. I was now convinced that I was looking at Brewer's blackbirds, a species of the western plains, rarely found east of the Mississippi River, and not previously recorded for the state of Virginia, except for another sight record in Arlington County (Raven, 24: 58). Unfortunately, I was unfamiliar with this species and, I am ashamed to say, did not know what to look for in the way of field marks. I paid very little attention to the most important characteristic - the color of the head. In the rusty blackbird which has worn off the brown feather edges, the color of the head is more or less the same as that of the body, whereas in Brewer's blackbird the head is glossed with metallic bluish or purplish, sharply contrasted with the greenish sheen of the body. Had I even only known the scientific name of the Brewer's blackbird - Euphagus cyanocephalus - I could not have missed this character. I can state that the heads of the blackbirds that I saw were not greenish, as were their bodies, but I cannot say that they were bluish. I later determined from Museum specimens that in some lights the bluish metallic sheen of the head may not be as conspicuous as the greenish metallic sheen of the body in Brewer's blackbird.

At the time of the observation I had no means of securing one of the birds as a specimen. That evening I returned to Charleston, West Virginia, where I was spending the holidays, but two days later, on the 30th, I returned to Blacksburg, prepared to collect a specimen. H.S. Mosby and R.J. Watson accompanied me to the Adams farm and helped confirm the fact that neither the cowbirds nor the blackbirds could be found, although the large flock of starlings was located without much difficulty. In addition, we found three shrikes, a flock of horned-larks, a flock of meadowlarks, a red-shouldered hawk, and a possible Cooper's hawk, that I had missed on the 28th. After lunch I drove again from Blacksburg to the Adams farm for a last unsuccessful attempt to find the blackbirds before departing for my home near Washington, D.C.

I believe that I saw Brewer's blackbirds, but I realize that my evidence is largely circumstantial, and I am not trying to make a case for a first record of the species for Virginia. However, I would like to point out that Brewer's blackbird is extending its range eastward and instances of its occurrence in the middle-Atlantic states will probably become more frequent. Virginia observers should give close scrutiny to rusty-like blackbirds, especially those observed in barnyards and fields away from pond and streambanks.

-- Falls Church, Virginia

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EASTERN BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE AND APPALACHIAN YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER
AT LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA

By J. J. Murray

In the Lexington area in winter we regularly get small numbers of Black-capped Chickadees of the Appalachian race (Parus atricapillus praticus); but during the present season we have been flooded with chickadees with wide white margins on the wing feathers. On our Christmas Count half or more of the chickadees seen were so marked. Hoping to get an example of the northern race, my son, James Murray, Jr., and I collected three chickadees on November 30, 1954, at about 2000 feet on the south end of Little House Mountain, seven miles west of Lexington. When the skins were examined at the U.S. National Museum, Mr. Gorman M. Bond identified them as belonging to three different races of chickadees: Northern Carolina Chickadee, Parus carolinensis extimus, our resident bird; Appalachian Black-capped Chickadee, Parus atricapillus praticus, the breeding bird of the higher mountain areas in Virginia; and Eastern Black-capped Chickadee, Parus atricapillus atricapillus. This is the only known occurrence of the Eastern Black-capped Chickadee in Virginia outside the Washington Region.

On the same day and at the same place we collected a sapsucker, which was identified by Bond as an example of the newly-described race, Appalachian Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Sphyrapicus varius appalachiensis Ganier. This means that we now have two races of the sapsucker on the Virginia list.

The Rockbridge County list now numbers 266 species and subspecies. A revision of the Rockbridge County list will probably appear in THE RAVEN some time this year.

-- Lexington, Virginia

MOUNTAIN VIREO AT CHARLOTTESVILLE

By Charles E. Stevens, Jr.

On June 12, 1954, the writer most unexpectedly heard a Solitary Vireo singing from some pines on the grounds of the Virginia Forest Service tree nursery just south of Charlottesville on U.S. Route 29. Investigation revealed a pair of these vireos carrying food to a nest occupied by at least one young bird. The nest was located 20 feet up in a loblolly pine entwined with a greenbrier (Smilax, sp.) vine. This tree was situated in a 20-year old planting of loblolly pine, 120 ft. by 360 ft., which joined a 180 ft. by 360 ft. stand of white pine of the same age. The pine stands were pure and without an understory, while nearby were openings and other loblolly plantings. Twenty-five to thirty feet in height the loblollies were otherwise barren of bird life. The slightly shorter but denser and darker white pine stand contained one singing Acadian Flycatcher.

A trip to the nursery on June 21 disclosed an empty nest, but the male vireo was singing nearby, and was also seen on that date by Kenneth Lawless. A June 26 visit failed to turn up the birds, and they were not subsequently found.

This choice of habitat by a breeding Mountain Solitary Vireo (Vireo solitarius alticola) is quite different from the habitats it normally selects in this section: in the Blue Ridge, oak-hemlock-white pine and oak-hickory-pitch pine woods from 1000 ft. elevation up; and on Mill Mountain, tulip poplar-oak woods. It is especially interesting to note that the nursery is less than a mile from the city limits and at an elevation of only 500 ft.

Since the loblolly pine does not occur naturally in Albemarle (driving on Route 250 to Charlottesville from Richmond the last loblollies are seen in the vicinity of Oilville) the vireos were using what might be called an artificial habitat.

Their habitat choice seems to link them with the Mountain Vireos which occur in summer in the hot pinewoods of central North Carolina, around Statesville, Raleigh, Chapel Hill, and Greensboro (Birds of North Carolina, Pearson, Brimley, and Brimley) and the birds found nesting at Danville by Westbrook and Lyle in 1951 (Audubon Field Notes, Oct. 1951) rather than their fellows of the same subspecies which inhabit the cooler and damper Appalachian mountainside woodlands and hollows.

-- Charlottesville, Virginia

THE FIFTIETH ANNUAL NATIONAL AUDUBON CONVENTION

By Mrs. Hawes Coleman, Jr.

The fiftieth annual convention of the National Audubon Society took place in New York, November 13-16, 1954. With many parts of the four days' program of interest to everyone, the program also was of special interest to those representing branches and affiliates of the Society and to persons such as teachers, scout leaders, junior club leaders, garden club representatives and the like who carry the seeds of conservation knowledge to others.

On Saturday morning the emphasis was on the junior club work with many suggestions for local programs that would never lack excitement and opportunity. The afternoon session introduced a spectacular new color film by Karl Maslowski on "Nature Around the Year", and also "Flamingos in the Bahamas" by Robert P. Allen, Research Associate of the Society. An Audubon Exhibition of paintings and other Audubonia was shown publicly for the first time at the Kennedy Galleries, 785 Fifth Avenue. Saturday night at Audubon House was 'Camp Night', of particular interest to those who would like to attend one of the Audubon camps. Those who had attended previously enjoyed meeting campers, now old friends, as well as many of the camp's staff members. The director of the new Audubon Camp of Wisconsin, Walter W. Engelke, of Madison, Wisconsin, was introduced.

On Sunday, there were a variety of pursuits of interest, three: First, a specially guided tour (limited to members and their families) of the Bronx Hill Park Zoo, giving participants memorable behind-the-scene views and stories of many appealing and "famous" animals. Second, and for the specific benefit of representatives of Audubon branches and affiliates there was the all day outing to the Society's 415 acre Audubon Center at Greenwich, Conn. Charles Mohr, the director, and Leonard Bradley, the botanist at the Center, each directed a group along the trails. Later there was a discussion group with helpful aids that each might better serve, and develop new ideas in his units at home. The Nature Museum, Nature Trails, and Wildflower Garden were particularly inspected. Still a third group, of camera fans, with emphasis on nature photography held a workshop at Audubon House. This was a new feature and continued until late, because of the enthusiasm of the participants.

On Monday, morning and afternoon, there were a number of color films, and talks by several, to enlighten us all on what is new and developing - and the current opportunities offered by the Society. Mr. Carl W. Buchheister, Vice-President, on the "New Audubon Camp in Wisconsin"; Mr. John H. Baker, President, on "Florida's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary", which is being prepared so that those who are interested may, in the next few years, go into it and observe its strange and unusual landscape and wildlife. This sanctuary has been given to the Society to preserve the southern cypress, the rare bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*). Monday night, after Mr. John H. Baker gave a summing up of progress of Audubon objectives during the last 50 years, then the Audubon Screen Tour Lecturer, Fran William Hall, showed his color film, "A Naturalists' Paradise", a fascinating visit to the Hawaiian Islands.

Tuesday - summed up all the angles, answered all the questions the delegates may still be wondering about; such as Audio-visual materials for nature and conservation programs; Audubon Screen, Photography, and Art Tours; Audubon Magazine; Audubon-Doubleday Nature Programs (booklets with stickers); and the attractive Service Department where sales have risen 193% in recent years, and is admitted to be the best Natural History book department in the city of New York.

After an informal buffet luncheon in Audubon House, the annual meeting of members took place, and at its end was the presentation of Mrs. Joy Buba's sculptured head of John James Audubon by Mr. James Sheldon. It now is lovingly and suitably placed in a niche to greet you as you enter the foyer of Audubon House. Having seen Mrs. Buba's sketches of Audubon, her portfolio of infinite notes and details which have enabled her to interpret meaning and significance to the head give an added meaning to the finished work.

The climax of the convention, was, as it should be, the gathering in the Ballroom of the Roosevelt Hotel at 45th and Madison Avenue of 600 persons, more or less, to attend the banquet. After the conferring and receiving of a number of citations given to those who have reached further than the usual in doing valuable work for the furtherance of the Audubon theme and purpose, and as if to cap the climax, Roger Tory Peterson, then presented his latest and most spectacular color film, "Wild America". These were motion pictures which he took while showing Mr. James Fisher (the 'Peterson' of England) the bird-life of America, as he said from 'the four corners of America'. With the exhilaration as if from the wing of a graceful gannet, the program, the convention ended.

-- 1513 Palmyra Avenue
Richmond, Virginia

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VSO TRIP TO BACK BAY WILDLIFE REFUGE

Second Section

By Ray J. Beasley

The second section of the annual VSO trip to Back Bay was made on December 11, 1954, following the first section made on the week previous. The day was clear but rather chilly. This section was made up of members of the Cape Henry Bird Club, of Norfolk and vicinity and the Hampton Roads Bird Club, with four others from Lynchburg and two from Charlottesville.

The following birds were seen: Common Loon; Red-throated Loon; Horned Grebe; Pied-billed Grebe; Greater Shearwater (at least four seen by the writer, flying off Sandbridge in company with some Gannets); Gannet; Double-crested Cormorants; Great Blue Heron; American Bittern; Whistling Swan; Canada Goose; Snow Goose; Mallard; Black Duck; Baldpate; Pintail;

Redhead Duck; Canvas-back Duck; Lesser Scaup; American Golden-eye; Buffle-head; Surf Scoter; Ruddy Duck; American Merganser; Red-breasted Merganser; Turkey Vulture; Black Vulture; Marsh Hawk; Sparrow Hawk; Duck Hawk; Bald Eagle; Coot; Black-bellied Plover; Wilson's Snipe; Sanderling; Greater Yellowlegs; Herring Gull; Great Black-backed Gull; Ring-billed Gull; Laughing Gull; Bonaparte's Gull; Common Tern; Royal Tern; Black Skimmer; Flicker; Red-bellied Woodpecker; Crow; Fish Crow; Carolina Wren; Mockingbird; Catbird; American Pipits; Starlings; Myrtle Warbler; Meadowlark; Redwing; Boat-tailed Grackle; Cardinal; Field Sparrow; Savannah Sparrow; White-throated Sparrow; Junco; Song Sparrow; Snow Bunting.

The success of the trip was due, as has so often been the case, to the splendid efforts of the host, Mr. Jack E. Perkins; and the hostess, Mrs. Jack E. Perkins, who arranged for the especially fine lunch served by the Princess Anne County Home Demonstration Club.

-- P.O. Box 1117
Newport News, Virginia

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WHAT KIND OF MATERIAL IS 'RAVENWORTHY'?

Our versatile Treasurer, C.C. Steirly, has coined a good phrase, 'Ravenworthy'. By this he means to indicate the type of article or note which is suitable for the inclusion in THE RAVEN. It has been suggested to the Editor that more people would send in material for THE RAVEN, if they knew what was wanted, and if they were not afraid of rejection. It may be well, then, to try to indicate the kinds of material that we want.

That is not easy to do. Articles may be of value for many different reasons: for literary quality; for human interest; for the fact that they deal with relatively unknown areas; or for the fact that they add some new item to our knowledge of birds, of their habits and their distribution. It is really easier, after the publication of twenty-five volumes of THE RAVEN, to indicate what we do not need.

For one thing, we rarely have space now for papers about birds outside Virginia. Such papers should be submitted to regional journals, such as the Wilson Bulletin.

We do not ordinarily need lists of birds seen on one-day field trips by individuals, or even by groups. We can hardly use any more papers on Chesapeake Bay ferry crossings, or on trips of a day to Cobb Island. This is true also of Back Bay Field Trips, where year after year we have carried similar lists. It may well be that people going on these trips for the first time would like to see the day's list of birds in print; but it is simpler for trip leaders to help the members keep their own lists.

An exception to the statement about short field trips should be made for trips to relatively unknown territory in the state. But even in such cases the list should be kept to species that are in some way significant; either unusual species, or, which is just as important, common birds seen in unusual places, such as Cardinals at high elevations. For an example of such a shortened treatment of a field trip in a not too well known area, see the paper on Highland County in the November, 1954, issue (pages 134, 135). Then, too, there is still space for write-ups of VSO field trips to Back Bay and other places, if the social features are described and only the more significant birds mentioned.

We do not need ^{long} regional or county lists unless they are based on at least five years of fairly active field work; and hardly then, if there has been a comprehensive list of some nearby and similar territory.

We do want backyard observations and feeding tray notes, but these should be of uncommon birds seen, or studies of the habits of any species, common or uncommon. Some of the most valuable and interesting papers we have ever had were prepared by Mrs. A.C. Reed on the basis of observations made in her own yard in Norfolk. In these cases she had made long and careful studies of the habits of such a species as the Mockingbird or Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Any careful observer, who will take time enough and trouble enough, can give us material that is 'Ravenworthy'.

The point of this editorial is not to discourage members of the VSO from sending in material; but to urge you to give us material of the kind indicated. We trust that you will not be sensitive about the material you send in, but will be willing to leave to the Editor as to whether it be used and as to how much of it is to be used.

We particularly need the following kinds of material:

1. More Christmas Counts, and from new parts of the state.
2. More Breeding Bird Censuses, done according to the rules of the National Audubon Society.
3. Winter bird population studies, such as one by C.C. Steirly, which will appear in the April issue.
4. Detailed studies of the habits of common species, such as the Cardinal, or Towhee, or Catbird.
5. Studies of the characteristics of a well-defined area, such as is being done by Scott for the Eastern Shore. Areas which have not been well studied are: extreme Southwest Virginia; the lower Shenandoah Valley around and north of Winchester; the Northern Neck, especially along Chesapeake Bay; the territory between Martinsville, Stuart, and the Blue Ridge; Southside Virginia, around South Boston; and Southside Virginia along the North Carolina border, around Emporia.

It will be of great help to the Editor and to the mimeographers if the following rules are followed in the preparation of papers and notes:

1. Use only one side of the paper.
2. Type the paper, if possible, double-spaced.
3. Do not put anything else, such as a letter, on the page with the article or note.
4. Study the articles that have come out in THE RAVEN in recent years and conform to their arrangement.

-- J. J. Murray

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NEWS AND NOTES

VSO Annual Meeting. The 1955 Annual Meeting of the VSO will be held at Norfolk on April 29th and 30th. Announcement about the meeting place and other details will be mailed out to members. In addition to the regular field trip on April 30, there may be a special field trip to Dismal Swamp on April 28. Put these dates on your calendar.

Dead Birds at Feeding Stations. Dr. Paul Bartsch has called attention to a strange situation at his feeding station at the study window of his home, "Lebanon", at Lorton, Virginia. In a letter dated October 30, 1954, he stated that he had seen a number of birds at the Station that seemed to be partially helpless, at first having difficulty with use of one leg, then of the other, and finally dying. At first he feared that it was caused by something in the feed or water he had put out; but later discovered that a neighbor had the same situation. To October 30 he found the following dead birds: a Catbird; a Hermit Thrush; a Chickadee; a Maryland Yellow-throat (at the neighbor's station); and 5 English Sparrows. In a letter of November 14, he reported a Flicker and 2 English Sparrows. On January 12 an adult Evening Grosbeak (U.S.N.M. Cat. No. 457,961); and on January 24 a Carolina Wren.

Probable Record of Puffin at Back Bay. President Jack Perkins says that his assistant at the Back Bay Refuge, Romie L. Waterfield, reports that he observed a Puffin on the beach in front of the refuge on January 1, 1955. He writes: "He did not know the bird but he is a very good observer and recognized that he had never seen one before. He came in and looked it up in 'Peterson'. I questioned him carefully as to the possibility it might be a dovekie or a razor-billed auk but he was certain that it was a puffin. He said it walked like a penguin, and he observed the 'mask', or enlarged bill... I tried to find it again but without success." The committee on records agree that this report should be put on the hypothetical list as a 'probable' record.

Yellow-billed Tropic Bird at Staunton, Virginia. Hurricane Hazel brought one of these rare stragglers to Staunton on October 15, 1954. The bird died; was mounted; and has been examined by the Editor. A fuller account will probably appear later in THE AUK.

Snowy Owl at Hog Island State Waterfowl Refuge. C.C. Steirly reports that John E. Bryant, Manager of the Hog Island State Waterfowl Refuge, saw a Snowy Owl (*Nyctea scandiaca*) at Hog Island on December 8, 9, 10, and 11, 1954. Each time it was seen in a large open barn. The Refuge is on James River, in the northeast corner of Surry County.

Eastern Black-capped Chickadees at Arlington. There has been a deluge of these birds in the Washington area. Arthur H. Fast states that up to January 10 he has banded 14; Mrs. M.B. Peacock has banded 27; and John Dennis has banded 18 at Leesburg. One of them will write a fuller story of them for THE RAVEN at the end of the season. Aldrich has identified one of them for Mrs. Peacock, and Wetmore has identified one for Fast, both of them being the typical species, *Parus atricapillus atricapillus*.

Dickcissel at Waverly and Lorton, Virginia. C.C. Steirly reports a female Dickcissel at a yard feeder on the edge of Waverly. "The bird was associated with several Juncos, English Sparrows and White-throated Sparrows. Observations were made at a distance of thirty feet with 7x binoculars. The yellowish breast, distinct patch of chestnut at the bend of the wing, definite eye stripe and typical Fringillid bill were clearly seen before and after recourse to several color plates. The feeder where the observation was made is situated among low, scattered shrubs about thirty feet from the edge of an extensive field and golf course." Dr. Paul Bartsch writes on January 29 that Dickcissel came to his study feeding station on January 19 and was still present when he wrote.

Evening Grosbeak at Many Places. This has been another 'grosbeak winter', although the birds have not appeared in great numbers. They have been widely scattered - Clifton Forge (reported by Mrs. Norman C. Scott); Dayton (H.G.M. Jopson); Lexington (J.J. Murray); Warrenton (Mrs. Thomas Frost); Fairfield, Rockbridge County (Miss Draper Fultz); Richmond (F.R. Scott); Petersburg (Miss Ruth Terry, *fide* Steirly). All reports should be sent to The Editor by April 1, so that a consolidated report may be prepared.

-- J.J. Murray
Lexington, Virginia



The Raven

BULLETIN OF THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY

J. J. MURRAY, EDITOR
LEXINGTON, VA.

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CONTENTS

	Page
A Fall Study of the Food Habits of the Common Starling (<u>Sturnus vulgaris</u>) in Northern Virginia By John V. Dennis	51
A Pine Forest Winter Bird-Population Study By C. C. Steirly	54
A Pine Forest Winter Bird-Population Study By Charles E. Stevens, Jr.	56
An Upland Pasture Winter Bird-Population Study By Gertrude Prior	57
Our National Emblem Is Endangered	58
Late Nesting by Bob-White Quail By John V. Dennis	59
Trip to Hog Island By Jane Craig	59
Back Bay Winter Field Trip By James W. Eike	60
Help Us Band Mourning Doves!	61
Virginia Notes	62

A FALL STUDY OF THE FOOD HABITS OF THE COMMON STARLING
(STURNUS VULGARIS) IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA

By John V. Dennis

On October 11, 1954, the writer examined the ground beneath an isolated empress tree (*Paulownia tomentosa*) in a cow pasture near Leesburg. Every inch of the ground under the tree was covered by a varied assortment of seed. Starlings had previously been seen resting in this tree during the day-time and it was presumed that the seed were the ejected, undigestible portion of the birds' diet.

Observations of other roosts in the Leesburg area confirmed the fact that Starlings eject from their mouths, while at rest, seeds, hard parts of insects and any other material that is not readily assimilated in their digestive systems. Collections of seeds were made at two roosts near Leesburg, one at the empress tree roost and another in a grove of oaks in a pasture. Both of these sites were used by Starlings during the day. In addition, seed collections were made at a night roost in Winchester. This roost, comprising the super-structure of three large coal bins, appeared to accomodate nightly several thousand birds. The ground beneath was thickly strewn with droppings, seeds, and insect remains. Seeds were collected here on November 20, and December 16, 1954.

The food analysis given below is based largely upon collections at the Winchester roost. Since the vicinity of this roost was devoid of trees, shrubbery or grass, it seemed likely that almost all seeds in the area were ones deposited by Starlings. This was less probable at the other roosts. For this reason no seeds are listed for the Leesburg roosts unless found in some numbers.

Group No. 1 (Seeds found in large quantities)

Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)

Pokeberry (*Phytolacca americana*)

Flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*)

Grape (*Vitis* sp.)

Poison ivy (*Rhus radicans*)

Wild cherry (*Prunus serotina*)

Black gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*)

Group No. 2 (Seeds found in intermediate quantities)Bittersweet (Celastrus scandens)Sumac (Rhus copallina)Smooth sumac (Rhus glabra)Apple (Malus pumila)Virginia creeper (Parthenocissus quinquefolia)Red cedar (Juniperus virginiana)Group No. 3 (Seeds found in small quantities)Privet (Ligustrum vulgare?)Japanese honeysuckle (Lonicera japonica)Green-brier (Smilax sp.)Wheat (Triticum aestivum)Corn (Zea Mays)Persimmon (Diospyros virginiana)Spice-bush (Benzoin aestivale)

No careful effort was made to ascertain the proportions in which the different seeds were found at the roosts. It was noted, however, that some seeds were by far the most abundant. At the empress tree roost this was true in respect to pokeberry; at the oak tree roost it was sour gum and wild cherry; and at Winchester it was hackberry and poison ivy. Nor, as might have been possible by putting receptacles below the roosts, was any effort made to determine the diet according to month or season. But from the appearance of the seed those collected, with the exception of wild cherry and some of the dogwood, hackberry and sour gum, all seemed to have been consumed and ejected within the same month that the roosts were visited.

With only a few exceptions the seeds represented normal bird food plants utilized during the fall. The bittersweet is an infrequent source of food for birds while one would not expect a bird the size of the Starling to swallow a persimmon. Wild cherry pits were undoubtedly deposited during the summer. Another probable food item, not yet mentioned, is the land snail. Within a few square feet at the Winchester roost seven or eight intact shells were noted. It would be interesting to know just how the Starling utilizes the snail as a food item. Normally in birds the snail is ground up in the gizzard with other food. This, of course, may be true with the Starling and the shells below the roost may have been dropped fortuitously. Or again snails may have reached the area through their own efforts or through some other agency. In Bent (p.195), however, the snail is listed among the foods of the Starling. Finally it should be pointed out that moderately hard objects

and smaller seed are probably assimilated in the digestive tract. This is probably the fate of most corn, wheat, other grains, the berries, of Japanese honeysuckle, and virtually all the small seed of grasses, sedges and the like. For this reason samples taken from roosts do not give a true index as to the food habits of the Starling, but they are useful in determining proportions of some of the harder and larger items of insect and plant food taken.

One point that should be emphasized is that the Starling does not eject a pellet. The seed appear to be ejected one at a time and are never found adhering to one another or other matter. This is quite in contrast to the pellets regurgitated by such birds as gulls, hawks, owls, shrikes and crows.

The subject of regurgitation or ejection of hard objects by passerine birds seems virtually to have escaped the attention of ornithologists in this country. To be sure there is mention in Bent (p.241) of crows regurgitating in the form of pellets indigestible objects "such as bones, teeth, fur, and hard seeds". The writer on June 9, 1954, saw a Crested Flycatcher (Myiarchus crinitus), which was perched on a phone line near Leesburg, suddenly open its mouth wide and discard an object, undoubtedly a pellet. Dr. Alexander C. Martin, biologist of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Patuxent Research Refuge, mentioned to the writer that the Robin (Turdus migratorius) has the habit of regurgitating pellets. An exhaustive search of the literature would probably reveal additional examples for North American species.

David Lack in his study of the Robin of the Old World (Erithacus rubecula) writes (p.129): "After feeding on ivy berries, a robin often ejects the seeds from its mouth. Not infrequently, definite pellets are brought up... The habit of ejecting indigestible food-remains from the mouth in the form of pellets occurs in many other song-birds."

However, limited or widespread the habit is among our song-birds, it is certainly a matter which deserves study. With the Starling, an abundant species with us the year around, the habit has important economic implications. While the Starling may well be one of the most important agents in the dissemination of the seeds of the noxious poison ivy, it also carries seeds of many valuable plants. It is both to the best interests of wildlife and agriculture, according to the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, to encourage woody fence rows. As they put it (p.9): "Woody fence rows have been shown to harbor fewer harmful and more beneficial kinds of wildlife than do grassy fence rows, on general farms." Other factors, not all of them mentioned by the Soil Conservation Service, to be considered are the importance of woody fence rows as wind-breaks, their ornamental value, and the commercial value of some of the plants that grow in them. Many birds are instrumental in establishing growth along fence rows through the viable seeds they deposit with their droppings, but to the Starling and its habit of ejecting seeds goes a great share of the credit. On the one hand the Starling competes with native birds for fruits and berries, but on the other it acts to increase the number of useful wildlife plants available to all users.

To Dr. Alexander C. Martin the writer is most grateful for assistance in identifying a number of seeds.

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-- Rt. 1, Box 376
Leesburg, Virginia

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A PINE FOREST WINTER BIRD-POPULATION STUDY

By C. C. Steirly

During the winter of 1954-55, the writer undertook a winter bird population study in a pure loblolly pine forest habitat near Waverly in Sussex County. This habitat was chosen because it was representative of a forest type that is quite extensive over much of the Coastal Plain, especially that portion South of the James River. Instructions given in the April, 1950 issue of Audubon Field Notes were followed in making the study.

A sixteen acre portion of a rather uniform pine woods was selected and mapped such that definite boundaries were marked and a network of foot tracts in the area were indicated on the map since these greatly expedited full coverage of the area. The habitat, being a typical pine forest of medium age, contained two stories or layers. The upper or dominant story consisted of loblolly pine of the 35 to 40 year age class. Associated with it were widely ^{scattered} yellow poplar, white oak and sweet gum; however, the loblolly pine constituted over 80% of the dominant trees which would put it in the pure pine classification. Height of the average dominant tree was 64 feet and the average diameter of the trees was 8.5 inches at breast height. Stand density was 430 trees per acre. The lower story consisted of a sapling growth of hardwood species, including, in order of abundance, sweet gum, black gum, southern red oak, yellow poplar, white hickory, holly and red maple. Few of these were over four inches in diameter at breast height, most of them averaging between one and two inches. The brush species in this lower story included myrtle (Myrica cerifera) and high bush huckleberry (Vaccinium corymbosum). The lower story was not dense and in winter visibility through most of it was not impaired. Poison ivy and other woody vines were found only rarely. The immediate ground cover or herbaceous layer was rather sparse.

It consisted of patches of Christmas fern (Polystichum acrostichoides), club moss (Lycopodium flabelliforme) and such typical pine woods herbs as spotted wintergreen and princess pine (Chimaphila umbellata). The area has been undisturbed by fire, grazing or timber cutting. As far as could be determined, the pine stand was of forest origin (that is, not of old field origin).

Six trips were made through the area as follows:

Dec. 19, 1954	8:40 - 10:40 AM	temp. 38F - 44F	clear
Dec. 24, 1954	7:40 - 9:20 AM	temp. 44F - 50F	clear
Dec. 26, 1954	9:40 - 11:40 AM	temp. 42F - 60F	clear
Jan. 2, 1955	7:10 - 9:05 AM	temp. 52F - 66F	clear
Jan. 15, 1955	8:45 - 10:45 AM	temp. 36F - 42F	overcast
Jan. 29, 1955	7:45 - 9:45 AM	temp. 30F - 36F	overcast

On each trip all birds observed within the area were counted and at the conclusion of the study these were totalled by species and divided by six in order to obtain an average number per trip. Density, or number of birds per 100 acres of comparable habitat, was calculated by multiplying the average trip number by 100 and dividing by the acreage of the study area, in this case by 16.

Results are as follows. Those birds which were observed so infrequently that the trip average figure was less than .5 are shown by a plus sign.

Golden-crowned Kinglet	6 per average trip	37 per 100 acres
Brown Creeper	4	25
Tufted Titmouse	3	19
Myrtle Warbler	2	12
Downy Woodpecker	.5	3
Sapsucker	.5	3
Pileated Woodpecker	+	
Carolina Wren	+	
Winter Wren	+	
Cardinal	+	

Average total birds per trip: 16 Density: 100 birds per 100 A.

The pine in this area had grown under such conditions of density that very few trees had developed tops suitable for the production of cones. Pine seed, therefore, was not an important food factor in the area. The fruits of the myrtle and huckleberry had been largely utilized before the study was started.

The Kinglets and Creepers were most often observed in flocks; the former feeding on insect egg masses and scale insects in the foliage of the pines, while the latter foraged up and down the trunks of the pines. Birds passing overhead, and obviously not utilizing the area, were ignored.

-- Waverly, Virginia

A PINE FOREST WINTER BIRD-POPULATION STUDY

By Charles E. Stevens, Jr.

VIRGINIA PINE - SHORTLEAF PINE FOREST. - Location: 1 mile south of Proffit, Albemarle County, Virginia. Size: 45 acres. Description of Area: An upland pine stand described in Raven, May-June, 1948, and March-April, 1949. Coverage: 1953-Jan. 11,18,24,25,31; Feb. 7,8. Total, 7 trips, averaging 80 minutes each. 1954-Dec. 26 (1953); Jan. 8,9,16,17,23,24,30. Total, 8 trips, averaging 60 minutes each. 1955-Dec. 26 (1954); Jan. 7,10,12,14,18,19,29; Feb. 3 (2 trips). Total, 10 trips, averaging 51 minutes each. Census: Counts for 3 years are included because they have not been published. The first number following each species is the average number of individuals recorded, to the nearest whole number. A / represents an average of less than .5, while a - means no birds were recorded. The figure in parenthesis is the average number per 100 acres.

	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>
Golden-crowned Kinglet	16 (35)	5 (10)	/
Caroline Chickadee	5 (10)	8 (19)	6 (12)
Tufted Titmouse	1 (2)	5 (11)	1 (2)
Downy Woodpecker	/	2 (5)	1 (1)
Blue Jay	/	2 (5)	1 (1)
Brown Creeper	1 (2)	1 (2)	-
White-breasted Nuthatch	-	2 (4)	/
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2 (4)	/	-
Hermit Thrush	/	1 (1)	1 (2)
American Crow	-	-	1 (3)
Red-breasted Nuthatch	-	-	1 (2)
Cardinal	-	1 (2)	/
Mourning Dove	/	-	1 (2)
Carolina Wren	/	1 (1)	-
Slate-colored Junco	-	1 (1)	-
Yellow-shafted Flicker	-	/	/
Winter Wren	-	/	/
Myrtle Warbler	-	/	/
Eastern Phoebe	/	/	-
Turkey Vulture	/	/	-
Red-tailed Hawk	-	/	/
Black Vulture	-	-	/
Red-shouldered Hawk	/	-	-
Great Horned Owl	-	-	/
American Robin	/	-	-
American Goldfinch	-	-	/
Purple Finch	-	-	/
Total	26 (59)	28 (63)	13 (29)
Species	14	18	19
Average Temperature	42°	36.7°	36.3°
Extremes	20-71°	11-73°	9-68°
Inches precipitation	2.49	2.79	.57
Hours observation	23.3	20.0	21.3

Remarks: The rarity of the Golden-crowned Kinglet on the 1955 count constitutes the most unusual event since the beginning of the study. After a normal fall migration Golden-crowns virtually disappeared from this section of Virginia - a very odd fluctuation by such an ordinarily stable component of the local winter bird population. The absence of the Brown Creeper in 1955 was also unusual. Vultures and hawks flying over the area were counted on the basis that they might be looking for food there, but many other birds, particularly Crows, finches, and Starlings, seen and heard passing over were not counted. 1953 count made by Mr. and Mrs. William O. Lewis, R.J. Watson, and Kenneth Lawless.

-- Charlottesville, Virginia

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AN UPLAND PASTURE WINTER BIRD-POPULATION STUDY

By Gertrude Prior

Upland pasture with stream running through the centre. Location: Sweet Briar College, Sweet Briar, Virginia. Size: 16.8 acres. Description of area: A fairly rectangular-shaped area with brushy border along stream. Two short draws to the stream, one dominated by a very old Tulip Poplar (Liriodendron tulipifera) and with a mature Dogwood (Cornus florida) and a mass of some species of wild rose (probably Rosa carolina), the other draw including several mature Junipers (Juniper virginiana) and many tall, ranging Privets (Ligustrum vulgare). Fence along one side lined almost completely with Rose bushes. Deep border of brush along stream consists mostly of Privet and Wild Rose, as well as several Junipers and Willows (Salix sp.) Scattered clumps of Privet and Rose on either side of stream, and on rise above south side, a mature Cherry (Prunus serotina) and an Ailanthus (A. glandulosa) as well as clumps of brush. Names of plants are taken from Gray's Manual. Topography: Open pasture land; elevation 700 feet. Edge: Area surrounded by similar habitat. Coverage: Dec. 18, 26, 30, 1954; Jan. 1, 8, 15, 23, 30; Feb. 5, 1955. Total, 9 trips, averaging $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours each. Census: White-crowned Sparrow, average no. per trip 52, population density 307; Starling 23, 135; House Sparrow, 16, 95; White-throated Sparrow 6, 34; Mockingbird 3, 21; Cardinal 3, 18; Slate-colored Junco 2, 14; Blue Jay .5, 6; Wilson's Snipe /; Myrtle Warbler /; Carolina Wren /; Caroline Chickadee /. Average total: 111 birds (density, 661 birds per 100 acres). Remarks: The figures for the White-crowned, White-throated, and Song Sparrows is probably low, as it was most difficult, with one observer, to count these birds as they flew from bush to bush. Most of the birds were concentrated at one end of the area, along the fence and/or the stream, and in the brush of the two draws. Occasionally there were a few downstream. This upper end is the area where the cows gathered before being led to the barn, and there was a heavy manure deposit. The White-crowned Sparrows seem to be on the increase. The highest number seen on one day was 72. The author made a study of this species in this particular area in 1950 and at that time estimated about 40 birds in the entire flock. The Starlings were seen only three times, once in a flock of about 200, the other times 3 and 2. Birds flying over the area during the 9 trips included

1 Cooper's Hawk, 2 Turkey Vultures, 2 Black Vultures, 28 Starlings and 15 Crows. These are not included in the aforementioned count. During the census period the temperature ranged from 25° to 50° with a daily mean of 39°. The ground was mostly wet underfoot with some snow, and with a cloudy sky and wind 5 out of the 9 visits.

-- Sweet Briar, Virginia

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OUR NATIONAL EMBLEM IS ENDANGERED

San Francisco, California - America's symbol of freedom, the bald eagle, is itself being denied freedom, a National Audubon Society official declared here. Kenneth D. Morrison of New York City, editor of Audubon Magazine and director of public information, told the Golden Gate Audubon Society that bald eagles have decreased alarmingly over most of their range and that the United States may before long face the prospect of being represented by an extinct emblem.

Mr. Morrison stated that some estimates place the present bald eagle population as low as 1,000 pairs. "The big white-headed, white-tailed birds have disappeared from many of their former haunts," he said, "and too often the reason has been illegal shooting of them, even though a \$500 fine and six months imprisonment can be an eagle shooter's punishment." Another reason that eagles aren't where they used to be, according to Mr. Morrison, is that many of the tall trees required for their eyries have come down when woodlands were cut over.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society was informed that the slogan, "Save our national emblem -- the bald eagle," will set the theme for observance of National Audubon Week, April 24 to 30, which will commemorate the golden anniversary of the National Audubon Society. At that time the Society will start an "inventory" of the American eagle population, which it hopes will shed some light on the problem of giving the national bird a new lease on life.

All Audubon Societies and other conservation organizations were called upon to start an educational campaign on behalf of eagles during Audubon Week.

Mr. Morrison revealed that intensive studies in four western Florida counties indicate an 80 per cent decrease in nesting bald eagles over a ten year period. The major areas where eagles are still found in fair numbers, the Audubon editor said, are Florida, the Chesapeake Bay region, and the Great Lakes. He added that definite figures are not available for California but that observers agree that the bald eagle is now a rare bird to be found only occasionally around mountain lakes and along the coast.

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LATE NESTING BY BOB-WHITE QUAIL (COLINUS VIRGINIANUS)

By John V. Dennis

On October 11, 1954, Mr. Pierre Parker reported to me that he had seen a Bob-white fly up at a cow in a pasture as though trying to protect a nest. On investigating he found a nest with eight eggs. About noon on October 14, I visited the nesting site which was located in an open pasture on Mr. Parker's farm about eight miles north of Leesburg in Loudoun County. By then the nest had been abandoned. Two of the eight eggs had hatched. The remaining eggs, some of which were partially broken as though on the point of hatching, contained well developed chicks. It appeared that the nest had been abandoned earlier that morning.

The nesting site was about four feet from a fence row containing no other growth than pasture grass. The pasture was quite well grazed and offered little in the way of protection for nesting quail. Bent (Bulletin 162, U.S. National Museum) gives egg dates for the Bob-white in Virginia as between May 14 and September.

-- Rt. 1, Box 376
Leesburg, Virginia

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TRIP TO HOG ISLAND

By Jane Craig

A group of Richmonders, about 30 strong, visited the National Waterfowl Refuge at Hog Island, Surry County, Virginia, as a field trip project in January. Mr. C.C. Steirly, of Waverly, Virginia, was the leader of the group, and Mr. John Bryant, State Game Biologist of the Hog Island Refuge, was host to the party.

The chief purpose of the trip was to offer an opportunity to Richmonders interested in ornithology to get acquainted and to discuss the possibility of organizing a branch of the VSO. The proposal met with enthusiastic response, and a group is now in process of formation.

A tally of waterfowl seen included Canada geese, a snow goose, numerous black duck, mallard, scaup, and canvasback ducks, as well as one ring-neck duck, 46 golden-eye, 65 ruddy duck, and 6 red-breasted mergansers.

Other birds seen included the Brown-headed nuthatch, golden-crowned kinglet, killdeer, swamp sparrow, song sparrow, white-throated sparrow, towhee, cardinal, myrtle warbler, marsh hawk, great blue heron, herring gull, ring-billed gull, kingfisher, mockingbird, redwing, meadowlark, purple grackle, junco, turkey vulture, chickadee and titmouse. Although not visible in person, evidence of owls was seen in the form of pellets of skin and fur which had been dropped at the foot of a tree in which the owls had been feeding.

-- Richmond, Virginia

BACK BAY WINTER FIELD TRIP

By James W. Eike

As has been the practice in the last few years, the annual winter trip to Back Bay Refuge was divided into two sections, with December 4th being set as the date for the V.S.O. membership other than the Cape Henry and Hampton Roads Chapters.

A number of members spent the night of December 3rd at Virginia Beach, and a half dozen of these assembled at the DeWitt Cottage and spent several delightful hours in discussing this and other field trips, and such varied subjects as botany and ichthyology. The following morning, after an excellent breakfast with the DeWitt's, the Virginia Beach group left at 6:30 and arrived at Sandbridge at the appointed hour of 7:00, where we were joined by Frederic Scott, who had driven from Richmond after arising at 3:30 a.m.

The morning was clear with the temperature in the high 20s and with a light wind. The combination was sufficient to produce reddened faces and tear-blurred eyes after a few minutes' exposure above the sides of the truck or boat. After noon the temperature rose to a more comfortable 45 or 50 degrees.

The group of twenty persons rode along the beach to the Refuge where Jack Perkins had half the party tour the sand dunes, mud flats, marshes and bayberry thickets by truck and on foot, while the remainder covered the Bay on his power boat. The groups then exchanged areas so that everyone covered all varieties of habitat possible within the time limits. Throughout the day the two parties kept in touch by radio-telephone to alert each other to anything of unusual interest. A total of 61 species was observed. Some of the more interesting finds were these: an immature common loon found dead on the beach; possibly 300 Gannets soaring and plummeting into the ocean just off shore; excellent views of two Peregrine Falcons; one Pigeon Hawk (Merlin); five black-bellied Plovers over Jack Perkins' home and a sixth walking about on his lawn as tamely as a domestic chicken; the sight of twelve Great Black-backed Gulls just off the beach; an Orange-crowned Warbler observed at close range; and a flock of 55 Snow Buntings. The latter were reported to be more abundant throughout the area than in past winters. Those of us who visited Long Island in Back Bay in the afternoon found an interesting concentration of land birds. The Island was planted in wheat almost to the water's edge, where it was fringed with low shrubs, weeds and Japanese honeysuckle. It tapered to a point of perhaps one-third acre, with a more dense growth of trees, shrubs, and honeysuckle at the edge of the wheat field, opening into a grove of tall, heavily-berried holly trees with almost no undergrowth. Here, in an area of about 30x80 feet, we found the following species: Carolina Wren, Mocking Bird, Brown Thrasher, Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Orange-crowned Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Cardinal, Goldfinch, Towhee, Slate-colored Junco, White-throated Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow and Song Sparrow.

It was virtually impossible to count the waterfowl at Back Bay because the disturbance caused by the continual shooting of hunters around the limits of the Refuge and by the trucks and power boat taking V.S.O. members about the area kept the birds almost constantly on the move. All members of our group came away with a mental picture of the air filled with many thousands of milling geese, swans and ducks for the six and one-half hours the party were at the Refuge, and of countless birds always in view on the water and along the shoreline. Jack Perkins was apologetic because only 300 to 400 Snow Geese appeared of the several thousand present in the area at the time.

Lunch was served by members of a local Home Demonstration Group, and all agreed that the menu of roast beef, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, gravy, carrots, salad, pickles, hot rolls, butter, apple and pumpkin pie, coffee and other items, all in vast quantities, was one of the finest ever set before the V.S.O. The ladies were most gracious hostesses and because of this the group was even more reluctant than usual to break off the discussions and depart for home.

All members of the party were most grateful to Mr. & Mrs. Jack Perkins for arranging one of the high spots of the V.S.O. Silver Anniversary Year.

-- Falls Church, Virginia

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HELP US BAND MOURNING DOVES!

The most pressing need for improving Mourning Dove management is better information on the movement of doves from breeding areas of known population density to the various concentration points during migration and the winter months. Recoveries from doves banded as nestlings and breeding adults are needed to provide information on the source of origin of birds killed in each hunting area or state. To obtain the desired recoveries, it is necessary to secure assistance in banding a considerable number of nestlings and breeding adults throughout the range of the Mourning Dove. An analysis of recoveries from all previous dove banding provides only about 1,000 usable recoveries from nestling banding.

The recovery rate from nestling banding unfortunately is very low, usually only one to two per cent. However, several nestling banding projects have produced higher rates of recovery; consequently we hope more recoveries may result from intensified nestling banding projects. We need between 50,000 and 100,000 nestlings banded during the next five years. Adults banded from mid-May to mid-July can be considered breeding adults at the location of banding.

The recovery rate from adults may be slightly higher than that from nestlings; however, the difficulties of banding adults during the desired period may limit the number which can be banded. They must be trapped on the nest or baited to nearby traps. This requires very frequent visits to traps since adults cannot be away from eggs or young in the nest more than a very short time. On the other hand, banding of nestling doves is a specialized job,

requiring diligent search for dove nests in various habitats. If eggs are found in the nest, a subsequent visit must be made to band the young. Usually we recommend the nestlings should be banded from approximately six to ten days of age. However, by utilizing a technique developed by Charles Kossack of Barrington, Illinois, and described in Bird Banding (23:28-29, January 1952), very young nestlings can be safely banded. It is necessary to use a short piece of elastic adhesive tape, $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 inch wide, wrapped around the band and secured to the upper part of the leg, mainly on the small downy feathers. This prevents the band from slipping up above the joint of the leg or off the toes. The adhesive tape will gradually come loose and fall off in one to three weeks.

Banding should be so distributed and in such numbers that it will sample adequately the annual production and the breeding population to be evaluated. Nestlings should be banded throughout the entire nesting season in order to sample the production of all broods. The dove nests from March to September. Usually two or three broods are successful from four to six nesting attempts.

A banding permit must first be secured from the Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, 25, D.C., and the necessary Size 3-A bands will be furnished by this agency. Some states also require a state banding permit. If you are able to participate, please write me of your plans and at the close of the nesting season send a summary of your accomplishments. You will contribute much needed information to an important investigation of this migratory game bird and we believe you will enjoy the experience.

-- Harold S. Peters
Research Biologist
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Peachtree-Seventh Building
Atlanta 5, Georgia

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VIRGINIA NOTES

Parasitic Jaeger. Stercorarius parasiticus. May 2, 1954. In company with Dr. Clement Cobb, and Richard Harrison, both of New York City, I saw a Parasitic Jaeger in adult plumage from the Ferry, about half way between Little Creek and Kiptopeke, Virginia. The bird crossed the bow of the ferry, going toward the open ocean, and made a half circle just ahead of us. We all had a fine view of it, and there was no doubt in our minds as to the positive identification. There were many gulls in the neighborhood, but the jaeger paid no attention to them, and disappeared to the eastward, flying quite low over the waves. -- Locke L. Mackenzie, New York City

Baltimore Oriole and Dickcissel at Arlington. - Arthur H. Fast reports that on March 13, 1955, he banded a female Baltimore Oriole. It was seen on March 7 and daily thereafter until it was trapped and banded. The identification was verified by Dr. John W. Aldrich. On March 29, 1955, Fast banded a female or immature Dickcissel. It was in the trap with several House Sparrows and was nearly overlooked. It was not seen either before or after being trapped. The bird was examined in the hand by Harriet Sutton, an officer of the D.C. Audubon Society and by James W. Eike of the V.S.O. Both birds normally arrive in this latitude about May 1. Both were trapped on the Fast home place, 4924 Rock Spring Road, Arlington.

The North American Birds of Virginia Chroniclers. Under this title, W.L. McAtee has published a paper that is an important account of early Virginia writings on birds (Journal Soc. Bibl. Nat. Hist., Vol. 3, Part 2, 1955). The author annotates the ornithological matter in fourteen writers prior to the Eighteenth Century.



The Raven

BULLETIN OF THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY

J. J. MURRAY, EDITOR
LEXINGTON, VA.

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CONTENTS

ANNUAL MEETING NUMBER

	Page
Program of Twenty-Sixth Annual Meeting	65
The 1955 VSO Annual Meeting By Robert J. Watson, Secretary	66
The 1955 Annual VSO Field Trip By W. F. Rountrey	70
Baird's Sandpiper on the Eastern Shore By C. C. Steirly	71
Yellow-crowned Night Heron Nest in Sussex County By C. C. Steirly	72

Copy for The Raven should be sent to J.J. Murray, 6 White Street, Lexington, Virginia.

Application for membership and membership dues should be sent to C.C. Steirly, Waverly, Virginia.

Requests for change of address should be sent to Miss Gertrude Prior, Sweet Briar, Virginia.

PROGRAM OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING

Virginia Society of Ornithologists

Norfolk, Virginia

April 28, 30, 1955

THURSDAY APRIL 28

6:30 A.M. - Trip to Lake Drummond (out of town members of VSO)

FRIDAY, APRIL 29

- 9:00 A.M. - Registration, Lobby, Museum of Arts and Science
- 10:00 A.M. - Business Meeting, Reports of Member Chapters, North Gallery, Presiding; Jack Perkins, President.
- 12:00 noon - Lunch. Local Eating Places. YWCA on Freemason St.
- 1:00 P.M. - Afternoon Session, North Gallery, Moderator; W.F. Rountrey.
- 1:05 P.M. - Welcome. Mr. John D. Hatch, Jr., Director of Museum.
- 1:10 P.M. - "A City Becomes Interested". Mr. Fred Huette, Superintendent of Parks, Norfolk.
- 1:25 P.M. - "Bluebird Boxes". Paul Sykes, Student.
- 1:35 P.M. - "Changes in the Virginia Check List Since Spring, 1953." Dr. J.J. Murray, Editor, "The Raven".
- 1:55 P.M. - "Birds of the Virginia Coast". Mr. Bruce McCartney, U.S. Coast Guard.
- 2:10 P.M. - "Forest Conservation Practices and Aliteriation of Bird Habitats." C.C. Steirly, Virginia Forest Service.
- 2:30 P.M. - "Virginia Birds in Thailand." H.G. Deignan, United States National Museum.
- 2:50 P.M. - "Birds in Museum Display." Roger Rogaet, Norfolk Museum.
- 3:00 P.M. - Tea.
- 3:30 P.M. - Discussion groups. Members have their choice:
- "Bird Banding", Dr. John Grey, Leader, Gallery E.
 - "Attracting Birds to the Home", L.E. Burford, Gallery H.
 - "Wildlife Photography", L.G. Kesteloo, North Gallery.

6:30 P.M. - Annual Dinner. Norfolk Hague Club. Presiding, Jack Perkins, President.

Invocation -

Dinner -

Election of Officers for 1955-56.

"Shore Birds of Tidewater" - E.K. Sloan.

"Field Trip" - W.F. Rountrey, L.E. Burford, Virginia Lee Speer.

SATURDAY, APRIL 30

6:00 A.M. - Breakfast, Glass House - (Route 13 and 170).

7:00 A.M. - Field Trips.

1:00 P.M. - Lunch, Sandbridge.

Report of Resolutions Committee.

2:00 P.M. - Refuge Field Trip - (optional).

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THE 1955 V.S.O. ANNUAL MEETING

By Robert J. Watson, Secretary

The 1955 meeting of the Virginia Society of Ornithology got underway unofficially on Thursday morning, April 28, 1955, with an informal trip to the Dismal Swamp for those members fortunate enough to come early. The trip was led by members of the Cape Henry Bird Club. All those participating agreed that it was extremely worthwhile.

The formal meeting began at 10:00 A.M. on Friday, April 29, 1955, in the Museum of Arts and Sciences, Norfolk, Virginia. President Jack Perkins opened the meeting and asked Dr. D. R. Hostetter to offer a benediction. The morning session was devoted to business. The president commented on the novelty of a morning business session, the purpose of which is to allow more time for consideration of necessary business matters. Mr. Perkins then expressed the belief that it was desirable to keep the membership of the Society informed of the activities of the Executive Committee. He therefore asked the secretary, Mr. R.J. Watson, to summarize the actions of the Committee at its last meeting, which took place on March 19, 1955. Mr. Watson gave a brief summary of the minutes of this meeting.

Mr. Perkins appointed the following three committees: Nominating, Dr. J.J. Murray (chairman), Mr. Fred R. Scott, Mr. R.J. Beasley; Resolutions, Miss Gertrude Prior (chairman), Mrs. C.L. Burgess, Mrs. Margaret Coleman; Auditing, Mr. Edwin Miller and Dr. D.R. Hostetter.

The President then called on Mr. W.F. Rountrey to report on the subject of possible VSO affiliation with the Virginia Wildlife Federation, a group made up of organizations (primarily sportsmen's clubs) interested in wildlife conservation in Virginia. The Executive Committee, at its last meeting, had tentatively voted in favor of VSO membership in the Federation, subject to the approval of the Society as a whole. The cost of membership will be twenty-five cents for each VSO member, and the Society's voting strength in the Federation will be one vote for each twenty-five members or fraction thereof. Mr. Rountrey characterized the Federation as the strongest force for conservation in the state of Virginia. He introduced Mr. William Newsome, a representative of the Federation, who extended to the VSO an invitation to join. After a short discussion, it was moved and seconded that the VSO become a member of the Virginia Wildlife Federation. The motion was carried.

Mr. C.C. Steirly, the treasurer, reported that the Executive Committee had recently decided that the annual financial report should be placed on a fiscal year basis. This is to be done by having the treasurer prepare a report showing the financial condition as of July 1 each year, which will be published in the Raven. Mr. Steirly then gave a current report, showing a balance on hand of \$853.27 at this time, as compared with \$759.21 as of April 21, 1954. Of the current balance, \$58.90 represents a special "trip fund" for unexpected expenses on field trips and forays; the general balance, therefore, is \$794.37.

For the Conservation Committee, Mr. Rountrey, the chairman, gave a report on the proposed hawk and owl protection bill, which he believes will be supported by the Virginia Wildlife Federation. The committee plans to meet with the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries during May. Mr. Rountrey described the wording of the proposed "model law" which would protect all species of hawks and owls except when actually destroying poultry. Such a law, he believes, has an excellent chance of passage.

The president reported that a Field Activities Committee had been appointed, under the chairmanship of Mr. Fred R. Scott. Mr. James W. Eike, a member of this committee, read a report on its work. The purpose of the committee is to stimulate VSO members to make their observations more systematic, to undertake more serious study projects, and to make certain that their observations are reported.

The business session was concluded with reports from the four local chapters, submitted by the representatives, as follows: Cape Henry Bird Club, Mrs. L.E. Burford; Hampton Roads Bird Club, Mr. Ray J. Beasley; Northern Virginia Chapter, Mr. James W. Eike; Richmond Natural History Society, Mrs. Margaret Coleman. All these chapters have undertaken a program of monthly meetings and field trips.

At a short Executive Committee meeting held during lunch, Dr. J.J. Murray was reappointed editor of the Raven, and Miss Gertrude Prior was reappointed publisher. Fred R. Scott was appointed assistant editor, in charge of field trip and local club news.

The afternoon meeting was devoted to papers and discussions. Mr. W.F. Rountrey served as moderator for this session. Mr. John D. Hatch, Jr., director of the Norfolk Museum, extended a welcome to the Society. Dr. M. Gerald Akers read a paper entitled "Virginia Birds in Thailand", prepared by Dr. H.G. Deignan, who was not able to attend. Dr. Deignan's paper listed a number of bird forms native to Thailand which are either conspecific with, or closely resemble, certain species found in Virginia, and discussed the evolutionary and geographical factors responsible for this condition. Mr. Fred Huetten, Superintendent of Parks for the City of Norfolk, speaking on the subject of "A City Becomes Interested", described the park system of Norfolk and its objectives. Mr. Paul Sykes discussed "Bluebird Boxes", explaining the proper method of constructing and locating these boxes.

Dr. J.J. Murray, in a paper entitled "Second Revision of the 1952 Check List", mentioned the large number of changes in the Check List which have been noted since the first revision in 1953. He singled out for discussion some of the more important of these changes. The number of forms recorded for the state is now 414, with 12 hypothetical and 2 hybrids; at the time of the first revision, the corresponding figures were 404, 13 and 2 respectively. Those added to the list include: Cory's Shearwater, Yellow-billed Tropic-bird, Inland Dowitcher, Cattle Egret, Eastern Glossy Ibis (formerly hypothetical), Great Skua, Appalachian Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Boreal Chickadee, Willow Veery, Brewer's Blackbird (formerly hypothetical), and Le Conte's Sparrow.

Mr. Robert Bruce McCartney, of the United States Coast Guard, described "Birds of the Virginia Coast", on the basis of his observations made from a Coast Guard lightship, 20 miles off Chincoteague. Since March, 1954, when he was first assigned to this ship, Mr. McCartney has observed not only a great many sea birds, but a surprisingly large number and variety of land birds. The latter, according to Mr. McCartney, form the principal object of his attention. He is continuing his observations in an effort to account for this seaward movement of land birds through possible correlations with various weather conditions. Following this talk, Dr. Murray commented on the great value and originality of Mr. McCartney's project.

"Forest Conservation Practices and Alteration of Bird Habitats", a talk by Mr. Charles C. Steirly, sparkled with flashes of the wit for which Mr. Steirly has become known. The speaker defended the practices employed to increase the yield of pine timber in eastern Virginia at the expense of other species of trees, and urged VSO members to undertake careful studies of the effect of these practices on the habitat of birds.

Following an interlude for refreshment, the members reassembled in three discussion groups. Mr. L.G. Kesteloo, of the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, led a discussion on "Wildlife Photography"; Dr. John H. Grey, on "Bird Banding"; and Mrs. L.E. Burford, on "Attracting Birds to the Home".

The annual banquet took place at the Hague Club, with President Perkins presiding. A note of regret was introduced into an otherwise delightful occasion when Mr. Perkins announced that Mr. Paul Favour, the vice-president of the Society, was being transferred to Maine by the National Park Service within a few weeks. Dr. Murray, on behalf of the Nominating Committee,

placed the following names in nomination for officers of the Society for the next year: President, Jack Perkins; Vice-President, W.F. Rountrey; Secretary, Robert J. Watson; Treasurer, Charles C. Steirly; Executive Committee (for a three-year term), James W. Eike, Ray J. Beasley, and Miss Jane Craig. All of these officers were elected. Mr. Eike presented a resolution for a gift to Dr. Florence Hague, in recognition of her long service as secretary of the Society. This resolution was approved, and the gift presented in late May upon her return home from the West.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Dr. Florence S. Hague is one of the founders of the Virginia Society of Ornithology, and has been active as a member since that time, having contributed materially to the Society and attending meetings regularly, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hague has served the Society faithfully for 25 years as its Secretary, and therefore one of its key officers, and in so doing has furthered the science of ornithology in Virginia, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hague, through her interest and her personality not only has contributed greatly the comradeship which is so important to the Society, but has stimulated the interest of others in the Society and its objectives, particularly through her efforts in advancing the study of ornithology at Sweet Briar College,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Society herewith present to Dr. Florence S. Hague a gift from the members as a token of the Society's esteem and appreciation for her contribution to Virginia ornithology and to the Society.

(Signed) Jack E. Perkins, President

Mr. Perkins introduced Mr. E.K. Sloane, of the Cape Henry Bird Club, who showed colored movies which he had taken of birds along the nearby coast. A description by Mr. Rountrey of plans for the next day's field trip closed the evening's activities.

The Saturday morning field trip started after breakfast at 7:00 A.M. The members divided into several groups for coverage of areas which represented a well-rounded survey of the different types of habitat in the area. All groups converged at Sandbridge at 1:00 P.M., for an excellent lunch served by the Pungo Home Demonstration Club.

After lunch, Dr. Hostetter reported that the Auditing Committee had approved the treasurer's accounts. Miss Prior, for the Resolutions Committee, proposed a vote of thanks to those individuals and groups who had helped to make the meeting successful, including the Cape Henry Bird Club and the Pungo Home Demonstration Club. The vote was given unanimously. Mr. Perkins asked

all existing committees to continue for another year without change. Mr. Steirly reported briefly on plans for the Blue Ridge Foray, which have had to be revised on account of the imminent departure of Mr. Favour.

Following the compilation of the list of birds seen on the morning's field trip, the 1955 annual meeting adjourned.

-- 3228 S. 5th Street
Arlington, Virginia

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THE 1955 ANNUAL V.S.O. FIELD TRIP

By W. F. Rountrey

The Annual Field Trip of the V.S.O. was held at Norfolk on April 30, 1955, with about 55 people taking part. The weather was very windy with showers in the early morning. By noon the skies were clear and the temperature in the high fifties.

Following breakfast at 6:00 A.M. in the Glass House, the main trip got underway in thirteen autos. Leaving the Glass House the group entered Princess Anne County to follow a route across the center of the county to Sandbridge. Stops were made at Stumpy Lake, City Pumping Station, Salem and North Landing Swamp. The trip ended at Sandbridge in time to give everyone the opportunity of visiting the beach before lunch.

Following lunch several members continued the field trip to Back Bay Wildlife Refuge while others went north along the coast to Little Creek.

Aside from the main trip through the center of Princess Anne County two side trips were made by small parties. One group took in the Northwest River Region of Norfolk County, the other group went South in Princess Anne County to Knotts Island.

Due to weather conditions the number of birds observed was not large. However, most members were able to add new species to their life list. In the morning 133 species were observed, plus 6 Glossy Ibis just over the North Carolina line. In the afternoon those members going to the Refuge and Little Creek added 14 species to the list, bringing the total for the day to 147 (148 including the Ibis).

Birds observed included: Common Loon, Red-throated Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Gannet, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, American Egret, Snowy Egret, Louisiana Heron, Little Blue Heron, Green Heron, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, American Bittern, Least Bittern, Canada Goose, Mallard, Black Duck, Baldpate, Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, Shoveller, Wood Duck, Canvas-back, American Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Bald Eagle, Marsh Hawk, Osprey, Duck Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Bob-white,

King Rail, Virginia Rail, Sora, Coot, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Wilson's Snipe, Hudsonian Curlew, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Willet, Greater Yellow-legs, Lesser Yellow-legs, Pectoral Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Dowitcher, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Sanderling, Herring Gull, Laughing Gull, Gull-billed Tern, Forster's Tern, Common Tern, Royal Tern, Caspian Tern, Mourning Dove, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Crested Flycatcher, Acadian Flycatcher, Wood Pewee, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Bank Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Crow, Fish Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Carolina Wren, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Wood Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, American Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Parula Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Black-poll Warbler, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Palm Warbler, Oven-bird, Northern Water-thrush, Yellow-throat, Chat, Hooded Warbler, Redstart, English Sparrow, Bobolink, Meadowlark, Red-wing, Orchard Oriole, Rusty Blackbird, Boat-tailed Grackle, Purple Grackle, Cowbird, Summer Tanager, Cardinal, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Goldfinch, Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Seaside Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Field Sparrow.

-- Norfolk, Virginia

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BAIRD'S SANDPIPERS (*EROLIA BAIRDII*) ON THE EASTERN SHORE

By C. C. Steirly

A field party including W.F. Rountrey, F.C. Richardson, Paul Dulaney, Paul Sykes and the writer found two Baird's Sandpipers (*Erolia bairdii*) on the Eastern Shore on May 28, 1955.

The first of these was observed on the bare sands of Kiptopeke Beach just east of the ferry landing pier. It was associated with a flock of some forty Ruddy Turnstones, four Red-backed Sandpipers, two Black-bellied Plover, a Knot and a Sanderling, all of which were a great aid in affording good size comparisons. The bird was observed at fairly close range with binoculars and then studied in detail with a 30x telescope. The scale-like back markings, buffy breast and head, and blackish legs were all carefully noted. Upon being flushed, the bird showed its lack of the wing stripe found in the other "peep" sandpipers.

Later in the morning, and some 60 miles to the north, another specimen of the Baird Sandpiper was observed under very favorable circumstances. This one was found on an open mud flat and tidal pool in a short grass salt marsh just off the Chincoteague causeway. Its associates here were a flock

of over a hundred Semi-palmated Sandpipers and a Red-backed Sandpiper. The contrast in size and coloration to that of the Semi-palmated Sandpipers was noted carefully and the bird was studied for some time before it was deliberately flushed.

The Baird's Sandpiper is considered a rare visitor on the Atlantic Coast as its migration route is normally along the Mississippi River and Great Plains region from its winter home in Argentina and Chile to its breeding grounds in the Arctic between Alaska (possibly Siberia) and Baffinland. Forbush, in "Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States" (Vol.1), states that it is a rare migrant along the New England Coast, but suggests that it might be more common than the records indicate owing to the difficulties of distinguishing it from the more common "peep" sandpipers. It is considered the most difficult of shore birds to identify; therefore all flocks of "peep" should be carefully studied.

It is interesting to note that in the Chincoteague marshes near the scene of this "find", the nest of a Willet was observed. Its two rather large eggs were very well concealed owing to their coloration. Frank Richardson measured one of the eggs, using a pocket knife as a caliper, and found its dimensions to be 51mm by 37mm. The nest was constructed of grasses and was placed on the ground in the short marsh grass. Near this same area a pair of Gadwalls was seen.

-- Waverly, Virginia

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YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON NEST IN SUSSEX COUNTY

By C. C. Steirly

On May 21, 1955, while walking along a trail through a loblolly pine forest of pole size, the writer observed the pipped remains of three rather large bluish-green eggs associated with numerous droppings. A close inspection of the crowns of nearby trees revealed a Yellow-crowned Night Heron perched on a most flimsy nest composed of loose small sticks out near the end of a pine limb. Later measurements with a hand level indicated that the nest was 48 feet above the ground. A close inspection of the ground directly under the nest led to the finding of the chitinous shells and legs of dozens of crawfish (*Cambarus*) which apparently had formed the principal diet of the adults.

This nest was found in the same area used for a winter bird population study reported in an earlier issue of the Raven. The nearest body of water to the nest site was a sluggish creek in a bottomland hardwood forest some 240 yards away.

The first Yellow-crowned Night Herons observed in the locality were two seen in flight over a pond a half mile away on April 9.

-- Waverly, Virginia

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FORTHCOMING EVENT

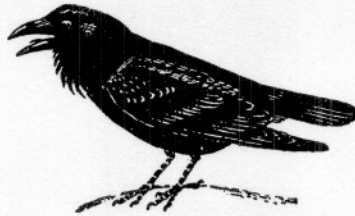
An Eastern Shore field trip is being planned for the weekend of August 27-28. This will involve an all day boat trip to one of the coastal islands and a half day visit to marsh and highland habitats. Those planning to attend the full day * part of it should plan to meet the group on the night of August 26. The trip will break up on the 28th about noon.

Exact details as to time and place, hotels, etc., will be announced later. This trip will require reservations from members planning to attend, and the usual \$1.00 reservation fee will be charged.

C.C. Steirly
Chairman, Trip Committee
Waverly, Virginia

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(Correction. In the April, 1955, issue of The Raven, the refuge at Hog Island, Surry County, was referred to as a National Waterfowl Refuge. It is a Virginia refuge; and the correct name for it is the Hog Island State Waterfowl Refuge.)



The Raven

BULLETIN OF THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY

J. J. MURRAY, EDITOR
LEXINGTON, VA.

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CONTENTS

	Page
Second Revision of the Virginia 1952 'Check-List'	
By J. J. Murray	75

Copy for The Raven should be sent to J.J. Murray, 6 White Street, Lexington, Virginia.

Application for membership and membership dues should be sent to C.C. Steirly, Waverly, Virginia.

Requests for change of address, or for back issues of The Raven, should be sent to Miss Gertrude Prior, Sweet Briar, Virginia.

SECOND REVISION OF THE VIRGINIA 1952 'CHECK-LIST'

By J. J. Murray

The VSO publication, A Check-List of the Birds of Virginia, came off the press on February 8, 1952. In the "First Revision of the Virginia 1952 'Check-List'" (Raven, 24, 34-45) in May-June, 1953, most of the errors were caught and corrected, and a good deal of new material added. Since then a vast amount of data has piled up in our records, the most significant items of which are presented herewith. Our knowledge of the status of many birds on our list has been greatly increased. By stimulating efforts to fill in gaps in our knowledge, the 'Check-List' has been of considerable service to Virginia ornithology.

It may be pointed out that much of this increase in our knowledge relates to water birds, and consequently has come from our coastal areas. In two places in particular, in the Chincoteague and Cape Henry regions, a great deal of work has been done and a much better picture of our birdlife produced. This is true in somewhat lesser degree of what we speak of as the Washington region, meaning by that the Virginia territory close to metropolitan Washington, covering Alexandria and Arlington and Fairfax Counties. In spite of the fact that professional ornithologists have combed that territory for a hundred years, not a little information has been added in the past ten years, chiefly through members of the District of Columbia Audubon Society. If nothing else has been done, present day observers have kept up with the changing status of many birds.

In our 'Check-List' 398 forms were tabulated, plus 12 hypothetical forms and two hybrids. In the first revision our list stood at 404, plus 13 (not 12 as there stated) hypothetical forms and two hybrids. In the present revision one form is eliminated; 11 are added to the regular list, three of which are changed from hypothetical to regular status; and two forms have been added to the hypothetical list. The Virginia list thus stands at present at 414, plus 12 hypothetical forms and two hybrids. It may again be pointed out that our hypothetical list consists only of birds of whose status we are reasonably sure.

An Elimination

Northern Swainson's Thrush. *Hylocichla ustulata almae* Oberholser. This subspecies is no longer recognized in the A.O.U. 'Check-List' (Auk, 70, 360), hence it should be dropped from our list.

Additions

Cory's Shearwater. *Puffinus diomedea borealis* Cory. Bruce McCartney, while stationed on a Light-ship, 20 miles out from Chincoteague, in longitude 74-56.4 West and latitude 37-55.5 North, recorded this bird regularly from June 10, 1954, to October, 1954, seeing up to several hundred in a day in June. W.S. James, while on a naval vessel, about 60 miles due east of Cape Charles, saw about 20 on June 17, 1954.

Yellow-billed Tropic Bird. Phaethon lepturus catesbyi Brandt. On the evening of Hurricane Hazel, October 15, 1954, one of these tropical visitors was picked up on a street in Staunton, Virginia, by Miss Mary Artis Danner. The bird was alive, but so weak that it soon died. The mounted specimen is now in the possession of Charles H. Robertson, Frazier Lane, College Park, Staunton. The specimen is in good plumage with the exception of one of the tail feathers which had been lost some time previously and which had only grown out to a third the normal length.

Cattle Egret. Bubulcus ibis ibis Linnaeus. This Old World heron, which first came from Africa to northern South America and then to Florida, should now be changed from the hypothetical to the regular list. The first Virginia record was made when John H. Buckalew saw two of these birds on May 13, 1953, at the upper end of the 'Levels', on the Chincoteague Refuge. Refuge Manager Mellinger saw one at Piney Island, where cattle are pastured, between Chincoteague and Assateague Islands, on May 19, 1954. Two were present on May 30, four on June 11, and 7 on August 1. From September 13 to early October there were ten: 7 on October 9; but none after Hurricane Hazel struck on October 15.

Eastern Glossy Ibis. Plegadis falcinellus falcinellus (Linnaeus). This bird also can now be placed on the regular list. Mellinger saw one on May 8, 1953, at the upper end of the 'Levels', on the Chincoteague Refuge, and five on May 9, 1954. Scott saw six on May 30, 1954, on Cedar Island, on the Eastern Shore. Rountrey found one on March 25 and 26, 1955, at a small pond in Norfolk County.

Inland Dowitcher. Limnodromus griseus hendersoni Rowan. Frank A. Pitelka, in a paper entitled, "Geographic Variation and the Species Problem in the Shore-bird Genus Limnodromus" (Univ. of Calif. Publ. Zool., Vol. 50 (1), pp. 1-108, 1950), lists 9 specimens of this race from the Eastern Shore of Virginia, July 14 to September 5, and one on May 12, no years given. He estimates that the typical race, griseus, outnumbers hendersoni roughly two or three to one on the central and southeast Atlantic Coast, and that from Chesapeake Bay northward the ratio increases rapidly (Raven, 25, 141).

Great Skua. Catharacta skua skua Brunnich. Bruce McCartney, while on the Light-ship, 20 miles off Chincoteague, saw one on January 1, 1955. This observation justifies changing this species from hypothetical to regular status on our list.

Appalachian Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Sphyrapicus varius appalachien-sis Ganier. This southern race, recently described by Dr. Albert F. Ganier (The Migrant, 25, 37-41), is the breeding subspecies of our highest mountain areas in Virginia. All breeding records in our 'Check-List' (page 67) are referable to this race. My son, James Murray, Jr., and I collected a male on House Mountain, near Lexington, on November 30, 1954, which was identified by Gorman M. Bond of the National Museum as belonging to this subspecies. We also have a Lexington specimen of the typical race, taken on October 29, 1942, and identified by Wetmore.

Boreal Chickadee. *Parus Hudsonicus* subsp.? In the invasion of northern chickadees during the winter of 1954-55, the Boreal Chickadee, a brown-capped species, appeared in Maryland and Virginia. The Maryland bird was collected and identified subspecifically as *Parus hudsonicus littoralis* (Bryant). The Virginia bird appeared at the feeding station at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E.W. Bennington, 224 Kent Road, Wellington, Fairfax, on January 29, 1955, and remained through the winter. It was identified as to species by J.M. Abbott, E.C. Davis, and John W. Aldrich, but was not collected.

Willow Veery. *Hylocichla fuscescens salicicola* Ridgway. It is now known that this western form of the Veery is not uncommon in migration in the eastern United States. One, originally secured by Mrs. M.B. Peacock at Pine Ridge, near Fairfax, on May 9, 1953, was turned over to the Fish and Wildlife Service collection and was identified as this race. While it probably occurs not infrequently in the State, this is our only Virginia record.

Brewer's Blackbird. *Euphagus cyanocephalus* Wagler. Abbott stated that he carefully observed one at Roaches Run on October 8, 1952 (Atlantic Naturalist, 8, 148). Stephen M. Russell, who is familiar with the bird in Louisiana, had a good view of one at Abingdon on December 25, 1954 (Raven, 26, 25 & 40). Charles O. Handley, Jr., described at length three birds which he saw at Blacksburg on December 28, 1954, and which he took to be this species (Raven, 26, 40-42).

Leconte's Sparrow. *Passerherbulus caudacuta* (Latham). Stephen M. Russell saw two, and collected one of them, in the neighborhood of the South Holston Reservoir, near Abingdon, on December 25, 1954. The specimen is now in the Museum of Zoology at Louisiana State, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Additions to Hypothetical List

(Atlantic Fulmar. *Fulmaris glacialis* (Linnaeus)). R. Bruce McCartney saw a mounted Fulmar in a home on the Eastern Shore. Consulting the records of the Fish and Wildlife Service, he found this note from a letter from Francis Harper, dated August 25, 1916: "About July 1, 1911, H.H. Cleaves and I saw in the possession of Capt. Alvin (?) Crumb, at Oyster, Va., a mounted Fulmar. I understand that Capt. Crumb took this bird in the vicinity of Cobb's Island where he was formerly captain of the life saving station. Francis Harper.")

(Atlantic Common Puffin. *Fratercula arctica* (Linnaeus)). Ronnie L. Waterfield, assistant at Back Bay Refuge, reported to Refuge Manager Perkins that he saw one of these birds on the beach at Back Bay on Jan. 1, 1955. He had never seen a Puffin before, but described it accurately, and pointed out the picture in the Peterson book. He noted particularly the enlarged bill, and stated that on the beach it walked like a penguin. He was sure that it was not a Dovekie or Razor-billed Auk. Unfortunately he did not report it at once. Perkins could not locate the bird.)

Additional Notes

Red-throated Loon. Scott saw one at Cape Charles, Oct. 25, 1952, which is much our latest date.

Horned Grebe. Scott, Grey and McCartney counted 396 at Yorktown on Dec. 23, 1952, and Scott counted 1,111 around the mouth of York River, Feb. 11, 1953. Summer records: Chincoteague Causeway, June 14, 1953, Scott; Parramore Island, Aug. 15, 1953, P.A. DuMont and others. Early occurrences: Fort Belvoir, Sept. 24, 1954, Abbott; Roaches Run, Oct. 14, 1951.

Northern Pied-billed Grebe. On Sept. 16, 1952, three were picked up by three different rangers at three places on the Skyline Drive in Shenandoah Park. In May, 1952, Rountrey found small young, apparently from two family groups, at the north end of Stumpy Lake, Norfolk. Adults were present there through the summer of 1953, also in the Tabernacle Church section near Norfolk. Mellinger found a nest with three eggs on June 7, 1953, on the Assateague part of Chincoteague Refuge; and Scott found two broods and the nests on June 16, 1953. Grey saw one near Elkton, June 20, 1949, the first summer record for the Valley; and Carpenter saw one near Waynesboro, June 27, 1954.

Eastern Brown Pelican. Clarence Cottam saw one five miles south of Alexandria, June 13, 1953 (Atlantic Naturalist, 9, 36). Sykes, Mike Griffin, and Richard Peake saw one at Sandbridge on April 11, 1955.

Gannet. Scott saw a flock from the western shore of Chesapeake Bay in Northumberland County, March 23, 1952.

Northern Double-crested Cormorant. About 75 spent the summer of 1953 around Cape Charles.

Northern Great Blue Heron. Grey found a rookery of 35 nests in three trees in a cypress swamp, a few miles north of Williamsburg on April 14, 1952. It was reported to have had 50 nests the previous summer.

American Common Egret. Records of this bird all over the State and east of the mountains at all seasons have piled up. In the 'Check-List' it was listed as a "post-breeding visitor". Now it must be classed as a summer visitor, appearing in spring east of the Blue Ridge and occasionally in the Valley, breeding in places in Tidewater and near the coast, and occurring occasionally in winter at Washington and from Hopewell east. In 1951 Rountrey found a rookery of American Egrets and Great Blue Herons near Norfolk covering several acres. He was told that while the Great Blues had nested there for many years, the Egrets had recently moved in. Bagley Walker, Jr., found a rookery near Robbins Corner, in Princess Anne, in 1953.

Common Snowy Egret. This heron has also increased, but not nearly so rapidly as the American Egret. It has become fairly common on the coast in summer. Bagley Walker, Jr., found 20 to 25 nests in the Robbins Corner rookery in 1953, the eggs hatching around May 15. One wintered at Hampton in 1951-52, 1952-53, and 1953-54, Mrs. Luther W. Machen. It is still rather rare around Washington in Spring.

Louisiana Tri-colored Heron. Also increasing, but no new breeding records. We now have a few winter records. Mellinger and Buckalew saw one several times during the winter of 1954-55 at Chincoteague; and Scott and Steirly saw two at Cobb Island on Dec. 28, 1954. Coastal workers should search for nests.

Little Blue Heron. Bagley Walker, Jr., found nests in the Robbins Corner heronry, with eggs hatching in late May. The latest fall record at Norfolk is Nov. 11, 1950, Rountrey. We have an additional winter record, at Wakefield Mansion, Westmoreland County, Jan. 18, 1947 (Wood Thrush, 2, 29).

Eastern Green Heron. Scott found two young just leaving the nest at Cobb Island on the very late date of Aug. 8, 1953. We have a late fall record at Charlottesville, Nov. 14, 1953; and another winter record, Dec. 7, 1952, at Alexandria, Abbott. On May 20, 1953, McCartney found 20 nests on a small island in Gloucester, above the Coleman Bridge.

Eastern Yellow-crowned Night Heron. Mrs. Luther W. Machen and Mrs. Thomas Thompson reported a nest at Hampton with three young on June 29, 1953. Steirly found a nest, May 21, 1955, in Sussex County (Raven, 26, 72). Robert Eggleston and William McMann saw one at Clarksville, Oct. 4, 1952. There is a second record at Lexington, an immature on May 3 and 5, 1953. Winter records: Norfolk, Dec. 6, 1950, Richard Dobie, and Dec. 25, 1950, Mrs. Thomas Thompson; Newport News, Jan. 31, 1953, Beasley; Back Bay, Dec. 27, 1954, Sykes and others.

American Bittern. Additional winter records: Chincoteague, Dec. 27, 1953 (American Naturalist, 7, 194), and Dec. 27, 1952, Scott; Alexandria, Nov. 23, 1954.

Eastern Least Bittern. Scott found two nests with three eggs each and one with 5 young at Assateague Island, June 16, 1953.

Wood Ibis. About 50 in a flock were seen near Hampton on May 3, 1949, some of them remaining for a week, Mrs. L.W. Machen (Raven, 24, 60). Rountrey, Sykes, and Billy Ebird saw one at Stumpy Lake, Norfolk, July 26 to Aug. 9, 1953.

White Ibis. One, seen by Rountrey at Stumpy Lake on Sept. 21, 1954, remained for several days and was seen by other observers.

Whistling Swan. An immature bird appeared at Charlottesville on Nov. 28, 1951, Stevens. Howard Lindquist saw 9 at Fort Eustis, Oct. 22, 1952; and Robert Eggleston found 3 at Buggs Island Reservoir, Dec. 7, 1952.

Eastern Canada Goose. Back Bay had a count of 50,000 in the winter of 1950-51. Five flew over Williamsburg on the remarkable date of June 9, 1952, Grey. John Bryant found a nest at the Hog Island State Waterfowl Refuge in 1954. Up to 8000 wintered at Presquile Refuge in 1954-55, John DeLime.

American Brant. This species is still increasing in numbers on the Eastern Shore, with 20,000 in the winter of 1952-53, although only about 7000 wintered in 1954-55. There is an old record from Alexandria, without date, of a bird secured there by C. Drexler (W.L. McAtee, Atlantic Naturalist, 7, 37). Scott saw 5 from the Cape Charles ferry, Dec. 26, 1952, the first Chesapeake Bay record in many years.

Lesser Snow Goose. Six came to a small pond on the golf course, about two miles south of Lexington, on the amazingly early date of Sept. 30, 1953. All were in immature plumage; three were banded birds. A band, secured from one that was killed by some predator soon after they arrived, had been put on by F. Graham Cooch, of Ottawa, Canada, at Southampton Island during the summer of 1953. There seems to be no other record anywhere near so early in the eastern United States or in the Mississippi Valley. The birds gradually disappeared, the last two being seen on December 16.

Greater Snow Goose. The numbers at Chincoteague in 1954-55 varied from 1000 to 10,000, many of the birds remaining farther north than is usual.

Blue Goose. One wintered at Dayton, 1952-53, Hostetter. John DeLime counted 24 at Presquile, Feb. 7, 1953; and Scott counted 34 at Curle's Neck, near Richmond, Jan. 2, 1955.

Mallard. John Bryant, Manager, reported two broods at Hog Island Refuge in 1954.

Black Duck. Chincoteague had a large hatch in 1953. Scott has found them in June and early July at Hampton and in Mathews County. DeLime found a brood at Presquile in May, 1953; and English found an adult and 6 young at Murray's Pond, Roanoke County, June 28, 1953. Over 3000 wintered at Presquile in 1954-55.

Gadwall. Regular as a transient and in winter at Chincoteague; some remained during the summer of 1953. A count of 300 was made in Westmoreland County, Jan. 21, 1950. Rountrey has a very early record of 30 birds at Norfolk on Sept. 15, 1951.

Eurasian Common Teal. One was seen at Dyke on March 30, 1954, D. Kunkel (Atlantic Naturalist, 9, 256); and one, probably the same bird, at Hunting Creek, Alexandria, April 3 and 4 and 10, 1954 (Atlantic Naturalist, 10, 39). It was a strangely marked bird, with the usual horizontal bar, plus a narrow diagonal bar in front of the wing, J.M. Abbott, E.G. Davis.

Blue-winged Teal. Several pairs nested at Chincoteague in 1953, Mellinger. There were four broods at Hog Island in 1954, Bryant. Scott and A.S. Messenger saw one at Chincoteague on Dec. 27, 1953; Scott saw one at Surry, Jan. 1, 1954; two were found on the Hog Island Christmas Count, Jan. 1, 1954, and one on the Back Bay Count, Dec. 27, 1954.

European Widgeon. A female stayed at Roaches Run from Nov. 24 (S.H. Low) to Dec. 3, 1950 (E.G. Davis) (Atlantic Naturalist, 6, 175); another female was seen there on Oct. 25, 1953, E.G. Davis; and a male spent the month of November, 1953, at Chincoteague, Mellinger.

American Widgeon. A late male was seen at Lexington, May 20, 1948, Murray. Back Bay had a high count of 40,000 in 1950-51, and of 60,000 in 1951-52.

Shoveller. Fairly common at Chincoteague, with high counts of 400 to 750. Some were present there through the summer of 1947, Buckalew.

Wood Duck. Its former occurrence is memorialized by the name of Summerduck Run in Culpeper County. DeLime saw up to 450 on Nov. 21, 1953, and estimated 300 at Presquile through the winter of 1954-55. Steirly found young near Waverly on March 28, 1953 and April 10, 1954. Eight young left a nest hole on the campus of Lynchburg College on July 15, 1954, an unusual place and a very late date, Freer.

Redhead. Back Bay had high counts of 30,000 in 1950-51, and 64,000 in 1951-52.

Ring-necked Duck. High count of 4000 at Back Bay, 1950-51.

Canvas-back. Maximum count at Back Bay of 50,000.

King Eider. C.D. Andrews of Suffolk has a mounted specimen of an immature male, taken at Back Bay, Dec. 15, 1951. Another, said to have been a drake, was shot at the same time but not preserved.

Scoters. According to Mrs. A.C. Reed, all three Scoters have been seen at Cape Henry as late as June 10. A flock of 20,000 Scoters, seen by Dr. G.A. Hall on March 24, 1951, just south of Assateague Island, was judged by Buckalew to have been made up of 50% White-winged, 40% Surf, and 10% American Black Scoters.

American Black Scoter. Rountrey saw a late bird at Back Bay on May 10, 1952; and he and others saw one at Stumpy Lake, March 5, 1955.

Northern Ruddy Duck. Common at Washington in winter, with a count of 6500 at Brooke, Dec. 23, 1951 and 10,000 on Dec. 27, 1953, E.T. McKnight and others. Westmoreland State Park had a count of 3600 on Jan. 29, 1950. Scott saw 8 at Dahlgren, King George County, Sept. 3, 1950. Back Bay had a very high count of 5000 in 1950-51.

Hooded Merganser. Carpenter saw a female at Swoope, Augusta, County, July 2, 1954.

American Common Merganser. H.G.M. Jopson and Carpenter found a female with 6 young at Dayton on May 26, 1953, a remarkable record. They saw both adults and the young on May 27 and 29.

Black Vulture. Mrs. F.R. Scott saw three at Wachapreague, Nov. 11, 1953. It is strange that Eastern Shore records should be so few.

Eastern Goshawk. One was seen at National Airport, near Washington, Nov. 4, 1951, E.G. Davis.

Northern Sharp-shinned Hawk. As is the case with a number of species of hawks, migrants taking off from Kiptopeke seem to pass the Cape Henry region before making their next landfall.

Northern Broad-winged Hawk. Most Broad-wings also seem to miss Cape Henry. Rountrey saw an adult with two young learning to fly at North Landing, near Norfolk, May 28, 1953. This is the first definite breeding record east of Charlottesville. It breeds in Prince William Forest Park, James Baird. Large flights occur in the mountain regions one of the best counts being 1712 on Sept. 24, 1952, at Big Flat Mountain, Albemarle County, Stevens.

American Rough-legged Hawk. Records continue to pile up, chiefly in Tidewater, but also the following: Arlington, Nov. 12, 1952; Dyke, Oct. 25, 1953; a very early record near Paris, on the border of Loudoun, Clarke and Fauquier Counties, Sept. 21, 1952, McNeil Phillips; Warren, Dec. 27, 1954, K. Lawless; Shenandoah Park, Oct. 31, 1953, C.K. Dale and others; and Winchester, Feb. 7, 1952, Scott.

Southern Bald Eagle. Additional records at Front Royal, Lexington, and Roanoke. Paul Bartsch once saw 22, 4 adults and 18 immature birds, circling over his home at Lorton. W. Bryant Tyrrell says that in the Washington region eggs, usually two, sometimes three, and rarely four, are laid in early February (Wood Thrush, 1, 11).

American Marsh Hawk. Scott found it rather common in the Chesapeake Bay marshes of northern Accomac and of Mathews Counties in June and early July, 1953. We have no recent breeding records.

American Osprey. Arthur B. Fuller saw one carrying nesting material at Jamesville, on the Eastern Shore, as early as March 15 in 1951. Stevens has two summer records in Albermarle County: Hatton, July 13, 1952, and Warren, July 9, 1951. Lyle D. Miller found a nest built right up from the beach against a dead pine stub on Hog Island, Eastern Shore, June 10, 1953 (Raven, 24, 87). Winter records: Alexandria, Dec. 20, 1952, Jeanne Stivers; Ft. Belvoir, Jan. 3, 1954, P.A. DuMont and others.

American Peregrine Falcon. There is the same scarcity as in the case of other hawks at Cape Henry in comparison with Cape May and Cape Charles. Miss May T. Cooke calls it a "regular but rather rare winter visitant" in the Washington region. We have additional records at Chincoteague, 8 on Sept. 30, 1953, Mellinger; Yorktown, Jan. 2, 1954, Beasley; Newport News, March 1, 1952, Beasley; Alexandria, Oct. 16, 1953; and Kerr Dam, Mecklenburg County, Dec. 13, 1952, Mrs. A.W. Bachman, M.Grey.

Eastern Pigeon Hawk. Additional records at Wachapreague, Back Bay, Norfolk, Yorktown area, Arlington, Alexandria, Ft. Belvoir, Brooke, Charlottesville, Shenandoah Park, and Clark, Loudoun and Blend Counties.

Appalachian Ruffed Grouse. James Baird says that it is present in small numbers in Prince William Forest Park (Raven, 23, 79).

Northern King Rail. Steirly flushed one from a nest, which held 8 eggs, at Hog Island, Surry County, June 5, 1952.

Northern Clapper Rail. Robert E. Stewart found 79 occupied nests in 47 acres in the Chincoteague marshes in 1951, and banded 742 birds. The bird winters at Chincoteague, usually in small numbers but sometimes in considerable numbers, as in 1952-53.

Northern Virginia Rail. Additional records: Yorktown, Dyke, Lynchburg, Front Royal. Nesting: Pungo, adult with downy young, June 9, 1951, Rountrey, F.C. Richardson; Butts Station, near Norfolk, 7 downy young, July 14, 1953, Richard Peake, Jr.; Assateague Island, 9 eggs, June 16, 1953, Scott.

Sora. S.M. Russell has two winter records at Abingdon, Jan. 3, 1951, and Dec. 27, 1952; and McCartney found it in York River marshes on the Christmas Counts of 1952 and 1953. One seen by Murray at Lexington, June 1, 1953, is on the latest spring date in western Virginia; and one seen by Paxton at Glasgow, Nov. 17, 1953, is on the latest fall date in the Valley.

Eastern Black Rail. One was seen in the Northern Neck, April 17, 1954 (Atlantic Naturalist, 10, 39).

Florida Common Gallinule. Scott found a nest with four eggs at Assateague Island, June 16, 1953. Rountrey counted 50 at Stumpy Lake in September, 1951. Mr. and Mrs. W.O. Lewis and R.J. Watson found an apparently injured bird at the southern entrance of the Skyland Drive on May 17, 1953.

Northern American Coot. One seen by Murray at Lexington, June 1, 1953, is on the latest date in western Virginia; and one at Assateague Island, June 16, 1953, is the first summer date for the Chincoteague Refuge.

Eastern American Oyster-catcher. The species winters in at least small numbers on the Eastern Shore. Grey found 11 at Cobb Island, March 11, 1952; and J.K. Wright saw one at Chincoteague on April 6, 1953. Scott and Steirly found 18 at Cobb Island on Dec. 28, 1954; and Scott saw two at Seaford on November 5, 1952. On July 19, 1952, the V.S.O. group saw 30 on Cobb Island and 9 on Wreck Island, and banded two young on Wreck.

Semipalmated Ringed Plover. Additional winter records: Cape Charles, 5 on Dec. 28, 1952, Scott; Newport News, three seen several times in the winter of 1951-52, Glassell; Cobb Island, 6 on Dec. 28, 1954, Scott and Steirly; Hunting Creek, near Alexandria, Dec. 26, 1953, R. Hough (Atlantic Naturalist, 9, 202).

Eastern Piping Plover. Additional winter records: Cape Charles 5 on December 23, 1952, Scott; Cobb Island, two on Dec. 28, 1954, Scott and Steirly; Seaford, Jan. 31, 1953, Beasley.

Northern Killdeer. The only recent breeding record near the coast is that of a nest found near Stumpy Lake by Rountrey, Richardson and Sykes. It had one egg on March 20, 1954, and three on March 24. Joshua Womeldorf found an early nest at Lexington, with eggs hatching on April 17, 1955, which means that the first egg was laid not later than March 23 or 24.

Atlantic American Golden Plover. Our latest date is of one at Grandview, near Hampton, on Nov. 2, 1952, Glassell and Howard Lindquist. There are additional records at Seaford, Oct. 7, 1951, Beasley and Glassell; at Hunting Creek, Alexandria, Sept. 14, 1952, Abbott; and Blacksburg, Sept. 26, 1953, Edward Willis.

Wilson's Snipe. An altitude record for Virginia is made by one found by Paul Favour on Dec. 26, 1952, at Big Meadows in Shenandoah Park.

Hudsonian Whimbrel. This bird is definitely on the increase on the Eastern Shore, the best recent count totalling 1000 at Chincoteague, mid-July to mid-August, 1951, by Robert E. Stewart.

Upland Plover. At Norfolk Airport, 7 were seen on Aug. 9, 1953, by Skyes and John Withrow, and 9 on Aug. 10 by Rountrey. We have a recent Chincoteague record of 3 on Aug. 5, 1951. Joshua Womeldorf saw a very late bird at Lexington, Oct. 18, 1953.

Spotted Sandpiper. James Baird states that it breeds in Prince William County (Raven, 23, 80). We still do not have a breeding record in eastern Virginia, south of Prince William; but the number of summer records increases. Rountrey saw several through the summer of 1952 at Stumpy Lake. Scott saw paired birds at Cape Charles on June 18, 1953, and in Mathews County on July 11, 1953. One on the Yorktown Peninsula on Oct. 24, 1953, is very late, Beasley. Our only winter record is of two birds seen by Perkins, Rountrey, and others at Back Bay, Dec. 27, 1952.

Solitary Sandpiper. Three seen at Stumpy Lake, Nov. 27, 1953, form much our latest Virginia record, Rountrey and Sykes.

Lesser Yellowlegs. We have a very late date at Lexington, Nov. 18. Winter records: Chincoteague, 7 on Dec. 27, 1953; Hunting Creek, Alexandria, Dec., 1953 to Feb., 1954; Arlington-Alexandria area, four on Dec. 20, 1952; Roaches Run, Jan. 1, 1954.

Pectoral Sandpiper. Beasley saw several at Harpersville, on the Yorktown Peninsula, Nov. 25, 1953.

Common Purple Sandpiper. E.K. Sloane took color movies of one feeding on a barnacle-covered log on the Back Bay beach on Oct. 25, 1953. An early bird was seen at the Little Creek jetties on Oct. 23, 1954; and Scott saw 16 there on Nov. 29, 1953. Glassell found from two to three at Fort Monroe from Dec. 6 to 28, 1952.

White-rumped Sandpiper. This species should now be considered as fairly common in migration on the Eastern Shore and at Washington, uncommon at Cape Henry, and scarce, though not rare, elsewhere throughout the State. The latest fall records are Nov. 5, 1953, seen by Paxton at Lexington, and Nov. 7, 1953, Alexandria.

Baird's Sandpiper. Five additional records: Charlottesville, Oct. 13 and 14, 1951, Mrs. Darden, Mrs. Michie, Stevens; Alexandria, Oct. 11 and 12, Abbott, J.K. Wright (Atlantic Naturalist, 9, 146); Hunting Creek, Alexandria, May 15 and 16, 1954, Abbott (Atlantic Naturalist, 10, 40); Kiptopeke and Chincoteague Causeway, May 28, 1955, Steirly and others (Raven, 26, 71).

Red-backed Dunlin. Rather common now on the Eastern Shore. Grey saw 1000 at Cobb Island, March 11, 1952. It winters in good numbers on the Eastern Shore, at Back Bay, and on the Yorktown Peninsula. Mellinger counted 129 at Chincoteague on Dec. 27, 1952. One was seen at Clarksville, Oct. 4, 1952, Robert Eggleston, W. McMann.

Eastern Dowitcher. Occurs in fair numbers on the Eastern Shore. R.E. Stewart and others counted 420 at Chincoteague on May 20, 1950, and he and Buckalew saw 1000 at Oyster, Aug. 8, 1951.

Semipalmated Sandpiper. Our only winter record is at Newport News, Dec. 26, 1953, W.P. Smith and others.

Marbled Godwit. Apparently more common on the coast than was indicated in the 'Check-List'. There are a good many additional records on the Eastern Shore and at Back Bay.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper. Back Bay, Sept. 26, 1953, Steirly, Rountrey, Richardson, Perkins; also at Sandbridge the same day (Raven, 24, 78).

Ruff. Mellinger got good pictures of a male at Chincoteague Refuge on July 12, 1953, and saw it again on Aug. 6.

Wilson's Phalarope. Fourth, fifth, and sixth State records: Chincoteague, Aug. 24, 1946, Roger Peterson (Wood Thrush, 2, 4); Chincoteague, two on Sept. 7, 1954, R.R. Kerr, Ellsworth Knudsen, and John Terborgh (Atlantic Naturalist, 10, 95); one studied at close range for more than an hour at Stumpy Lake, Norfolk, Oct. 9, 1954, by Rountrey, Griffin, Sykes and Dr. Akers.

Northern Phalarope. Scott saw one in Chesapeake Bay, 7 miles south of Kiptopeke on Oct. 24, 1952.

Pomarine Jaeger. Scott saw one off Rigby Island, Mathews County, Feb. 10, 1953, our only record on the western shore of Chesapeake Bay.

Parasitic Jaeger. R.A. Sieder saw one from the Kiptopeke Ferry, May 7, 1952 (Atlantic Naturalist, 8, 38). An adult was seen on a trip offshore from Cobb Island, Sept. 25, 1954, Grey, Steirly, Scott. Dr. Locke Mackenzie saw one from the Kiptopeke Ferry, May 2, 1954. One was observed chasing a Bonaparte's Gull at Sandbridge, March 12, 1955, by Richardson, Sykes and P. Delany.

Eastern Iceland Gull. One in first year plumage was seen on the Potomac, just south of Alexandria, Nov. 22, 1952, by J.K. Wright, and later by Abbott (Audubon Field Notes, 7, 10). Perkins saw one on the beach at Back Bay, Jan. 29, 1953.

Eastern Glaucous Gull. Mackenzie saw two on a sand bar, just south of Lynnhaven Inlet, Cape Henry, March 27, 1953 (Raven, 24, 64). A gull, probably a Glaucous, was seen at Sandbridge on April 26, 1955, by Perkins and Sykes. An immature, with an oil patch on the breast, was seen on the beach at Back Bay on April 30, 1955, by Perkins and a V.S.O. group. Another, without the oil spot, was seen at False Cape on April 30 by another V.S.O. group. On May 1, E.K. Sloane successfully photographed the oiled bird.

Great Black-backed Gull. In the past decade this bird has been steadily on the increase in our territory. It is now not uncommon in winter on the Eastern Shore, at Cape Henry, and up the York River to Yorktown. A remarkable record is that of one in immature plumage seen at Byrd Park, Richmond, on Nov. 2, 1952, by Scott. He also saw a bird on the late date of May 10, 1952, at Wachapreague. Beasley found two at the Mariner's Museum, Newport News, on Jan. 9 and 22, 1955.

American Herring Gull. One seen at 2870 feet at Mt. Marshall on the Skyline Drive, March 8, 1953, is unusual (fide Paul Favour).

Ring-billed Gull. Lexington, two very late birds, May 20 to June 6, 1954, Joshua Womeldorf.

Atlantic Black-legged Kittiwake. McCartney, while on the light-ship, 20 miles out from Chincoteague, found it fairly common, Nov. 29, 1954, to March 10, 1955, seeing up to 15 in a day.

Eastern Gull-billed Tern. Grey and Murray found a nest on Wreck Island, with one young bird, July 19, 1952. Lyle D. Miller, on June 10, 1953, found about 12 nests, each with three eggs, on Rogue Island, and about 15 pairs at Hog Island, Eastern Shore (Raven, 24, 87). Grey and Steirly found five nests on Wreck, July 13, 1954.

Forster's Tern. Scott and A.S. Messenger counted 104 from the Kiptopeke Ferry, Dec. 26, 1953. It now winters in good numbers in Hampton Roads and Chesapeake Bay, Grey.

Northern Common Tern. Grey and Murray found 14 nests, 13 with eggs about to hatch, on Wreck Island on the late date of July 19, 1952. Charles Hacker saw 7 at Grandview, near Hampton, Jan. 2, 1955. Scott saw one at Little Creek, Nov. 27, 1953; and Mrs. Floy Burford, Perkins and others saw 8 at Back Bay, Dec. 26, 1953; these being by far the latest Virginia dates. Joshua Womeldorf and Murray saw one at Lexington on the very unusual date of June 11, 1955.

Northern Roseate Tern. A sick bird, picked up near Back Bay by Paul Sykes and others on June 14, 1953, died and is now mounted in the Norfolk Museum. Scott saw one at Sandbridge, Aug. 15, 1953, following a hurricane.

Eastern Least Tern. One seen at Roaches Run, Aug. 3, 1952, is a very unusual record (Atlantic Naturalist, 8, 94).

Royal Tern. Lyle D. Miller found a nest with one egg at Rogue Island, June 10, 1953 (Raven, 24, 87). It seems now to be an abundant summer and fall visitor to Chesapeake Bay and the lower tidal rivers. Winter records: Newport News, Dec. 26, 1953, W.F. Smith and others; Grandview, near Hampton, Dec. 26, 1953, Grey; and Jan. 2, 1955, Charles Hacker, and Mrs. Betty Blair.

Caspian Tern. Now fairly common in spring but uncommon in fall in the Washington region.

Northern Black Skimmer. Grey and Murray found 106 nests with eggs about to hatch on Wreck Island on the late date of July 19, 1952; and the V.S.O. group banded 27 large young. Winter records: Back Bay, 2 on Dec. 29, 1951, V.S.O. group; Cape Charles, two on Jan. 1, 1955, John V. Dennis.

Eastern Ground Dove. According to Abbott, George Sigel saw a flock of 10 or 12 at Ft. Belvoir on Sept. 16, 1947 (Wood Thrush, 5, 115).

Black-billed Cuckoo. Warwick, Sept. 14, 1952, Glassell; Great Bridge, Norfolk County, 2 on July 21, 1953, Rountrey; late birds in Surry County on Oct. 3 and 13, 1952, and near Waverly, Oct. 22, 1952, Steirly.

Snowy Owl. Add Surry County and Bridgewater (one shot at Bridgewater, Nov. 16, 1954, Carpenter) to the list of places.

American Long-eared Owl. Beasley has records for Seaford, March 18, 1951, and Yorktown, Feb. 25, 1951. Captain Karl W. Haller and Robert Eggleston found a dead bird about 9 miles west of Churchville, June 20, 1953, a bird of the year in post-juvenal plumage.

American Saw-whet Owl. Williamsburg, one shot and brought to McCartney, Nov. 25, 1952; and Toano, Jan. 1, 1954, McCartney.

Chuck-will's-widow. Scott found it abundant throughout the Eastern Shore in mid-June, 1953. He heard 15 Whip-poor-wills and only one Chuck-will's-widow in a night census at Bon Air, near Richmond, on June 25, 1952.

Eastern Common Nighthawk. Our latest date is at Danville, Oct. 23, 1951, Royster Lyle.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Much the earliest record for Virginia is a bird found at McLean Gardens, near Washington, March 15, 1954, by P.G. DuMont (Atlantic Naturalist, 9, 257). Late fall records for the Washington region: Arlington, Oct. 7, 1953, and Oct. 4, 1954; and Belle Haven, near Alexandria, Oct. 10, 1953.

Western Kingbird. We have additional records for Tidewater, including Seaford, Sept. 7, 1952, Beasley; and Mapleton, Princess Anne County, Nov. 11 to 14, 1953, Rountrey and Richardson.

Acadian Flycatcher. Our latest date is of a bird in the Yorktown area, Oct. 10, 1954.

Alder Traill's Flycatcher. We have a number of additional records for the Washington area, including birds banded at Pine Ridge by Mrs. M.B. Peacock on Aug. 29 and Sept. 16, 1952; also birds at Big Meadows, Shenandoah Park on May 24, 1952 Favour; and Sept. 14, 1952, P.A. DuMont; and at Charlottesville, 2 on May 10, 1953.

Least Flycatcher. Much our latest date is at Ft. Belvoir, Oct. 13, 1952, Abbott.

Olive-sided Flycatcher. Additional records: Arlington, May 17, 1952, R.R. Kerr; McLean, Aug. 23, 1954, Kerr and John Terborgh (Atlantic Naturalist, 10, 95); Shenandoah Park, May 10, 1952, I.C. and Charlotte Hoover.

Prarie Horned Lark. The breeding range of this bird seems now to have taken in the whole State. Scott found it fairly common in June, 1953, over the entire Eastern Shore. Rountrey found a nest near Stumpy Lake in the summer of 1953. Steirly saw it at Waverly on May 19, 1951. Sydnor found a nest, with eggs hatching, on a golf course at Richmond on May 17, 1955.

Eastern Tree Swallow. Mrs. J.J. Murray pointed out one in western Highland County, near Route 250, June 28, 1954. One near Charlottesville, March 7, 1955, is the earliest transient record for the State, Stevens.

Common Bank Swallow. John W. Taylor found it fairly common at Front Royal, but found no nests. John DeLime found a colony of about 20 nests at Presque in 1953. Abbott saw a late bird near Alexandria, Oct. 11, 1952.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow. Extreme dates for Virginia are: March 24, 1952, Lexington, Murray, to Oct. 8, 1950, Albemarle County, Stevens.

American Barn Swallow. Extreme dates are: March 24, 1952, Lexington, Murray, to November 27, 1953, Sandbridge, Rountrey and Sykes.

Eastern Cliff Swallow. John W. Taylor found them nesting under a bridge near Front Royal in 1951 and 1952. Beasley and Col. Hughes saw 25 at Seaford, Aug. 16, 1953, the only recent record east of Richmond.

Northern Common Raven. Stevens found a nest in the southern part of Shenandoah Park, with three small young on April 16.

Eastern Black-capped Chickadee. There have been records in recent winters in the Washington region by Abbott. Enoch Johnson, George Sigel, and R.R. Kerr. The winter of 1954-55 saw an unprecedented southward invasion of this species, as far as the Arlington-Alexandria area. There were 193 on the Washington region Christmas Count, which included several Virginia areas. In the fall of 1954 Mrs. M.B. Peacock banded 7 and Arthur H. Fast banded 4, one from each of these stations being identified, one by Aldrich and one by Wetmore, as the typical Black-capped Chickadee. Two were seen at Chincoteague on Dec. 29, 1954, by John Terborgh and others. Three chickadees collected by the J.J. Murrays, Sr. and Jr., on House Mountain near Lexington on Nov. 30, 1954, turned out to represent the two races of the Black-capped Chickadee and the northern race of the Carolina.

Appalachian Black-capped Chickadee. Scott, Stevens, and Sydnor found it at low elevations in southwestern Highland County - at Mill Gap, 2350 feet, and at Buckeye Post Office, 2280 feet, on June 19, 1952.

Eastern White-breasted Nuthatch. Bailey did not find it breeding in Tidewater; but Mackenzie has a breeding record for Fort Eustis on May 18, 1945, and Rountrey found a pair feeding fledglings at Stumpy Lake on May 10, 1953, and at North Landing Swamp on May 11, 1953. Wetmore found that nuthatches taken in the southern edge of the Dismal Swamp, in North Carolina, were somewhat intermediate toward the southern race (Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus., 90, 505).

Eastern Brown Creeper. Early date, Sept. 24, 1952, Big Flat Mountain, Albemarle County.

Red-breasted Nuthatch. I.R. Barnes found 18 at Cape Charles on Oct. 5, 1946 (Wood Thrush, 2, 16-17). A late date is May 13, 1950, in Fairfax County, Murray found one in scattered spruce at Locust Spring, in the north-eastern corner of Highland County, June 29, 1954. There was quite an invasion in the Arlington area in 1954-55.

Ohio House Wren. We have two winter House Wren records, probably of this race, at Lexington: December 23, 1952, Paxton and Jan Owen; Dec. 28, 1952, to Jan. 3, 1953, Joshua Womeldorf.

Appalachian Winter Wren. Favour found singing males in Shenandoah Park, July, 1951.

Appalachian Bewick's Wren. The most eastern records in recent years are a family party of three in Albemarle County, south of Boyd's Tavern and close to the Fluvanna line, Aug. 14, 1952, Stevens; with a winter record in the same section, Dec. 27, 1954, K. Lawless; and a singing male at Cumberland Court House, June 4, 1955, Murray. There have been additional recent records in the Arlington-Fairfax area, with a winter record there at Marlboro Point, Dec. 27, 1953, E.T. McKnight (Atlantic Naturalist, 9, 202). Another winter record is in Loudoun County, Jan. 25, 1947, Napier Shelton (Wood Thrush, 2, 31). John W. Taylor found a few in summer at Front Royal. We have a nesting record at Luray in 1950. Scott, Stevens, and Sydnor found it more common than the House Wren in the Allegheny Mountain area of western Highland County, June 19, 1952 (Raven, 23, 65).

Long-billed Marsh Wren. I.R. Barnes counted 87 singing birds in the Dyke marshes on June 25, 1950. Two migrant males, collected at Lexington, Sept. 27 and Oct. 11, 1952, were identified by Wetmore as typical examples of palustris. Wetmore found one high up in Shenandoah Park, Sept. 27, 1952.

Short-billed Sedge Wren. Grey, Scott, and Stevens found a singing male at Seaford on June 14, 1952; and John V. Dennis saw one at Leesburg, June 14, 1953. We have additional records for the Arlington area; transient records for Loudoun and Mecklenburg Counties; and winter records for Danville, Yorktown, and Albemarle County.

Mockingbird. Stevens saw one on the Skyline Drive, near Big Flat Mountain, Oct. 25, 1953.

Eastern Brown Thrasher. Winters occasionally as far west as Lynchburg.

Southern Robin. Murray picked up a dead male Robin on June 12, 1954, on the Blue Ridge Parkway, 13 miles north of the North Carolina line, which had a wing measurement of 127mm., and which, therefore, should be referred to the southern race.

Wood Thrush. Murray found them in the summer of 1954 at high altitudes in Highland County: on Middle Mountain, at Locust Spring, and on the Allegheny Backbone; and found a nest, with two eggs, at 3200 feet in Rocky Knob Park on the Blue Ridge Parkway, May 11, 1954. Our earliest date by far is that of a bird seen by Beasley and Glassell at Big Bethel Reservoir, near Newport News, March 9, 1952.

Olive-backed Swainson's Thrush. Our latest date is a singing male at Charlottesville, June 6, 1951, Stevens.

Eastern Veery. This bird is strangely uncommon on the Middle Mountain plateau, but Murray found it abundant not far away at Locust Spring, in the northwestern corner of Highland County. A bird seen at 'Lebanon', Lorton, near Alexandria, on July 3, 1953, is our only summer record for the coastal plain.

Eastern Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Additional very late fall and winter records: Oct. 24, 1954, Hog Island Refuge, James River, Scott and Steirly; Nov. 11, 1952, Alexandria, E.G. Davis, J.K. Merritt; Dec. 13, 1953, mouth of Aquia Creek, near Alexandria, E.T. McKnight.

American Water Pipit. Scott, Stevens, and R.J. Watson heard them migrating over Big Flat Mountain, Albemarle County, Sept. 20, 21, and 24, 1952.

Southern Loggerhead Shrike. This bird has been steadily moving eastward in the State in recent years. On May 24, 1954, Grey found them at Clarks-ville, Emporia and Courtland. He found a nest with young at Lightfoot, eight miles east of Williamsburg, May 21, 1954. Wetmore states that a juvenile bird, killed near Yale, in southern Sussex County, and sent in by Steirly, seems to belong to the southern race, but that adult specimens are needed to make the identification certain. We need specimens from many points in central and southern Virginia, and especially from the Eastern Shore.

Blue-headed Solitary Vireo. Our latest date is Nov. 3, 1949, when two were seen by Mrs. M.B. Peacock at Pine Ridge, Fairfax County.

Mountain Solitary Vireo. Additional evidence that this bird is not confined as a breeder even to medium mountain altitudes is the discovery by Stevens of a nest in a Virginia Forest Service nursery on the edge of Charlottesville, June 12, 1954. The nest is the more unusual for being located 20 feet up in a pine.

Red-eyed Vireo. Rountrey saw a pair feeding young on the wing at Norfolk on the very late date of Aug. 26, 1952.

Philadelphia Vireo. Three records in 1952: Pine Ridge, Sept. 2, Mrs. M.B. Peacock; Lexington, Sept. 8, Murray and Paxton; Warwick, a very late bird on Oct. 11, Glassell; also one at Charlottesville, May 10, 1953, R.R. Kerr, R.H. Peake.

Eastern Warbling Vireo. This bird is rare from the lower Piedmont east. Beasley found one at Newport News on May 30, 1951, and May 11, 1952.

Prothonotary Warbler. John Westbrook found three nests near Dan-ville in 1953, one with young on June 5, and two on June 7. Scott found a number west of Richmond, in western Henrico and eastern Goochland Counties in 1953, and a pair feeding one young bird at Farmville, July 4, 1953.

Worm-eating Warbler. Two at Kiptopeke, Aug. 10, 1953, McCartney.

Golden-winged Warbler. Scott, Stevens, and Sydnor found a nest under construction at 3800 feet, just west of Red Oak Knob, Highland County, June 19, 1952 (Raven, 23, 65).

Blue-winged Warbler. At Warwick Glassell saw a very early bird on Aug. 14, 1952, also one on Aug. 19, 1951, and Beasley saw one on Sept. 14, 1952. McCartney saw one on the Yorktown Peninsula, Sept. 8, 1951. Rountrey saw one at Stumpy Lake, Sept. 9, 1953.

Bachman's Warbler. In reply to a request for further information on the Bachman's Warbler reported to have been seen in the Dismal Swamp, Ludlow Griscom writes that he was disturbed at this report having been put into print. He did not see the warbler but only heard it, and at a time when he was not familiar with the song. The song, indeed, was like an undoubted Bachman's Warbler song which he heard later in South Carolina; but he wants the record left as uncertain, so it should be eliminated from our 'Check-List'. The most recent record is that of a singing male which appeared at 'Lebanon', the home of Dr. Paul Bartsch, near Lorton, on May 8, 1954, and stayed through June 1. It was discovered by Harriett Sutton and Morgan Gilbert, and was later seen by many observers. The bird established territory, but did not secure a mate.

Tennessee Warbler. A late bird was found at Alexandria, Nov. 1, 1952, J.K. Wright. Tidewater records: Warwick, 6 on Sept. 17, 1952, Glassell; Ft. Eustis, Oct. 17, 1952, Glassell; Kiptopeke, Sept. 22, 1953, McCartney; Sabot, Aug. 23, 1953, Scott; Hopewell, 2 on Oct. 11, 1953, Scott; Stumpy Lake, 2 on Sept. 7, 1953, Rountrey.

Orange-crowned Warbler. Eight additional records: Chincoteague, Dec. 27, 1953, A.S. Messenger, and Dec. 29, 1954, John Terborgh; Back Bay, 4 on Dec. 26, 1953, Mrs. Floy Burford and others, and Dec. 4, 1954, James Eike, Scott, and Steirly; Norfolk, Nov. 21, 1953, Richardson, Rountrey; Wakefield, Feb. 28, 1954, P.G. DuMont (Atlantic Naturalist, 9, 257); Alexandria, Oct. 10, 1953, Abbott; Blacksburg, Nov. 1, Edward Willis; Warwick, one wintering to April 7, 1954, at the home of Mrs. Hugh Bell, Beasley; Norfolk, one or two on every trip from Sept. 19, 1954 to January, 1955, with four on Christmas Count, Rountrey.

Nashville Warbler. Four additional records: Marmer's Museum, Newport News, Sept. 27, 1952, Beasley; Stumpy Lake, Sept. 11 and 24, 1953, Rountrey; Sabot, Sept. 13, 1953, Scott.

Southern Parula Warbler. Rountrey saw a pair feeding young on the wing on the late date of Aug. 21, 1952, at Norfolk. John V. Dennis found a nest with one young bird in a scrub pine, near Leesburg, July 8, 1954. Our latest date for a Parula Warbler is Oct. 23, 1954, at Alexandria, Abbott.

(Sutton's Warbler. Lena Artz reports that she and Elizabeth Gilman of Washington saw what they were sure was a Sutton's Warbler on May 15, 1954, at Hone Quarry National Forest Camp, in western Rockingham County. One studied the bird with field glasses while the other checked the marks in the Peterson Guide.)

Eastern Yellow Warbler. Other late fall dates are at Chincoteague Causeway, Sept. 19, 1948; Prince William Forest Park, Oct. 13, 1951, C.L. Claggett; Lexington, Oct. 3, 1953, Murray; and Stumpy Lake, Oct. 31, 1953, Rountrey. It is not unlikely that all late fall migrants belong to the Alaska or Newfoundland races. We should collect some of these transients seen after September 1st.

Magnolia Warbler. Recent records indicate that this bird should be listed as "scarce near the coast" rather than "rare near the coast". We have additional Cape Henry reports; also records from Chincoteague, Cape Charles, Newport News, and Norge.

Wayne's Black-throated Green Warbler. Rountrey now reports it as a quite common breeder in west Princess Anne, southwest Norfolk, and eastern Nansemond Counties, particularly in the lowlands along Northwest River, with nests on April 4 and 11, the first of these being one of the earliest known nesting records for the race. David Pierce saw and heard 10 in Dismal Swamp, March 26, 1955.

Cerulean Warbler. The only record for the Cape Henry region is a bird seen at Robbins Corner, Princess Anne County, on May 12, 1953, Rountrey, Mrs. Floy Burford. There are indications that this bird is either now moving into the Blue Ridge, north of James River, or that we are just now discovering its presence there. It should be watched for on and east of the Blue Ridge.

Eastern Yellow-throated Warbler. Rountrey reports this as one of the most common warblers around Norfolk, nesting from the first week in April to the first week in July, many pairs raising three broods. Latest date: Clarksville, Oct. 4, 1952, Robert Eggleston, William McMann.

Chestnut-sided Warbler. J.K. Wright reports a singing male, just south of Alexandria, on the very unusual date of June 20, 1952.

Bay-breasted Warbler. Common at Norfolk in September, 1953, with a maximum of 25 on Sept. 30, Rountrey.

Black-polled Warbler. Latest date, Roaches Run, Nov. 2, 1952, R.R. Kerr.

Northern Pine Warbler. At Norfolk in 1952 Rountrey saw many pairs feeding young on the wing through the third week in August, and as late as August 26.

Northern Prairie Warbler. Our earliest date is March 24, 1954, at Butts Station near Norfolk, Richard Peake; and our latest is Oct. 25, 1952, at Quimby, Accomack County, Scott. Scott found a pair feeding young on the wing at Bloxom, on the Eastern Shore, June 15, 1953.

Newfoundland Ovenbird. There are in the U.S. National Museum two specimens from Fairfax County, one without specific locality, and one from Oakton (Wilson Bulletin, 64, 39-42).

Northern Small-billed Water-thrush. The U.S. National Museum has 7 old specimens from Virginia in the Washington region, one from Arlington on the remarkable date of July 23, 1898; also a recent specimen, a female from Fauquier County, Aug. 24, 1933.

Grinnell's Small-billed Water-thrush. Aldrich suggests that there may be a split migration in this species, with the northern race moving mainly along the coast, and Grinnell's moving along the mountains. There is a specimen of this race in the U.S. National Museum from Fort Humphreys, near Washington, Aug. 16, 1933. The May 5, 1885 specimen (cf. 'Check-List') was from Arlington.

Kentucky Warbler. Our latest date is Oct. 13, 1952, at Norfolk, Rountrey. He occasionally sees transients in October, although the local breeding birds have left in late August. He finds this warbler feeding young from June to July 13. John V. Dennis saw two pairs at Leesburg in the summer of 1953.

Connecticut Warbler. Norfolk, Sept. 27, 1953, Mrs. Floy Burford.

Mourning Warbler. We have additional records for Fairfax County, Charlottesville, and Lexington; and a remarkable one at Norge, a male seen by McCartney, May 24, 1953, the only record east of Charlottesville. Our latest date is Oct. 10, 1953, at Alexandria.

Yellow-breasted Chat. Winter records: Grandview, near Hampton, Jan. 1, 1953; Fort Eustis, Jan. 20, 1953, Glassell.

Maryland Yellow-throat. We have winter records at Cape Henry, Yorktown, Arlington-Alexandria area, and Ft. Belvoir.

Wilson's Pileolated Warbler. E.T. McKnight and T.B. Nolan saw a very late bird at Indian Point, near Washington, Dec. 14, and 22, 1952. Other records: Cape Charles, Sept. 24, 1949; Norge, May 10 and 18, 1952, McCartney; Prince William Forest Park, Aug. 31, 1949, James Baird; and five September records at Winchester, Mrs. R.S. Underwood.

Canada Warbler. We have four records east of Richmond: Newport News, April 28, 1946, and May 17, 1952, Beasley; and Sept. 21, 1952, Glassell; Norge, May 18, 1952, McCartney.

Southern American Redstart. Rountrey found a fledgling at Stumpy Lake, July 4, 1952, and two nests at Wallaceton, in the eastern edge of the Dismal Swamp. He has found it in summer in southern Princess Anne and Norfolk Counties. Stevens has a late record at Charlottesville, Nov. 15, 1950.

Yellow-headed Blackbird. Ruskin S. Freer states that Mrs. T.A. Schubert saw two males at her home near the Bedford County Lake on Feb. 26, 1954, checking the markings by a color plate. Sidney Mitchell of Hampton says that he saw one at Yorktown in 1949, but does not remember the date.

Eastern Redwing Blackbird. In June, 1952, Scott, Stevens and Sydnor found it amazingly common in the lower river valleys in Highland County, where usual nesting places are not plentiful, Grey and others estimated 170,000 in the flock at Hog Island in James River, on Dec. 22, 1952; and Paul Sykes and others estimated 2,000,000 on the Norfolk Christmas Count, Dec. 30, 1954.

Baltimore Oriole. Records have turned up at all kinds of odd dates recently: Warwick, Dec. 14, 1953 to April 14, 1954, Mrs. Hugh Bell; Newport News, Dec. 26, 1953, W.P. Smith and others; Williamsburg, Dec. 23, 1953, Geraldine Claiborne; Suffolk, mid-December, 1951, pair at a feeding tray of Mrs. Bradford Kelly; Aquia Creek, near Alexandria, Oct. 27, 1951, E.T. McKnight; Alexandria, Nov. 27, 1952, J.K. Merritt; Arlington, Christmas Day, 1953, W. Sieck; Arlington, female banded by A.H. Fast on March 13, 1955. May 7, 1950, is the first spring date for the species at Richmond for over 40 years. Beasley saw one at Newport News, May 4, 1952. One which wintered at Ellerson, Hanover County, 1954-55, was photographed at the feeding tray of Mrs. Catherine Bentley.

Rusty Blackbird. Our latest date is May 2, 1953, at Stumpy Lake, Rountrey.

Eastern Boat-tailed Grackle. Scott saw two pairs carrying food into a thicket at Grandview, Hampton, June 13, 1953; also a colony in Mathews County in 1953. He made a high count of 580 at Chincoteague, Nov. 29, 1953. Lyle D. Miller found empty nests, with young flying about, on Rogue Island, June 10, 1953 (Raven, 24, 87).

Eastern Common Cowbird. We now have breeding dates for the Cape Henry region. In the summer of 1953, Paul Sykes found eggs in late June in two nests of the Red-eyed Vireo; a Red-eyed Vireo was seen feeding a fledgling in another area on Aug. 9; and a Hooded Warbler was seen feeding one on July 11. Scott found them common on the Eastern Shore in June, 1953.

Scarlet Tanager. Rev. Thom Blair reported it as common at Hanover Court House in the summer of 1952. We have the following eastern Virginia records for 1953; Norge, two pairs, May 15 and June 11, McCartney; Williamsburg, a pair, May 15 and June 15, Grey; Ellerson, Hanover County, five nesting pairs near the home of Mrs. Catherine Bentley, with eggs hatching in one nest on July 14; Farmville, a few in June and July, Scott. John E. Taylor reported that at Front Royal the two tanagers appear to be equally common, often in the same woods. E. Knudsen found a singing male in breeding plumage at Arlington on the amazing date of March 8, 1954 (Atlantic Naturalist, 9, 257).

Summer Tanager. Rountrey saw young being fed on the wing near Norfolk on July 26, 1952. We have some late dates: Warwick, Oct. 11, 1953, Beasley; Stumpy Lake, Oct. 25, 1953, Rountrey; Richmond, Oct. 13, 1952; Arlington, Oct. 5, 1953, J. Knudsen.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Rountrey has seen it in the Cape Henry region several times in fall and twice in spring, one record being on May 4, 1953, at Robbins Corner, Princess Anne County. We have records for Powhatan County of a female on Sept. 17, 1953, and of another female at a different place on Sept. 20, 1953.

Eastern Blue Grosbeak. Our earliest date is April 18, 1948, at Leesburg, N. Shelton. John V. Dennis saw two pairs at Leesburg in the summer of 1953.

Dickcissel. Additional records: Norge, a singing male, June 8, 1953, McCartney; Toano, female, Dec. 25, 1953 to March 21, 1954, McCartney; Curle's Neck, Richmond, singing male, May 10, 1953, Scott; Lorton, one through the winter of 1954-55, Paul Bartsch; Arlington, female banded by A.H. Fast, March 29, 1955; Pine Ridge, Fairfax County, four on May 10, 1952.

Eastern Evening Grosbeak. In 1952 the earliest fall record was on Oct. 1 at Pine Ridge, Fairfax County, Mrs. M.B. Peacock; and the only winter record was of three at Arlington on Dec. 13. In the spring of 1953 there were only two records, single birds at Petersburg in the last half of March, McIlwaine, and at Winchester, March 8 to 11, Mrs. R.S. Underwood. In 1955 they appeared at Hopewell on Jan. 2, Stevens; and at Richmond on Jan. 13, Scott; then in February in most Piedmont and Southside Virginia towns, in flocks up to 50, and in the Valley from Harrisonburg to Clifton Forge. At Williamsburg a flock of 150 arrived on Jan. 30; increased to at least 300 in several flocks; last seen on May 15.

Pine Grosbeak. Paul Favour stated that Carl Stoddard, a ranger, saw 12 on Feb. 21, 1955, on Miller's Head, one-half mile west of Skyland in Shenandoah Park.

Northern Pine Siskin. 1952-53 was a Siskin winter. They arrived early and in good numbers, being common by the end of October, and then occurring in flocks up to 50 from the Eastern Shore and Dismal Swamp to Mt. Rogers, with some counts to 200. Some birds remained as late as May 19 at Arlington, with a straggler at Norfolk on May 24, Rountrey, and at Charlottesville on June 3, R.R. Kerr.

Common Redpoll. Several observers, including Mellinger and R.R. Kerr, saw a small flock at Chincoteague Refuge on Dec. 29, 1954. Monroe Couper of Waynesboro and Dr. C.S. Marvel of the University of Illinois saw two with some Siskins at Luray, Feb. 5, 1955.

Eastern American Goldfinch. Rountrey saw an adult feeding young on the wing near Norfolk on Oct. 17, 1952. John DeLime estimated 5000 at Presquile on April 17, 1953.

Red Crossbill. Eggleston saw a flock at Danville, May 19, 1953.

White-winged Crossbill. Single birds were seen at Alexandria, Feb. 8, 1953, J.K. Wright, and at Pine Ridge, Feb. 13, 1953, Mr. and Mrs. W. Scott. R.R. Kerr saw 16 at Arlington, Nov. 30, 1954.

Ipswich Sparrow. Scott collected two out of 9 seen at Grandview, near Hampton, on Jan. 30, 1953. Additional records: Newport News, March 9, 1952, Glassell; Buckroe Beach, 2 on Nov. 9, 1952, Glassell; Back Bay, March 16 and April 12, 1952, Rountrey, Richardson; Back Bay, 2 on Dec. 27, 1954, Christmas Count; Cobb Island, Dec. 27, 1954, Christmas Count.

Eastern Savannah Sparrow. Buckalew found nests at Chincoteague in 1947.

Labrador Savannah Sparrow. A dead bird, picked up by Mrs. Cecil Robinson near Barnesville, Charlotte County, on Oct. 17, 1953, was identified by Wetmore as this form, and is now in the U.S. National Museum.

Churchill Savannah Sparrow. Of 8 Savannah Sparrows collected by Scott and Grey in the Hampton area on Jan. 30, 1953, three were identified by Wetmore as oblitus, intermediate toward savanna, and five as savanna, intermediate toward labradorius.

Eastern Henslow's Sparrow. John V. Dennis reported 15 pairs near Leesburg in the summer of 1953. Wetmore collected one on Long Ridge, in Shenandoah Park, July 27, 1952, at an altitude of over 2000 feet, Max Carpenter found 4 singing birds in a field between Strasburg and Front Royal, April 16, 1954. Freer found a small colony near Bedford, July 1, 1954.

Bishop's Sharp-tailed Sparrow. Grey, Stevens, and Scott saw one at Seaford, June 14, 1952, and Scott saw one at Grandview, near Hampton, June 13, 1953, which suggests the probability of the nesting of this species around Chesapeake Bay. A bird seen at Clarksville, Dec. 7, 1952, is one of the few Piedmont records, Robert Eggleston. Birds seen by S.M. Russell at Abingdon on Oct. 7, 1950 and Oct. 5, 1952 are more likely to have been Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows.

Northern Seaside Sparrow. Scott reported many breeding colonies on the western shore of Chesapeake Bay in recent summers. Our only winter record is at Yorktown, Jan. 2, 1954, three seen by Beasley.

Eastern Lark Sparrow. Beasley and Glassell saw one at Buckroe Beach, Sept. 26, 1952.

Carolina Slate-colored Junco. In collections made for D.R. Hostetter by various collaborators during the winter of 1936-37, the following specimens were collected east of the Blue Ridge: Lynchburg, March 18, Freer; Charlottesville, Jan. 3, Hostetter; Amelia, Jan. 21 and Feb. 10, J.B. Lewis; Chatham, Nov. 30 and Feb. 11 and 15, A.L. Yeatts. This indicates migration away from the mountains in winter which is more than a mere drop into the valleys.

Eastern White-crowned Sparrow. This species has wintered around Arlington in increasing numbers since 1950. Mrs. A.W. Bachman of Henderson, North Carolina, saw from one to 25 regularly at Kerr Dam, Necklenburg County, Nov. 8 to Dec. 13, 1952. We have additional records from Charlottesville, Sweet Briar, Lynchburg, and Campbell County. The bird now seems to be wintering regularly in the upper Piedmont.

Northern Lincoln's Sparrow. Two were seen at Norfolk by Richard Peake and others: one from March 19 to April 24, 1954; and one at another place, April 3, 1954.

Common Lapland Longspur. One was seen in Albemarle County, Nov. 22, 1951, by Stevens and others; and one at Buckroe Beach in Sept., 1952, Glassell.

Eastern Snow Bunting. This species was very common along the coast in the winter of 1954-55, with high counts of 28 at Chincoteague on Dec. 29 and of 40 at Back Bay on Dec. 4. Perkins saw about 25 at Sandbridge in the fall of 1953; and 50 at False Cape, Back Bay, Dec. 18, 1953. Stevens found two at Scottsville, Nov. 22, 1951. Fred W. Behrends and S.M. Russell found ~~two~~ at 5100 feet on Mt. Rogers on Dec. 28, 1952. They have been found on the Yorktown Peninsula for the past three winters; Fort Monroe, 8 on Feb. 8, 1953, Beasley; Grandview, 50 on Dec. 26, 1953, Grey; Grandview, 14 on Jan. 9, 1955, Charles Hacker.

The writer requests that you send to him any significant data which you may have and which is not covered in the 'Check-List' or in the two revisions.

-- 6 White Street
Lexington, Virginia



The Raven

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CONTENTS

	Page
1955 Blue Ridge Foray By C. C. Steirly	99
The Hollis Marsh Island Heronry, Westmoreland County, Virginia By Jackson M. Abbott	102
Banding Black-Capped Chickadees (<i>Parus atricapillus</i>) in Northern Virginia During the Winter of 1954-1955 By John V. Dennis	104
Hawk and Owl Protection in Maine	108
News and Notes	109
Report of the Treasurer	111
"Bird Houses" - A Review	111

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1955 BLUE RIDGE FORAY

By C. C. Steirly

The notes of the veery heard in the cathedral-like atmosphere of the mature hemlocks and the sight of a raven or two flying parallel to the rocky mountain ridges are features of the annual VSO Foray in Shenandoah National Park not soon forgotten. To many members, perhaps not the more ardent listers, these features alone make the trip worthwhile, especially when they are enjoyed amid the camaraderie of kindred spirits.

The 1955 Foray was held at Skyland June 10, 11, and 12 with a total attendance of forty-one members during most of that period. Fog and rain hampered the plans of the trip committee to some extent but such manifestations of nature did not deter the group from having an enjoyable time. Who can forget the walk down Hawksbill Mountain in a driving rain or the dense fog that added to the confusion on the first night, or the heavy mist that arose from White Oak Canyon Falls? Perhaps this apparent thwarting of detailed planning was a blessing for it proved that such a group as ours does not need to have elaborate plans drawn up for its enjoyment and the exploitation of the ornithological delights of the mountain region. Small groups organized themselves somewhat spontaneously and took themselves off along various trails or to particularly delightful birding spots. In the evenings the entire group met and the members of the smaller groups pooled the results of their findings for the day. Some learned, for instance, where they could find a Canada Warbler; others jotted down notes as to the locations of Junco nests so that they might visit them, and so on. Enough experts were along to interpret significant discoveries and everyone seemed to have a good time of it without being separated into small "work" parties. The trip committee and trip leaders thus learned a valuable lesson.

The areas visited by all groups included White Oak Canyon Trail, Stonyman Mountain, Hawksbill Mountain, Big Meadows, and a trip down to the lower levels, off the National Park, as far as the town of Syria. Photographers in the group found a number of nests for the satisfaction of their interest, and as is usual on these trips, several persons picked up life list items on the various trails.

Basically, the purpose of the Foray was to open the way for everyone to see, enjoy and study the species of birds that breed in the Blue Ridge area. Excellent counts were kept by a number of scrupulous note takers and although no contributions were made to the ornithology of the Shenandoah National Park, a few salient observations were reported.

Paul Sykes and Mike Griffin probably covered the most ground and are credited with many observations including the finding of a raven's nest at Crescent Rock, the nests of two ovenbirds on Stonyman Trail, two phoebe nests at Big Meadows, and a Carolina junco nest on Stonyman Mountain. Mrs. Bentley found several nests of the Canada Warbler on Hawksbill Mountain. Other nests found by the group included those of Chipping Sparrows, Blackburnian Warblers, Veery, and Cedar Waxwing. One group observed a veery constructing its nest in a low bush along the Stonyman Mountain Trail.

While bird counts in extensive areas that are not correlated with units of habitat area do not mean much, it might be well to report the findings of the group using general areas as the closest approach to definite habitats.

White Oak Canyon Trail:

Turkey Vulture	2
Barred Owl	2
Flicker	4
Pileated Woodpecker	1
Downy Woodpecker	2
Crested Flycatcher	3
Phoebe*	3
Acadian Flycatcher	15
Wood Pewee	12
Wood Thrush	24
Veery*	30
Yellow-throated Vireo	3
Solitary Vireo	5
Red-eyed Vireo	10
Black & White Warbler	12
Parula Warbler	3
Cairn's Black-throated Blue*	20
Blackburnian Warbler*	12
Chestnut-sided Warbler	20
Ovenbird*	19
Louisiana Water Thrush*	10
Hooded Warbler	1
Canada Warbler*	18
Scarlet Tanager	10
Cowbird	1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2
Towhee ,,,	10
Goldfinch	10

The Hooded Warbler observation was rather unusual in that this bird was observed at an elevation of approximately 3300 feet and on the upper area from the Limberlost.

The trip to the lower levels was interesting; however, the area covered was too extensive for counts to have much meaning. At the lower levels, or more precisely that area lying downward altitudinally from the park boundary, the following observations were reported:

Green Heron	1
Killdeer ,,,	5
Mourning Dove	5
Hummingbird	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1
Kingbird	3
Wood Pewee*	4
Barn Swallow	20
Roughwing Swallow	3

Mockingbird	3
Robin	18
Bluebird*	16
Loggerhead Shrike*	8
Starling	50 /
White-eyed Vireo	1
Yellow Warbler	1
Kentucky Warbler	2
Yellowthroat	6
Redstart	1
House Sparrow	6
Meadowlark	7
Redwing	20
Orchard Oriole	3
Purple Grackle	75
Cardinal	1
Blue Grosbeak	1
Goldfinch	12
Field Sparrow	4

Observations of note made within the park and not included in the White Oak Canyon list were:

Broadwing Hawk	Catbird
Red-tailed Hawk	Brown Thrasher
Sparrow Hawk (BM)	Robin
Ruffed Grouse	Cedar Waxwing*
Bobwhite	Prairie Warbler
Whip-poor-will	Yellowthroat
Chimney Swift	Yellow-breasted Chat
Hummingbird	Indigo Bunting
Blue Jay	Vesper Sparrow (BM)
Raven*	Carolina Junco*
Crow	Chipping Sparrow
Carolina Chickadee*	Field Sparrow
Tufted Titmouse	Song Sparrow (BM)
House Wren	Pine Siskin
Carolina Wren*	

(BM) refers to birds observed at Big Meadow, a rather extensive open area with small clumps of brush.

The Raven Count included six in one group at Big Meadows.

The Pine Siskin was observed from the top of Stonyman Mountain on the morning of June 12. It is perhaps a late record for the park.

An asterisk denotes observations of nesting birds.

THE HOLLIS MARSH ISLAND HERONRY
WESTMORELAND COUNTY, VIRGINIA

By Jackson M. Abbott

Hollis Marsh Island is about 2.5 miles long, a quarter of a mile wide, and is crescent shaped; it lies at the north-west end of Monimi Bay in Westmoreland County on Virginia's Northern Neck. The island, which used to be connected with the mainland until a channel was dredged through at the western end some years ago, is bounded on its south side by Currioman Bay and on the north by the Potomac River.

On the eastern half of the island is a fairly dense growth of cedars while the center of the island has a thick, extensive growth of myrtle bushes and hackberry trees with a few cedars mixed in. A grassy marsh with a scattering of myrtle bushes and clumps of tules occupies the west end of the island. Three ponds indent the western half of the island, each with an inlet from Currioman Bay. There is a short sand spit at each end of the island and a narrow, sandy beach runs along the island's northern shore from one end to the other.

I first heard about a large heronry on Hollis Marsh Island from Dr. Dan Keeney of Springfield, Va. He and his family spent a week at Westmoreland State Park in 1951 when he briefly visited the island and found hundreds of occupied heron nests. Dr. Keeney was not particularly interested in birds at that time but has become an enthusiastic bird watcher since. Inasmuch as he was going to Westmoreland Park again this summer he suggested we make a trip out to Hollis Marsh to see if the heronry was still active.

Thus on 25 June 1955, Mr. and Mrs. Irwin Hoover, Mr. and Mrs. George Treichel and I met Dr. Keeney and rented a boat at Bryant's wharf at the end of a dirt road on Currioman Bay, three miles east of Chisford. As we crossed the bay, which is not over three-quarters of a mile wide, we saw four occupied Osprey nests, one on top of each of four duck hunter's blinds in the bay. Six Double-crested Cormorants were observed sitting on poles in the bay and dozens of herons were flying back and forth across the water between the island and the mainland.

We entered the inlet to the Eastern Pond and pulled the boat up on the sandy beach separating the pond from the Potomac River. Dozens of Great Blue, Little Blue, Black-crowned Night Herons and American Egrets flew up from the shores of the pond as the noise of our outboard motor disturbed the quiet. The nesting herons were concentrated in the dense mat of myrtle bushes and hackberry trees between the ponds. As we walked along the beach by the Middle Pond we saw dozens of snaky white, gray and purple necks and heads sticking up above the tops of the bushes and low trees. A clap of the hands caused a whirlwind of motion and raucous cries as hundreds of herons took to the air. We penetrated the dense growth and were immediately confronted with nests at all elevations from two to ten feet above the ground. Most nests were empty, the young having already left, but many held young birds from a few days to several weeks of age and a few Little Blue Heron nests still had eggs. Young birds still in the nests were chiefly Little Blue and American Egrets, although there were a

dozen or more nests occupied by juvenile Night Herons. Many young herons already out of the nest but not yet flying clambered awkwardly through the densely matted vegetation while others, a little older, flopped into the air for their first, short flights. Although we didn't thoroughly explore all corners of the heronry a conservative estimate indicated the following species and numbers of herons were nesting in this colony:

American Egret: 300 pairs (at least 1,000 birds seen)
Little Blue Heron: 200 pairs (at least 600 birds seen)
Black-crowned Night Heron: 150 pairs (at least 400 birds seen)
Great Blue Heron: 30 pairs (at least 100 birds seen)
Green Heron: 15 pairs (over fifty birds seen)
Snowy Egret: at least two pairs (5 birds seen)

One Louisiana or Tri-colored Heron was observed feeding along the edge of the middle pond while out in the pond we watched a male Red-headed Duck swimming and diving near the south shore; this appears to be the first June record for this species in Virginia.

A Great-horned Owl flushed out of a clump of cedars as we walked nearby and it was immediately besieged by a dozen Fish and Common Crows. I flushed a Clapper Rail from its nest containing 7 eggs, about 8 inches up in a clump of needle grass in a small slough not 20 feet from the beach. Along the edge of the western pond we observed a Least Bittern and a Seaside Sparrow. We were unable to visit the ends of the island on this trip because of a sudden storm.

On 10 July, John Terborgh, Mr. and Mrs. Hoover and I returned to the island to assist John in banding young herons. He banded about 70, including 40 Little Blues, 20 American Egrets, and 10 Black-crowned Night Herons. We saw a young Great Blue Heron in a nest about 20 feet up in a cedar tree. The male Red-head was seen again in the middle pond and this time we were able to determine that it could not fly; apparently a casualty from last year's hunting season. We also found a female Red-head and a pair of Canvasbacks at the inlet to the western pond. They were swimming along the shore in water too shallow to get close enough to attempt to make them fly. John flushed a King Rail in the heronry and I saw a Clapper Rail feeding along the water's edge on the sandy beach. Just across the channel at the west end of the island is a long finger of sand connected to the mainland. Here we found a colony of about 25 pairs of Least Terns just starting to nest; 12 "nests" were found, each with 2 eggs. The vanguard of the fall shorebird flight was personified by two Greater Yellowlegs, a Least Sandpiper, and a flock of four "peeps" flying by too far off for identification.

This Hollis Marsh heronry appears to be one of the largest recorded in Virginia. It is apparently of recent vintage since a neighbor of mine who spent his boyhood on Currioman Bay with frequent trips to Hollis marsh doesn't remember seeing any large numbers of herons there up to 1939 or 1940 when he moved.

-- 814 - 13th Street
New Alexandria, Virginia

(In connection with the remark above as to the age of this heronry, John Terborgh was told by an old resident of the area that the heronry had been there for a long time. -- Editor)

BANDING BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES (PARUS ATRICAPILLUS)

IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA

DURING THE WINTER OF 1954-1955

By John V. Dennis

The bird banders acting independently sometimes record an event of ornithological significance was demonstrated last winter by three banders in Loudoun, Arlington, and Fairfax Counties. In late October and early November, Dennis banding near Leesburg, Arthur H. Fast in Arlington, and Elizabeth D. Peacock in Pine Ridge near Fairfax, took for the first time in their traps, Black-capped Chickadees. This was their first introduction to a notable invasion which saw the Black-capped Chickadee in Indiana, Ohio, Virginia, and Maryland in record breaking numbers.

These banders felt safe, for the most part, in calling any chickadee with a tail length of 6cm. or over, or a total length of four and three-fourths inches or more, a Black-cap. However, in the course of banding operations Fast and Peacock took several questionable individuals whose measurements and appearance suggested intermediates between carolinensis, the resident Carolina Chickadee, and atricapillus. Fast took a bird with a tail length of 59mm. to John Aldrich of the U.S. National Museum for identification. This bird was described as a Carolina Chickadee with an unusually long tail. Alexander Wetmore and Aldrich confirmed the fact that another bird taken by Fast to the museum was a Black-capped Chickadee, (Parus atricapillus atricapillus). Similarly a bird which died in handling was given to the museum by Mrs. Peacock. This specimen was preserved and is listed as atricapillus.*

The arrival dates of the Black-capped Chickadee at the three localities probably coincides quite closely with first banding dates. All three banders were active during this period and were on the watch for suspiciously large chickadees. Fast took his first Black-cap on October 24, Peacock her first on October 26, and Dennis his first on November 9.

*Dennis also lost a bird in handling. The usual careful treatment accorded birds in taking them from the trap and in removing them from a carrying cage does not in itself seem to be sufficient cause for mortality. Possibly other factors - fright, illness, previous injury - were involved. In addition to the banding fatality during the course of the winter three other Black-capped Chickadees were found dead close to the Peacock residence, one in a neighbor's garage. All of these birds had been banded earlier.

Evidence from all three stations indicates that the Black-caps, having found a reliable source of food, were satisfied to stay put for the winter. Length of stay is indicated to some extent by repeat records. But the fact that a bird does not repeat or does so only once or twice does not necessarily mean that it has left the locality or ceased to patronize feeding places. For a number of species, notably the English Sparrow, Blue Jay, and Starling, first acquaintance with a banding trap is usually the last. Chickadees are less hesitant about trying their luck again, and indeed, may become confirmed "trap addicts". Some, however, seem to become trap shy after one or two experiences in a trap. As an example, Fast reports a chickadee with a frayed tail which was seen regularly but did not enter his traps between January 22 and March 28. As the season progressed Fast and Dennis found that their entire chickadee population became increasingly trap shy. Fast had only four repeats after January, Dennis only three after February. Peacock, on the other hand, relying chiefly upon nets to capture her birds, did not experience such a sharp seasonal decline in the number of repeats. As long as the birds were about they continued to enter her nets. This is reflected in the high percentage of birds repeating one or more times at her station - 83%. Fast, who operated his traps almost daily, had 75% of his birds repeat one or more times. Dennis, operating irregularly, had 65% of his birds repeat one or more times.

The number of repeats per month for each station is shown by histograms in Table I. The distribution of repeats for the three stations at first glance seems rather haphazard. It seems odd, for instance, that Fast should have had most of his repeats early in the season. Repeats followed a more logical pattern at the Peacock station. February was the high month with 28 repeats. February was also the high month at the Dennis station where there were 16 repeats. Fast, on the other hand, had only three repeats in February. Such a distribution, perhaps, can be accounted for by variation in trapping methods at the three stations. Where traps were operated most intensively as at the Fast station, chickadees became trap shy early in the season. After December the number of repeats dropped off sharply. At the Dennis station trapping occurred at irregular intervals, none at all in January. Thus, apparently as the result of a respite in January, both the number of repeats and number of newly banded birds picked up in February. Peacock, using nets exclusively until December 15, and after that date both traps and nets, obtained what is probably the truest distribution pattern. A decline in repeats for January as compared to December or February, however, seems to represent a slackening in trapping activity rather than any change so far as the chickadees were concerned.

Table II shows the distribution by months of newly banded chickadees at the three stations. The total number banded by Dennis was 27, by Fast 16, by Peacock 31. At each station there seemed to be a main influx early in the season. On the basis of dates when the largest numbers were banded, the peak periods for the three stations are as follows: Dennis, November 9 through December 17; Fast, December 12 through December 20; Peacock, November 28 through December 4. Fast also had an early active period from October 24 through November 20. If additional movements took place there was little evidence of it in the banding records. Birds caught after late December were assumed to be members of the original flock which up until the time of their capture hadn't entered a trap or flown into a net. This, it might be mentioned, is an impression gained just as much by watching chickadees about the home as by analyzing banding records. After the late fall influx no

MONTHLY REPEAT RECORD AT THREE BANDING STATIONS

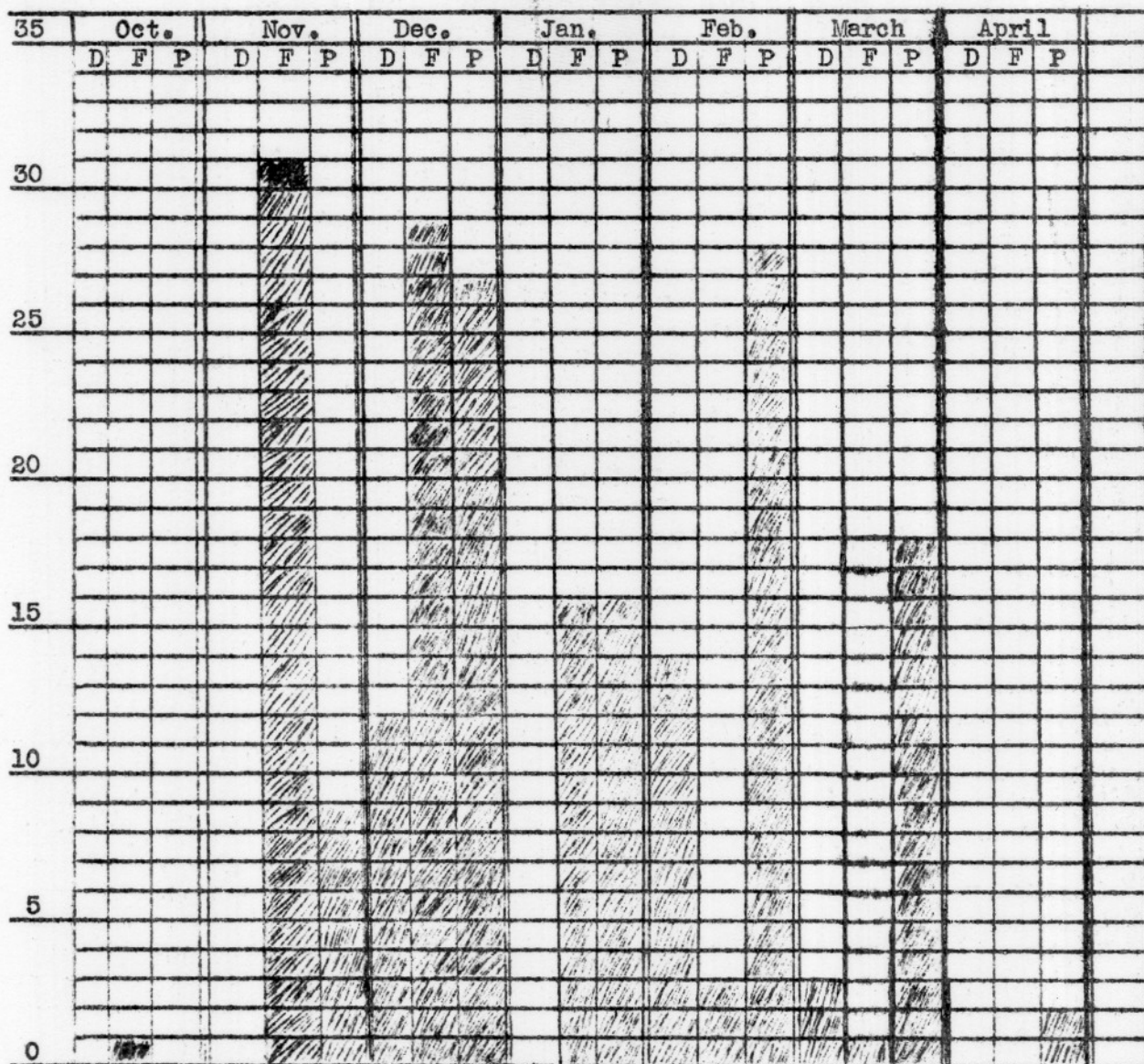


TABLE I - REPEATS

D - Dennis
 F - Fast
 P - Peacock

MONTHLY BANDING RECORD AT THREE BANDING STATIONS

	Oct.			Nov.			Dec.			Jan.			Feb.			March		
	D	F	P	D	F	P	D	F	P	D	F	P	D	F	P	D	F	P
10																		
5																		
0																		

TABLE II - FIRST BANDINGS

D - Dennis
F - Fast
P - Peacock

appreciable fluctuation in numbers was noted until spring departure. The number visiting feeding stations varied, to be sure, according to weather and season, but it was not until March that the wintering population began to decline to any great extent.

Dennis noted Black-capped Chickadees up until the last week in March, Fast until March 29, and Peacock saw her last on April 20. Once the northward movement got underway the chickadees lost no time in making their departures. Their early departure contrasts with that of such northern visitors as the Red-breasted Nuthatch and Brown Creeper which are often seen well into May.

While the above studies left many questions unanswered they did point up the fact that the movement into the region was an orderly one, that groups of between fifteen and thirty-five took up residence in favorable localities, and that arrivals and departures followed an almost time-table precision.

That this study was possible is due entirely to the close cooperation of the three bander participants. It has been a great pleasure working with Mr. Fast and Mrs. Peacock, and it is hoped that similar studies can be conducted in the future.

-- Rt. 1, Box 376
Leesburg, Virginia

HAWK AND OWL PROTECTION IN MAINE

Hawks and owls in Maine got a new lease on life on August 20, the National Audubon Society reports. On that day the new Maine law protecting all hawks and owls (except the horned owl) became effective. It was passed by the state legislature and given final approval on May 11, 1955. The bill was sponsored by the Bangor Bird Conservation Club and was supported by the Augusta Nature Club, the Maine Audubon Society, and the Federation of Garden Clubs of Maine.

There is a provision in the amendment that permits the "owner or occupant of land to kill hawks or owls when in the act of destroying poultry". The National Audubon Society pointed out that it is only occasional individual hawks and owls that develop a taste for poultry and that even these infrequent depredations can be prevented by keeping the poultry penned.

Passage of the hawk and owl protective law in Maine is in keeping with a nation-wide trend toward better protection of the birds of prey. The Society has just made a survey of state bird protection laws which reveals that only six states now fail to protect any hawks and owls. States that have recently extended total or additional protection to these birds include Indiana, Idaho, New Hampshire, and Michigan.

The Audubon Society made it clear that the hawks which have been most widely persecuted in Maine and other states are those species with broad wings and wide tails that soar slowly in the sky. These birds prey mainly on rodents and insects and their destruction has been harmful to agricultural interests.

A National Audubon Society spokesman said, "It is becoming more generally recognized that it is unsound to classify any species of hawk and owl, or any other form of wildlife, as 'harmful'. Each has its function in maintaining a healthy wildlife community. Control should only be attempted in individual cases where specific damage to property is involved. The continued slaughter of hawks, owls, and other predatory species is detrimental to the cause of wildlife conservation. The small creatures that hawks and owls eat breed so rapidly that there is an important job for every bird of prey to do. In addition, these birds are among the most interesting and highly-adapted creatures in the out-of-doors. Study of them will reward anyone who undertakes it."

Exception of the horned owl from protection in Maine was described by the Society as "unfortunate". It quoted the wellknown biologist and sportsman, Dr. Paul L. Errington of Iowa State College, in defense of the horned owl:

"I would say that, even from a man-centered point of view, the horned owl belongs in our natural out-of-doors wherever its activities are not too much in conflict with human interests, and that persecuting it at random merely because killing it may be legal or customary is a mistake.

"The hooting of the horned owl in a winter evening is reassurance to me that real wildness still exists, and I am thankful to live where I can hear it. Far from being a dismal or menacing sound, it has for me a freedom and beauty to make the air sing."

(Audubon News Letter, August, 1955)

NEWS AND NOTES

Danger at Parramore Island. One by one our best places for simple recreation and for bird study are being taken from us by housing developments, beach resorts, highway construction, and by projects of the armed services. Many of these enterprises are necessary, but there are too many of them, if we are to have any natural areas left. Members of the V.S.O. have been greatly disturbed to learn that the Navy is seeking to take over one of the best spots on the Eastern Shore and to use Parramore Island as a practice bombing range. This would mean the disruption of the commercial fishing industry in that section and the closing of a large recreational area for sport fishing, hunting, and bird watching. Opponents of the proposal gained a victory in June when the Senate Armed Services Committee rejected the plan; but the proposal is not dead. Senator Byrd has been of great help in holding up the scheme, but he will, of course, be guided in his future attitude by public opinion. If you ever want to go to Parramore Island, it would be well to let him know what you think about this.

"The Scarecrow." Members who attended the Annual Meeting at Lynchburg will remember the issue of this 'take-off' of The Raven. If you would like a copy, whether or not you were at the Lynchburg meeting, you may secure one free from Robert J. Watson, 3228 South Fifth Street, Arlington, Virginia. He can also send you a copy of the attractive program of the meeting. He has not asked this, but it would be only right for you to send a stamp with your request.

Wild Turkey. A wild turkey hen with seven young was observed on a seldom-used woods road in central Surry County on June 2, 1955. The young were about 4 inches in height and quickly dispersed themselves in the forest while the hen remained in view trying to lure the observers away. This observation was made in an immature oak-hickory forest. -- C.C. Steirly, Waverly, Va.

A Northward Nighthawk Flight. Guy Emerson (Samuel H. Kress Foundation, 221 W 57th Street, New York 19, N.Y.) spent part of the summer at Graves Mill, on the Rapidan River. We quote some paragraphs from a letter with an interesting observation about a northward flight of Nighthawks:

"On the 27th of August I happened to be walking home through our valley by the Rapidan and looked up and saw 20 or 30 birds flying over northward. They were too high to make them out at first. They had pointed wings and I thought they might be falcons and that we were having a hawk flight. The northward direction was puzzling. More and more came between 5:00 and 6:30 p.m. until I had counted between 500 and 600.

"The next evening I went out and at 5:15 the flight started again. This time the birds came lower and were evidently nighthawks. The flight lasted until dusk and there were over a thousand. They were all flying north, all quite high where they could see over the mountains. At the end 20 or 30 flew down over the house and fields feeding, and ultimately joined the northward procession.

"If they kept on in the direction they were going they would have come out on the top of the Blue Ridge on the east side somewhere near Big Meadows. I asked the local farmer about it and he said that for fifty years he could remember a flight of 'bull bats' that always came about the end of August and, as he remembered it, always flew northward. There must be some serious topographical element involved which makes them fly north instead of south in this area. After the large flight on the night of the 28th not another bird was seen in the days following."

Red-headed Woodpecker. As all of us who read the ornithological journals realize, there is an alarming scarcity of Red-headed Woodpeckers throughout the Middle Atlantic Region. For example, we have always had a pair in the large grove at the Massanetta Springs Conference Grounds near Harrisonburg. Ed Manners, of Philadelphia, who was teaching in July at a Nature Camp near Lexington, was anxious to see a Red-headed Woodpecker. He was sent to Massanetta Springs with confidence that he would find the pair there. However, he writes that he could not locate any birds. The Editor would like to have every record for this bird made in the State now.

Cliff Swallow. Ed Manners, who was teaching in a Nature Camp at Vesuvius, Rockbridge County, in July, located several colonies of Cliff Swallows. He saw more than 50 in several morning walks. He was told that there were a few nests in most of the barns in the area, but that the farmers destroyed them because of the fear of mites on the cattle. He visited a large colony, of which we had known, near Brownsburg; found a small colony of four nests, a mile east of Rockbridge Baths; and was told of another colony on Route 11, a mile or so south of Steele's Tavern.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak. On May 20, 1955 in the late afternoon the writer's attention was attracted to a pair of blue grosbeaks in a grain field within the corporate limits of Waverly (Sussex County). A closer inspection of the field revealed the presence of a male rose-breasted grosbeak.

-- C.C. Steirly, Waverly, Va.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

On hand July 1, 1954	\$ 652.85
Receipts from dues, gifts, sale of back Ravens, etc.	785.22
	<u>\$ 1,438.07</u>

Expenditures:

Raven production and mailing	\$ 479.35
Covers and envelopes for Raven	55.75
National Audubon Society Dues	10.00
Postage for treasurer	30.00
Printing cards, etc. for treasurer	11.50
Misc. office supplies for Raven publication	5.95
Typewriter repairs	19.65
Virginia Wildlife Federation Dues	75.00
Potomac Valley Conservation and Recreation	
Council Dues	5.00
Gift for retired secretary	<u>17.50</u>

TOTAL \$ 709.70

\$ 1,438.07

- 709.70

On hand Bank of Waverly, Va., July 1, 1955	<u>\$ 728.37</u>
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Note: (Of this amount, \$58.90 is in the trip fund, leaving a balance of \$669.47 in the general fund at this time and one of \$593.95 for July 1, 1954.)

Submitted by

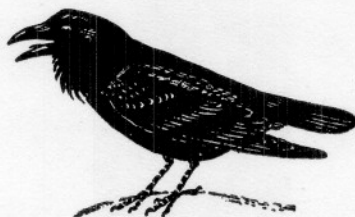
C.C. Steirly
Treasurer, VSO

July 1, 1955

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"BIRD HOUSES" - A Review

"Bird Houses, Baths and Feeding Shelters," by Edmund J. Sawyer, Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, 1955, 36 pages, illustrated, 50¢. This booklet will be very useful to anyone interested in building nesting boxes, bird baths, or feeding stations. Plans and specifications are given for various kinds of houses for small birds, Wood Ducks, small owls, and Sparrow Hawks; also for bird baths and feeding stations. Many helpful suggestions are made as to best types of materials, methods of construction and proper locations. This is a revised and enlarged edition of a booklet long in use. -- J.J. Murray.



The Raven

BULLETIN OF THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY

J. J. MURRAY, EDITOR
LEXINGTON, VA.

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NOS. 10 & 11

CONTENTS

	Page
Buggs Island Reservoir as a Place for Bird Study By J.J. Murray	113
The 1955 Eastern Shore Trip By Robert J. Watson	115
Miscellaneous Albemarle County Notes By Charles E. Stevens	117
Jaeger in Chesapeake Bay By Charlotte M. Hoover	118
Notes and News	119
Conservation Briefs	120
New Members	121

Copy for The Raven should be sent to J.J. Murray, 6 White Street, Lexington, Virginia.

Fred R. Scott, 115 Kennondale Lane, Richmond 26, Virginia, has been named by the Executive Committee as Assistant Editor, in charge of Field Trip Reports and Local Club News. Material of this type should be sent to him rather than to the Editor.

Applications for membership and membership dues should be sent to the Treasurer, C.C. Steirly, Waverly, Virginia.

Requests for change of address or for back issues of The Raven should be sent to Miss Gertrude Prior, Sweet Briar, Virginia.

BUGGS ISLAND RESERVOIR AS A PLACE FOR BIRD STUDY

By J. J. Murray

Two trips to Buggs Island Reservoir during the middle and late summer of 1955, while productive of little immediate results, were an introduction to the possibilities of this new development as a place for bird study.

The John H. Kerr Dam, for the impoundment of the waters of the Roanoke River and of the lower part of its tributary, the Dan River, was completed in 1952. The lake, partially filled by October, 1952, now covers 51,200 acres, of which about three-fifths is in Virginia. The Buggs Island Authority has acquired an additional 50,000 acres for the control of the watershed. The head of the lake is about ten miles east of South Boston, and the dam is about ten miles southwest of South Hill, making a stretch of some thirty miles in length, with a width up to three miles in places. The Virginia part of the lake is in Halifax and Mecklenburg Counties, while there is a big southward extension in Granville and Vance Counties in North Carolina. Very irregular in shape, with many indentations, the lake has a shore line of 800 miles.

The dam consists of half a mile of concrete, with nearly four miles of earth embankments. It rises 144 feet above the stream bed. The U.S. Corps of Engineers spent over four million dollars in clearing the area before the water was let in. Each period of high water continues to pile up some debris, and will do so for a few years. The water will not be drawn below the 280 foot elevation line. Water between the 280 and 300 foot levels will be used as necessary for power development, while flood waters will collect between the 300 and 320 foot levels for gradual release.

The Buggs Island Authority is now developing for public use the Occoneechee Park, about a mile east of Clarksville, on Route 58, half a mile east of its eastern junction with Route 15. A central road runs east and west through the park for two miles, with six or eight side roads branching off south to the lake, giving easy access to several miles of lake front. There will be scores of picnic tables, public conveniences, and launching places for boats. The park has fine groves of white oaks and beeches. Near the John H. Kerr Dam another park is being developed.

The best places to approach the lake for bird study are the two parks and the areas where several highways cross arms of the lake. There are also many other approaches to fishing camps and private developments. The shore line is so irregular that it is impossible to cover any distance along the shore except at such approaches as these.

The only reports on birds that we have had from Buggs Island Reservoir have been made by members of the Danville group: Robert Eggleston, Walter McMann, and Royster Lyle, Jr. A paper, "Buggs Island Field Trips", by Eggleston (*The Raven*, XXIII, September-October, 1952, pp.89-90) described a trip by Eggleston and Lyle to the Clarksville area on September 6, 1952, and another by Eggleston and McMann on October 4. They reported many herons on September 6: American Egrets, Great Blues, Little Blues, Green Herons, and three Snowy Egrets; and on October 4 a Yellow-crowned Night Heron, a Double-crested Cormorant, a Red-backed Sandpiper, and three Bald Eagles. On a later trip, on December 7,

1952, Eggleston found three Whistling Swans (The Raven, XXIV, September-October, 1953, p.72).

On July 7 and 8, 1955, I drove across the John H. Kerr Dam, getting a view of the lower end of the lake but having no time to stop for birding. On September 12, 1955, I visited the Clarksville region and Occoneechee Park, spending several hours and coming to the water at almost every possible point. Nothing of any great interest was encountered. To my great surprise, not a heron was seen, although Eggleston and Lyle found them in good numbers on a similar date. I did see at one mud flat many tracks of what was probably a Great Blue Heron. It was rather late for shorebirds so far inland, but I found a few. Killdeer were present, of course. One Semipalmated Plover flew over while I was on the railroad bridge at Clarksville. At a mud flat on Route 15, south of Clarksville, one Pectoral Sandpiper and 7 Least Sandpipers were seen; and the wide mud expanse was dotted with the tracks of small sandpipers which had been there recently. No other water birds were noted.

Many of the land birds to be expected in that part of the State were found, but only two of particular interest. In the field between the lake and Route 58, east of the junction with Route 15, a Horned Lark flew over whistling. And south of the lake and east of Route 15, in a piece of Virginia completely shut off by water from the rest of the State, I came across a family party of three Blue Grosbeaks.

Except for observing the usual Southside Virginia birds, the time for bird study at Buggs Island Reservoir is from fall to spring. In late summer, fall and spring, there will probably be good flights of shorebirds when mud flats are exposed. The section south of Clarksville, where Route 15 crosses an arm of the lake, seems to be the best spot. In fall there should be concentrations of herons. But winter is the best time. As the shallow coves develop water plants and the deeper waters have more aquatic animal life, there should be large flocks of ducks and geese, and in lesser numbers grebes, loons, cormorants, swans, coots, and gulls. Certainly some of the species rare in Virginia should visit the lake from time to time.

It is to be hoped that more of our V.S.O. groups will visit the lake; and particularly that some group will take a Christmas Count around Occoneechee Park.

-- 6 White Street
Lexington, Virginia

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THE 1955 EASTERN SHORE TRIP

By Robert J. Watson

By land and sea, thirty-seven members and guests of the Virginia Society of Ornithology converged upon Wachapreague, Virginia, for the VSO's annual Eastern Shore foray, held on the week-end of August 27-28, 1955. Though the trip did not begin until the morning of Saturday, August 27, most of the participants arrived the evening before in order to start the trip off right with a sumptuous dinner at the Wachapreague Hotel, and the seaborne contingent got things off to a flying start by bagging a Parasitic Jaeger from the decks of the Kiptopeke Ferry on Friday evening.

The foray officially got underway on Saturday morning from the hotel. Trip leader C.C. Steirly had arranged for two boats to transport the crowd to Parramore Island, the first objective. A boat ride of some ten minutes' duration carried the party through channels bordered by wide, grassy marshes, the foraging grounds of Snowy Egrets and of Louisiana and Great Blue Herons, with occasional stretches of open mudflats where Hudsonian Curlews, Oystercatchers, and Willets could be observed. A Double-crested Cormorant swimming in the water, and several Black Skimmers cruising near the boat, further enlivened the ride.

On reaching Parramore Island, the group split up into smaller parties for thorough coverage of the several types of habitat on the island. The brackish marshes around the Coast Guard station, where the boats landed, were inhabited by Boat-tailed Grackles and Song Sparrows, with a few early Swamp Sparrows. The wooded interior of the island presented another type of habitat, but a careful survey of this ecological niche was severely discouraged by teeming hordes of bloodthirsty mosquitoes. A hasty safari through the edge of the woods brought the travelers to the safety of the wind-swept beaches on the seaward side of the island, where seabirds and shorebirds could be studied at leisure. Numerous gulls were observed drifting down from the north; most of these proved to be Laughing and Herring Gulls, though there were also several Great Black-backed Gulls. Shorebirds did not occur in great abundance, but the usual Sanderlings were accompanied by unusually large numbers of Piping Plovers, as well as by Semipalmated and Black-bellied Plovers, Ruddy Turnstones, Oystercatchers, and Willets. Terns included the Common, Forster's, and Royal. Another interesting feature was the large number of Bobolinks which were seen flying overhead throughout the day, not only from the island, but on the mainland as well. Most of these were flying north, suggesting the presence of a large roost somewhere in that direction.

While on Parramore Island, the interests of the group were momentarily diverted to paleontology when Mrs. W.A. Wachenfeld, of Orange, N.J., attending her third VSO function, spied a strange-looking object on the beach. On examination, this proved to be a fossil mammalian skull, with a large tusk attached. Trip leader Steirly's tentative identification of the skull as that of a walrus (*Odobenus rosmarus*) from the Pleistocene was later fully confirmed by Dr. Charles O. Handley, Jr., of the U.S. National Museum. The specimen now reposes in the Museum, with the VSO listed as the official donor.

Returning to the two vessels, the group partook of a lunch provided by the hotel, and then cast anchor for nearby Cedar Island, a smaller islet of smooth sand and grassy scrub growth. Although relatively few birds were found here, careful observation added the Western and Semipalmated Sandpipers to the day's list. A short swim in the warm water around the island, indulged in by those members of the party who had thoughtfully provided themselves with bathing suits, completed the day's activities, after which the boats returned to the mainland. In the evening, the spacious veranda of the hotel provided a vantage point from which to enjoy a view of the swallows, herons, gulls, terns, and other birds drifting above the wide stretches of grassy marsh along the water's edge.

On Sunday morning, August 28, the group split into two parties. One party, led by Steirly and Fred Scott, headed southward for a careful survey of the land birds of the region around Kiptopeke. A small flight of migrating hawks, including one Duck Hawk, was the highlight of this part of the trip. The other party travelled northward to Chincoteague, where they searched, without success, for the Cattle Egrets known to be spending the summer on the island. Conversations with several residents of the island showed that at least some of the people living there, doubtless from previous visits by ornithologists, have learned to distinguish these birds from Snowy Egrets, or "Scoggins", as the latter are termed. Although the informants were able to supply considerable information about the habits and movements of the Cattle Egrets, all efforts to find them were in vain. Some consolation was provided by the finding of a pair of Stilt Sandpipers on the island. Noteworthy also was the abundance of birds in the marshes along the causeway leading to Chincoteague, especially the Red-tailed Hawk seen skimming over the grass, and the large flock of over 200 herons (mostly Snowy Egrets).

This short summary of the 1955 Eastern Shore foray should make it clear that the trip did not result in any particularly interesting records, or fill in any significant gaps in the ornithological knowledge of the state. Nevertheless, the opportunity (valued at least by the inland members of the Society) to observe the bird life of the coast, together with the fine weather, the bountiful meals at the hotel, the pleasant location of the town of Wachapreague, and the friendly atmosphere typical of any VSO gathering, combined to leave a very agreeable impression on those who participated. All agreed that the foray was a success, and that Wachapreague might well be a desirable location for next year's Eastern Shore trip.

-- Arlington, Virginia

MISCELLANEOUS ALBEMARLE COUNTY NOTES

By Charles E. Stevens

Langhorne's Pond - A New Locale for Migratory Waterfowl. A 20-acre pond built in the summer of 1953 near Scottsville has become the best waterfowl and shorebird spot in the county. Now it surpasses 25-acre Henley's Lake near Crozet which used to reign supreme hereabouts in volume and variety of ducks. Since the summer of 1954 Langhorne's Pond has produced seven species new to the county (La. Heron, Golden Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, Dowitcher, Red-backed Sandpiper, and Least Tern) where new birds come slow and hard after 12 years of fairly regular bird observations.

The reason this new pond is so fertile is that it is entirely surrounded by open farmland. In August as the water level drops due to the lessened rainfall wide mudflats are exposed around the pond's edge. Here shorebirds are found in large numbers.

June is the only month in which business is not good, and then a few vagrant birds may be around, such as June 25, 1955, when a Pied-billed Grebe, a male Redhead duck, and a White-rumped Sandpiper were present.

The days following hurricanes Connie and Diane in 1955 were exceptional at Langhorne's. On August 13 two least Terns were seen; on August 16 a prodigious flock of 66 Lesser Yellow-legs; and on August 18, 3 Black Terns, 2 Sanderlings, 4 Black-bellied Plovers, 2 Ruddy Turnstones, 40 Pectoral Sandpipers, 1 Dowitcher, and a Louisiana Heron which had been around for about a month. September 3 was also good with 19 Black Terns, 2 Sharp-tailed Sparrows, and 3 Soras.

Through the winter of 1954-55 there was a flock of about 200 ducks of several species, but mostly Mallards, present on the pond.

In comparison to Langhorne's Albemarle County has a double reservoir of 35 and 20 acres in the Ragged Mts., 50-acre Albemarle Lake, and the 44-acre Moorman's River Reservoir in the Blue Ridge, all of which produce relatively few ducks. All of these bodies of water are completely or partly surrounded by woods.

Acadian Flycatcher in Pines. It seems that here the commonest nester in the dry young scrub pine and scrub-shortleaf pine stands is the Acadian Flycatcher, which one ordinarily associates with shady moist glens and other damp leafy places. However, in the type of natural reforestation of old fields where solid growths of pine occur the commonest nester is the Prairie Warbler until the trees get about fifteen feet high, or at least attain enough height to have some openings underneath. With the appearance of these openings the Acadian takes over and for a while is about the only inhabitant of these places. As the trees get bigger and deciduous types appear other birds, particularly the Pine Warbler, make their appearance as breeders.

A pinewoods near Proffit, of which a winter bird population study has been written up in Audubon Field Notes and The Raven in past years, is still relatively young. A census on June 26, 1954, of singing males in this 45-acre tract showed the Acadian Flycatcher outnumbering the Pine Warbler 9 birds to 7. The Oven-bird was third with 5 singing individuals.

Parula Warbler Nests. In his article on the Parula Warbler near Leesburg, Va., in the July-August 1954 Raven, John V. Dennis describes a nest of this bird in a scrub pine. The only two nests I ever found were discovered on the same day, May 18, 1948, on a bank of the South Fork of the Rivanna River near Charlottesville. One nest was located two feet up in a small willow near the water's edge and contained four eggs. It was situated in a tangle of rootlets and stems left in the tree by high water. The other nest, which I collected, was one of the previous year, and was also located in a clump of rootlets and tendrils hanging five feet up in another willow. The nests were about 200 feet apart. The immediate nest in each case was composed of grasses, tiny stems, cocoons, and traces of an unidentified moss.

Parulas are fairly common in the lower hollows of the Blue Ridge near here where hemlocks and sycamores occur. I feel fairly certain that many of them nest in the hemlocks, but I have yet to find a nest in these places.

-- Charlottesville, Virginia

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JAEGER IN CHESAPEAKE BAY

By Charlotte M. Hoover

My husband and I have just returned from a boat trip to Florida, having left from Annapolis, Maryland. We thought perhaps the readers of The Raven might be interested in our record of a jaeger in the Chesapeake Bay, midway between the town of Cape Charles and New Point, on October 11th.

I was throwing bread to an immature laughing gull which was following the boat, when suddenly the gull was attacked by a dark bird of about the same size or a trifle larger. The two darted back and forth several times with the jaeger being very persistent. The gull finally flew off, and the jaeger flew alongside the boat for several minutes. He paid no attention to the bread we threw out, and disappeared as suddenly as he had come.

The bird was close enough so that we could note the thinner, shorter bill. It was a completely dark bird except for some lightness in the wings; the underparts were somewhat lighter than above. It looked exactly like Peterson's drawing of a dark phase Parasitic Jaeger, although it lacked the longer tail feathers. The only bird it could have been confused with is a Sooty Shearwater, and we feel we know that bird quite well, having seen a spectacular flight of shearwaters on the California coast. After considering the size, coloration, and the bill, we concluded that it was probably a Parasitic.

Last year we made the same trip, only we left on Thanksgiving Day, and from Washington, D.C. instead. This year we were surprised to note the difference in the numbers of birds observed. Last year we began to see Gannets near Nomini Bay in the Potomac and noted them all the way down. This trip we didn't see a single one. Furthermore, there were absolutely no ducks or geese on the Bay, as compared with great numbers of all kinds recorded last year. The warm fall weather evidently had some effect on the migration, as some birds should have been down by the 10th of October. Even gulls were scarce.

We noted an amusing incident - two Wood Ducks swimming blithely along among the battleships on the Elizabeth River at Norfolk!

-- 2409 Arlington Boulevard
Arlington 1, Virginia

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NOTES AND NEWS

Bird Sanctuaries. A group of clubwomen in Chase City, under the leadership of Mrs. H.H. Braxton, have started a movement to have their town declared a Bird Sanctuary. They have been before the Town Council with their request; and are going back to the Council on December 12, when their request will be considered. North Carolina has many town and city bird sanctuaries, but there are few in Virginia. Should not the V.S.O. start similar moves in other communities? There is a State law protecting all songbirds, but in many communities the officials pay little attention to enforcing the law. The advantage of making a town a sanctuary by order of the town council is that it puts the obligation of enforcement on the shoulders of the police force; and gives citizens a chance to register their complaints when they see birds molested.

Hawk Flight. The only migration hawk counts that have come to the editor are two made by Max Carpenter on High Knob, in the Shenandoah Mountains, on the line between Rockingham County, Virginia, and Pendleton County, West Virginia, at an elevation of 4107 feet. On September 18, 1955, he counted 4 Sharp-shins, 3 Red-tails, 1 Red-shoulder, 184 Broad-wings, 1 Osprey, 11 unidentified Buteos. Three Ravens came close to the tower. On September 25 he counted 2 Cooper's Hawks, 1 Red-shoulder, 47 Broad-wings, and 5 unidentified hawks. Four Ravens were seen throughout the day.

New Book on Birds of Prey. Twenty years ago the National Audubon Society published The Hawks of North America, by John B. May, with a colored plate for every species. That book, which sold at a dollar, is now quoted at ten dollars in second-hand dealers' catalogues. Now the book has been revised and enlarged, including owls as well as hawks, and has been issued under the title, North American Birds of Prey. The author is the well known writer and lecturer for the National Audubon Society, Alexander Sprunt, Jr. The book has 46 color plates. It is for sale at \$5.00 by the National Audubon Society, 1130 Fifth Avenue, New York 28, N.Y.

The Christmas Bird Count. Dates: December 24 - January 2. Reports must be made on the form supplied by Audubon Field Notes. If none are sent to you, request them from Audubon Field Notes, 1130 Fifth Avenue, New York 28, N.Y. The compiler of the report is now required to send in with the report 50¢ for each person whose name appears on the report. This is to defray the heavy printing costs. The general rules, as in previous years, must be followed, both in reports sent to New York and in those sent to The Raven, except that no fee is to be sent to The Raven.

Look Ahead ---

1956 Annual Meeting - April 27 and 28 - Roanoke

1956 Foray (Blue Ridge Mountains) - June 15-17 (tentative)

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CONSERVATION BRIEFS

These notes are abbreviated from material in Conservation News, monthly bulletin of the National Wildlife Federation.

A controversy has arisen between the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of War over the proposal to transfer 10,700 acres of the Wichita Mountain Wildlife Refuge to the army for the extension of Fort Sill. Congress has authorized the expansion of Fort Sill, but without specifically authorizing the taking of land from the Refuge. So far Secretary Douglas McKay of the Department of the Interior has successfully resisted the transfer of Wildlife lands. Charles Callison, Conservation Director of the National Wildlife Federation has stated that the land under discussion is some of the best wildlife habitat in the whole area.

The Florida Key Deer have a chance for better protection. Secretary McKay has approved a public-land order withdrawing 71 acres of public land in Monroe County, Florida, as an addition to the National Key Deer Refuge. The Key Deer, smallest of all American deer and only about the size of a collie dog when full grown, is in great danger of extinction, with a present population of only about 112 animals. It suffers from pot-hunting at night, from automobiles on the highway it must cross at times, from the destruction of its habitat by fire. Unless the habitat is saved and persecution ended, and unless the present herd can be built up to at least 200 animals, there is little chance for this attractive animal to survive.

Another danger to the Whooping Crane has been removed. The Strategic Air Command has given up its plan to establish a photoflash bombing range near the southern boundary of the Aransas Refuge. Conservation forces feared that such operations would be the final blow to these fine birds, already under such tremendous handicaps.

Conservation Fellowships. The National Wildlife Federation will offer next year several \$1,000 fellowships to outstanding graduate students in conservation education. Application forms may be secured by writing to Ernest F. Swift, Executive Director, 232 Carroll Street, N.W., Washington 12, D.C.

Wildlife Research Units. This year the nation-wide chain of Co-operative Wildlife Research Units marked its twentieth anniversary. Since their inception in 1935 these units, such as the one in Virginia at V.P.I., have provided a much needed supply of trained men for wildlife conservation work. Over 2,000 wildlife students have graduated from these units.

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NEW MEMBERS IN 1955

Adams, Mrs. H.E.	Box 56	Covington, Va.
Barnes, Dr. Irston R.	Box 202, Benj. Franklin Sta.	Washington, D.C.
Biggs, Joseph D.	c/o E.G. Laybourne, Rt. 1	Manassas, Va.
Blick, Mrs. J.E.	12 Greenbrier Rd.	Portsmouth, Va.
Braxton, Mrs. H.H.	138 Walker St.	Chase City, Va.
Breneiser, Eliot	1130 Bolling Ave.	Norfolk 8, Va.
Chisholm, Mrs. W.G.	King St.	Leesburg, Va.
Claiborne, Mrs. F.T.	508 Tyler St.	Williamsburg, Va.
Davies, Mrs. A.B., Jr.	741 Clifton St.	Clifton Forge, Va.
Disney, Barrett	5402 New Kent Rd.	Richmond 25, Va.
Frazier, Mrs. Harry, Jr.	Westview Rd.	Charlottesville, Va.
Garber, Mrs. H.A.	4024 Augusta Ave.	Richmond, Va.
Garvin, C.C.	614 Powhattan Pl., N.W.	Washington 11, D.C.
Giles, R.H., Jr.	Box 3726 VPI	Blacksburg, Va.
Gill, Mrs. Everett, Jr.	47 Towana Rd.	Richmond, Va.
Hacker, C.W.	218 Chesterfield Rd.	Hampton, Va.
Halle, L.J.	1115 Hill Top Rd.	Charlottesville, Va.
Hassel, Miss Peggy	6712 Kensington Ave.	Richmond, Va.
Hubbell, Adam (J)	435 South Lee St.	Alexandria, Va.
Ireson, Miss Blanche	721 Tazewell Ave.	Bluefield, Va.
Johnson, Miss Frances E.	5403 Lakeside Dr.	Virginia Beach, Va.
Lees, Miss Gertrude	800 S. Washington St., Apt. 309-C	Alexandria, Va.
LeHew, Dr. Allen	76 Alleghany	Clifton Forge, Va.
Leslie, J.A., Jr.	5405 Rolfe Ave.	Norfolk 8, Va.
Linn, Mrs. W.J.	P.O. Box 53	Clifton Forge, Va.
Marks, Mrs. E.A.	720 W. Franklin St.	Richmond 26, Va.
McCoy, Miss Elizabeth P.	Box 123	Monterey, Va.
Morton, Miss Gladys E.	Rt. 10, Box 309	Richmond, Va.
Mulvanity, Mrs. Edward	RFD 3	Winchester, Va.
Pendleton, Mrs. Littleton F.	400 Douglas St.	Clifton Forge, Va.
Rawson, Dr. Arnold J.	7423 Chipping Rd.	Norfolk, Va.
Rawson, Mrs. Mirjam K.	7423 Chipping Rd.	Norfolk, Va.
Revelay, Miss Nancy	3304 Carolina Ave.	Richmond 22, Va.
Rudd, Mrs. Hugh R.	4315 Fauquier Ave.	Richmond, Va.
Talbott, Mrs. Frank G.	327 Pear Ave.	Newport News, Va.
Treichel, George W.	HQ Co. USA G-2, Fort Myer	Arlington, Va.
Turrentine, F.R.	110 Union St.	Schenectady 5, N.Y.
Walker, Ross H.	P.O. Box 1758	Richmond 14, Va.
Wall, Mrs. Herbert G.	North Shore Point	Norfolk 5, Va.
Webb, Mrs. Sarah R.	20 West Avenue	Wellsboro, Pa.
Witt, Miss Betty F.	Rt. 10, Box 309	Richmond, Va.
Beasley, Miss Evelyn A.	209 N. Jefferson St.	Petersburg, Va.



The Raven

BULLETIN OF THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY

J. J. MURRAY, EDITOR
LEXINGTON, VA.

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CONTENTS

	Page
Virginia Season Reports:	
Winter, 1953-1954	
Spring, 1954	
Summer, 1954	
Fall, 1954	
By Fred R. Scott	123
Audubon Hawk Leaflet	130
Twenty-seventh Annual Meeting	131
Index to Volume XXVI - 1955	132

Urge your representatives in the General Assembly
to vote for the Hawk Bill.

Copy for The Raven should be sent to J.J. Murray, 6 White Street,
Lexington, Virginia.

Field Trip Reports and Local Club News should be sent to
Fred R. Scott, 115 Kennondale Lane, Richmond, 26.

Applications for membership and membership dues should be sent
to the Treasurer, C.C. Steirly, Waverly, Virginia.

Requests for change of address or for back issues of The Raven
should be sent to Miss Gertrude Prior, Sweet Briar, Virginia.

VIRGINIA SEASON REPORTS

WINTER, 1953-1954 - FALL, 1954

By F. R. Scott

THE 1953-1954 WINTER SEASON

The winter was mainly above normal in temperature and very close to normal in precipitation, though there was little snow. What snow did fall, however, stayed on the ground a relatively long time as a result of concurrent cold spells.

The only winter bird-population studies in Virginia were two done by Edwin Willis near Blacksburg. These are reported in Audubon Field Notes for June 1954.

Herons and Egrets. The Hopewell Christmas Count recorded 77 Great Blues on January 3 and included a single flock of 47 seen by C.E. Stevens, Jr. The same observer found 2 American Egrets on this same count, the first winter record this far inland. One of these birds was later recorded by J.L. DeLime on January 13. John H. Grey found 2 American Egrets at Jamestown on February 7. As in past years, wintering individuals were seen at Assateague and Back Bay. For the third consecutive year a Snowy Egret wintered at Hampton at least into January (*fide* JHG). According to a local farmer 2 Cattle Egrets appeared with his cattle on Piney Island, Chincoteague, about Christmas time, but they were not observed by a qualified observer until late spring (*fide* E.O. Mellinger). An American Bittern at Alexandria on January 2 is one of the few inland winter records (I.R. Barnes and others).

Swans, Geese, Ducks. A flock of 175 Whistling Swans appeared on Assateague Island in late November. Numbers dwindled and the last individuals left in early January (EOM). Two appeared at Hog Island, Surry County, on December 8 (J.E. Bryant), and another was found at Surry on December 3 and from December 29 to January 25 (C.C. Steirly). Paul Sykes and Billie Efird saw 100 Brant at Lynnhaven Inlet on February 28, an unusual record for Chesapeake Bay. Blue Geese were about normal this year: up to 12 wintered at Back Bay, 1 to 5 at Fresquile and Curles Neck, and a single adult was observed on the Hog Island count January 1. The Lesser Snow Geese reported previously at Lexington dwindled to 2 and were last seen on December 16 (J.J. Murray).

Winter Blue-winged Teal were noted on both the Chincoteague and Hog Island Christmas counts. A single European Widgeon was found January 3 on Assateague where one had been seen several times in November (EOM). The first February record of the Baldpate at Lexington occurred on the 9th with 4 birds (J. Womeldorf). Assateague produced a number of good maximum counts of ducks on December 27 including 850 Baldpates and 735 Shovellers, the latter apparently a record count for the state (EOM and others). The Wood Duck seems to be moving into Curles Neck and Fresquile as a winter resident in some numbers, or at least so it appears. The DeLimes estimated a wintering population of 75 in the area. There were two interesting high counts of Ruddy Ducks: 5000 on the Back Bay Christmas count on December 26, and 10,000 on the Brooke, Stafford County, count on the 27th.

Hawks. F.W. Behrend found an immature Golden Eagle on Mt. Rogers on December 27. There were three reports of Rough-legged Hawks: a dark-phase individual near Charlottesville on December 27 (K.L. Lawless), 2 near Yorktown January 2 (F.R. Scott), and one on the Fort Belvoir count on January 3. This last group also reported an Osprey the same day (P.A. Dumont and others).

Marsh and Shore Birds. The Sora, a bird not normally expected here in winter, was recorded on two state Christmas counts. Bruce McCartney had 10 on January 1 on a small marsh just off the York River at Norge, and I.R. Barnes and others found 4 at Alexandria on January 2. A Ringed Plover was carefully observed at Hunting Creek, Alexandria, on December 26 (R. Hough, Sr. and Jr.), apparently a first winter record for the state away from the coastal area. Hunting Creek also produced a number of other winter shorebird records, including up to 3 Lesser Yellow-legs all winter; a lame Pectoral Sandpiper from October 30 to January 3 (J.M. Abbott); 3 Least Sandpipers on January 16; 6 Red-backs on December 15; up to 11 Semipalmated Sandpipers into February (JIA); and one Western Sandpiper on January 31. Elsewhere, a Lesser Yellow-legs at Presquile on January 4 was the first winter record for the Richmond area (Mr. and Mrs. JLD); 15 Purple Sandpipers were seen on the Little Creek jetties on February 27 (PS, BE); and one Semipalmated Sandpiper was reported at Grandview, Hampton, December 26 (JHG).

Gulls and Terns. Four Laughing Gulls were reported at Alexandria on December 13 and another there on the 16th. An excellent winter count of Forster's Terns was 104 counted from the Chesapeake Bay ferry on December 26 (A.S. Messenger, FRS). Most of them seemed to be flying southward. A few Common Terns remained into the winter, with 8 being reported on the Back Bay count on December 26 (Mrs. Floy Burford and others); a few others were seen in the Cape Henry Region by W.F. Rountrey. Grey noted a very late Royal Tern at Grandview on December 26.

Owls to Wrens. A Great Horned Owl nested at Dyke in January (details lacking - Atlantic Naturalist, 9: 257, 1954). The only Saw-whet Owl reported was one at Norge January 1 (BM). Red-headed Woodpeckers were rather common at Lexington with a high count of 10 on December 28 (JJM). Good counts were also reported from Brooke and Blacksburg. The Fish Crow seems to be increasing in winter at Lexington with small flocks of up to 5 birds being found now (JJM). Oddly, although it is a common winter resident on the coast, Scott has not found it in winter in the Richmond Area since 1944. A spectacular concentration of 91 Red-breasted Nuthatches was found on the Mt. Rogers count on December 27 (FWB, D.A. Patterson, S.M. Russell, A.R. Shields), though very few were reported in eastern Virginia. On December 27 R.S. Cannon, Jr., saw a Bewick's Wren at Marlborough Point, Stafford County, where one had been seen November 11 and 29 by E.T. McKnight, T.B. Nolan, and W.W. Rubey. The trend to wintering Long-billed Marsh Wrens continues with an amazing count of 48 at Alexandria on January 2 (IRB and others).

Gnatcatchers to Fringillids. E.T. McKnight saw a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on December 13 at the mouth of Aquia Creek, Stafford County. Orange-crowned Warblers were reported at Washington's Birthplace, Westmoreland County, on February 28 (P.G. DuMont and others), at Assateague on December 27 (ASM), and several times around Norfolk in December and January (WFR). There were three December records of single Baltimore Orioles: at several feeding stations in Arlington (fide A.H. Fast), Williamsburg (Geraldine Claiborne, JHG), and Warwick (W.F. Smith). Bruce McCartney found a Dickcissel at Norge on January 1 and several days before. On the December 27 Mt. Rogers

count 200 Pine Siskins were counted, as well as 2 Red Crossbills (S.M. Russell and others). Few Siskins and no Crossbills were reported from Virginia east of the mountains. Lincoln's Sparrows at Norfolk on February 14 and 29 are the first Virginia record east of Richmond and the first winter record (R. Peake, WFR). There were excellent flocks of Snow Buntings on coastal Virginia with flocks up to 50 birds. Most records were from the Back Bay area, but Grey found 50 at Grandview, Hampton, on December 26.

THE 1954 SPRING MIGRATION

The weather was generally warm until early May when it abruptly turned cool for the rest of the month. Rainfall was normal or above. The weather picture does not explain the odd spring migration, which can best be described as mixed up. Most migrants were apparently later than normal in arriving, though there were plenty of abnormally early dates also. Some mountain observers reported a lack of some migrants, particularly warblers.

Pelagic Birds. C.E. Stevens found a flock of 13 Common Loons near Charlottesville on April 17. On Chesapeake Bay F.R. Scott counted over 1,000 Gannets moving south off the town of Cape Charles on April 2. The movements of these birds on the Bay is still imperfectly known.

Hérons and Ibises. A Cattle Egret was reported from Piney Island, adjacent to Chincoteague, on May 19 (E.O. Mellinger) and 2 there on May 30 (FRS). Glossy Ibises were found twice, 5 on Assateague Island May 9 (DOM) and 6 just west of Cedar Island May 30 (FRS).

Geese and Ducks. Two small flocks of Snow Geese remained at Back Bay until at least May 8, by far the latest date for the area (F.C. Richardson, P. Sykes, W.F. Rountrey). American Brant remained at Chincoteague until May 12 (DOM). Edwin Willis found 7 Mallard nests at Blacksburg, one of which was in the crotch of a white oak 45 feet up. None of these nesting attempts were successful, however, all being destroyed before full clutches were laid. Don Kunkel and others saw a male European Teal at Dyke and Alexandria several times between March 30 and April 10. A pair of Wood Ducks flying over Cheriton on April 30 appears to be the first breeding-season record for the Eastern Shore of Virginia (FRS); lack of natural fresh water is probably the principal reason this bird does not occur here in the numbers one expects west of Chesapeake Bay.

Marsh Birds. John Terborgh reported a Black Rail in Northumberland County on April 17. A Florida Gallinule at Henley's Lake, near Charlottesville, was unusual (CTS).

Shorebirds. Undoubtedly one of the most interesting aspects of the spring migration was the concentration of shorebirds that occurred on the mud flats of Hunting Creek, on the southern edge of Alexandria (J.M. Abbott and others). Reports included 50 Ringed Plovers on May 15, 50 to 70 Lesser Yellow-legs between April 5 and 19, a maximum of 122 Pectoral Sandpipers on April 3, 30 White-rumped Sandpipers on May 15, and a Baird's Sandpiper on May 15 and 16. Three Solitary Sandpipers here on March 27 were very early. At Seaford, York County, a Hudsonian Curlew on May 8 was unusual (R.J. Beasley).

At Lexington Murray had a number of interesting shorebird records including 25 Ringed Plovers on May 20, a Ruddy Turnstone on May 20 (second record for area), a White-rumped and a Red-backed Sandpiper on May 21, and 2 Eastern Dowitchers on May 20 (first record for area).

Jaeger, Gulls, Terns. An adult Parasitic Jaeger was seen from the Chesapeake Bay ferry on May 2 by L.L. Mackensie, Clement Cobb, and Richard Harrison. Jack Perkins reported a bird believed to be an Iceland Gull at Sandbridge, near Back Bay, on April 21 and 26. Ring-billed Gulls were found at Lexington several times during the spring, the latest date being June 6 (J. Vomeldorf). The maximum count of Bonaparte's Gulls at Belle Haven, Fairfax County, was 1,000 on April 5. A Gull-billed Tern at Newport News on May 9 is one of the few records away from the ocean beaches and marshes (RJB).

Swifts to Wrens. J.H. Grey noted a very early Chimney Swift at Williamsburg on March 27, while on the same date Beasley found an Eastern Kingbird in the nearby Chickahominy area. An adult Horned Lark was feeding young out of the nest at Norfolk on May 22 (FCR, PS, WFR). On Assateague Island 2 Tree Swallow nests contained 5 eggs and 1 egg on May 1 (FRS). A Bewick's Wren was seen on April 3 at Alexandria where there have been several recent records (A.W. Viner).

Warblers. Paul G. DuMont and others found 2 Worm-eating Warblers at Cape Charles on April 19. There are relatively few coastal records of this species. An early Golden-winged Warbler was seen at Falls Church April 21 (J. Eike). One of the most noteworthy records of recent years was the appearance of a singing male Bachman's Warbler on May 8 at Lebanon, Dr. Paul Bartsch's home at Lorton, Fairfax County. The bird established territory, but no female appeared, and it was last seen June 1 (Harriet Sutton and many others). A locally rare record was a male Black-throated Blue Warbler on Assateague Island on May 20 (EOM). Richard Peake found a very early Prairie Warbler near Norfolk on March 24.

Blackbirds to Sparrows. A colony of 22 Boat-tailed Grackle nests near the Chincoteague Causeway had both eggs and young on April 30. E. Knudson found a singing male Scarlet Tanager in breeding plumage at Arlington on the amazing date of March 8. A small group of Henslow's Sparrows was found between Strasburg and Front Royal on April 26 (Max Carpenter). Note that this is in the Valley. A Lincoln's Sparrow was seen in Norfolk County several times up to April 24, with 2 birds on April 3 (RP).

THE 1954 SUMMER SEASON

Hot and dry is the best description of the weather, which broke meteorological records all over the state and which did nothing to improve the generally low water levels.

Apparently there were no breeding-bird censuses in Virginia this year.

It is unfortunate that there is not a better coverage of the Virginia mountainous areas. Many observers in the Appalachian Region reported sharply reduced numbers of some breeding land birds, particularly warblers, but there was no mention of this from the sketchy Virginia reports. Appropriate at

this time, I believe, is a quotation from the October 1954 Audubon Field Notes, page 347, by Val Nolan, Jr.: "It is a strange paradox that most people's interest in observing birds waxes and wanes in inverse correlation with the variety of activity that there is to observe. Thus those who seek simply to glimpse and list a species during migration are many; those who study some aspect of its life during the nesting period, few. Until far more observers become as interested in birds as animals, to use James Fisher's phrase, as they are in birds as hardly animate items to add to a yearly tally sheet (like stamps to a collection annually dispersed and reassembled), it will be impossible to write with any confidence of the nesting season in general. Scattered students are doing excellent summer work ... but many others might well ask themselves whether they are not neglecting a very satisfying field of investigation and one in which the amateur can make probably his most significant contribution to ornithology."

Pelagic Birds. There were several summer records of Pied-billed Grebes. Max Carpenter found one near Waynesboro June 27 to July 7, the first breeding-season record for the Valley. C.E. Stevens saw one at a new pond near Scottsville, Albemarle County, on July 8. At Assateague Island, this species was found nesting for the second year. On May 29 3 nests were found, one with the rather large number of 8 eggs (F.R. Scott). Bruce McCartney, stationed on the Lightship Winter Quarter 20 miles due east of Chincoteague, reported the Cory's Shearwater as common from June 10 through the summer.

Egrets. Carpenter saw an American Egret at Dayton, Rockingham County, on June 21. The Cattle Egrets at Piney Island, Chincoteague, increased to 4 on June 11 and 7 on August 1 (D.O. Mellinger and others).

Ducks. For the first time there were reasonably satisfactory reports of nesting waterfowl. On Assateague Island, Mellinger counted a total of 7 broods of Black Ducks, down from the previous year because of low water levels. Scott found 2 nests here on May 29, one with 15 eggs. A Mallard brood of 8 young here on June 6 was the first breeding record for Chincoteague Refuge (DOM). At Hog Island State Refuge, Surry County, Manager John Bryant reported 2 Mallard broods, 2 Black Duck broods, and 4 Blue-winged Teal broods (fide C.C. Steirly). Ruskin Freer found 8 young Wood Ducks leaving the nest at Lynchburg on July 15, a late date.

There were a number of reports of apparently nonbreeding ducks. These included 2 Gadwalls at Assateague May 29 (FRS), a Black, a Scaup, and a female Ruddy near Scottsville on July 8 (CES), a pair of Ruddies at Assateague May 29, another pair at Knotts Island May 31 (W.F. Rountrey), and a female Hooded Merganser at Swoope, Augusta County, on July 2 (MC).

Coots, Shorebirds. Up to 10 Coots were seen through the summer at Knotts Island (WFR). Paul Sykes found 18 Upland Sandpipers at the Norfolk airport on August 8. Seven Least Sandpipers at Scottsville on July 8 were the earliest for Albemarle County (CES). R.R. Kerr and others saw a Marbled Godwit on Chincoteague Refuge on August 1.

Gulls, Terns. A Great Black-backed Gull was seen at Lynnhaven Inlet, near Norfolk, on August 10, a very early date (PS, R.H. Peake). Grey and Steirly could find only 5 Gull-billed Tern nests on Wreck Island in mid-July. Least Terns nested again at Seaford, York County (R.J. Beasley).

Cuckoos to Nuthatches. Two Black-billed Cuckoos were seen on Long Island, Back Bay, on July 17 (CCS and others); this species is very irregular in southeastern Virginia. J.J. Murray found young Great Horned Owls near Lexington on June 23. Dr. and Mrs. Murray also reported a Tree Swallow in western Highland County near route 250 on June 28. Another small Cliff Swallow colony of 7 nests was discovered at Bustleburg, Rockbridge County (J. Womeldorf). A Red-breasted Nuthatch in the northwestern corner of Highland County on June 29 is the first summer record for this area in some years (JJM).

Vireos, Warblers. Stevens found a pair of Solitary Vireos feeding young in the nest just outside of Charlottesville on June 12. The nest, located 20 feet up in a solid stand of 20-year-old loblolly pines, was well out of the mountains and well away from this bird's normal summer range. A similar incident was reported at Danville recently.

Members of the Cape Henry Bird Club watched a Black-throated Green Warbler on its breeding ground on the Northwest River south of Norfolk on June 6, a very late date. Locally, the bird breeds in April and May and then promptly disappears. The life history of this population of this species would be a highly interesting study. Norfolk area members of the VSO have a priceless opportunity here to contribute substantially to our knowledge of Virginia birds.

In a six-hour walk through the low mountains just south of Charlottesville on June 12 Stevens recorded, among other things, 127 Red-eyed Vireos, 25 Cerulean Warblers, 19 Scarlet Tanagers, 13 Worm-eating Warblers, and 11 Summer Tanagers. Late migrating warblers included 2 Black-polls at Charlottesville June 9 (CES) and a Blackburnian at Arlington on June 2.

Bobolinks through Sparrows. There were several strange summer reports of Bobolinks, probably very early fall and very late spring migrants. Stevens found a singing male at Orchid, Louisa County, on June 4; C.C. Steirly and others saw 4 males and 4 females on Long Island, Back Bay, July 17; and Beasley found 1 male and 5 females at Seaford July 25. The VSO foray to Skyland, Shenandoah National Park, on June 18 and 19 found 4 Slate-colored Junco nests, two of which were 6 to 7 feet up in coniferous trees. This bird is normally considered a ground-nesting species. Ruskin Freer found a small colony of Henslow's Sparrows near Bedford on July 1.

THE 1954 FALL MIGRATION

The hot and dry weather of summer continued unabated into September. Scattered rains beginning in early October broke the drought somewhat, and both October and November had excess rainfall. The meteorological highlight of the season was the passage of hurricane Hazel north through central Virginia on October 15, bringing peak wind gusts of 98 mph at Arlington, 79 mph at Richmond, and over 100 mph at Norfolk and over much of the Chesapeake Bay area. Two earlier hurricanes passed east of Virginia and affected only the coastal areas with rain and high tides.

The only really unusual item brought by Hazel was a Yellow-billed Tropic Bird picked up alive in Staunton on October 15 by Mary Artis Danner and later mounted for Charles H. Robertson. The mounted specimen was examined by J.J. Murray, and a photograph of it appeared in Du Pont's "The Acetate News", Waynesboro, Virginia, on February 24, 1955.

Maurice Brooks' remarks on narrow migration routes along mountain crests should be read by those interested in bird migration (Audubon Field Notes, February 1955, page 24). In recent years several Virginia observers watching fall hawk flights along the Blue Ridge have commented also on the movements of other birds along a narrow zone near the crest of the ridge.

Grebe, Herons, Ibis. A Horned Grebe near Scottsville, Albemarle County, on September 15 was very early (Mrs. A.H. Michie). P.G. DuMont and others had an excellent count of herons at Chincoteague Refuge on August 21. The count included 200 Great Blue Herons, 200 American Egrets, 120 Snowy Egrets, 100 Little Blue Herons, 60 Green Herons, and 70 Black-crowned and 10 Yellow-crowned Night Herons. On Piney Island, just outside of Chincoteague, up to 10 Cattle Egrets were present all summer, the last record being 7 on October 9 (T.O. Mellinger). A White Ibis was seen at Stumpy Lake, near Norfolk, on September 21 and for several days thereafter (W.F. Rountrey and others).

Ducks, Hawks. Unusually early arrivals included a Ring-necked Duck and a Ruddy at Richmond on September 28 (F.R. Scott) and a Ruddy on the Yorktown Peninsula on September 25 (R.J. Beasley).

The hawk migration was not covered as well as formerly in central and northern Virginia. In southwest Virginia members of the Tennessee Ornithological Society covered 5 areas, and their reports appeared in The Migrant for December 1954. Only counts of Broad-winged Hawks were included, however, and there were no unusual numbers. Elsewhere, an early Rough-legged Hawk was seen at Presquile, just above Hopewell on the James River, on October 8 (J.L. DeLime) and 2 others at Fort Custis, Northampton County, on November 26 (FRS, C.C. Steirly). C.E. Stevens found a Peregrine Falcon on October 9 and a Pigeon Hawk September 25, both near Scottsville.

Bob-white, Marsh Birds. J.V. Dennis reports that a Bob-white nest with 8 eggs was found at Leesburg on the very late date of October 11 by Pierre Parker. Dennis inspected the nest October 14. Two Black Rails were flushed from the edge of a marsh at Fort Custis during the high tides immediately after hurricane Edna on September 11 (FRS, CCS). A Coot in definitely immature plumage appeared at Richmond in October, apparently the result of a local late nesting.

Shorebirds. An excellent fall shorebird migration can be reported only in part. A new pond near Scottsville yielded a number of interesting inland records, including Golden Plovers on September 4 (1), September 15 (2), November 15 (2), and November 20 (1) (Mrs. AHM and CES). A flock of 25 Dowitchers at Assateague on November 27 may have been the western species (FRS, CCS). P.G. DuMont and others saw a Marbled Godwit at Chincoteague on August 21, and a flock of 16 was seen here on September 7 by R.R. Kerr, J.E. Knudson, and John Terborgh. Another single bird was reported from Back Bay on August 16 (P. Sykes and others). Two Hudsonian Godwits, even rarer than the preceding species, were seen at Chincoteague on August 21 (PGD and others). A Sanderling at Curles Neck, near Richmond, on October 2 and 23 was very unusual (FRS). Mellinger had 2 Avocets at Chincoteague on October 2. Wilson's Phalaropes were reported twice in the state: 2 at Chincoteague on September 7 (RPK, JJK, JT) and 1 at Stumpy Lake, near Norfolk, On October 9 (WFR and others).

Jaegers, Terns. C.C. Steirly, J.H. Grey, and a small party observed an adult Parasitic Jaeger several miles off Cobb Island on September 25. Joshua Womeldorf reported a Ring-billed Gull at Lexington on November 15. A Least Tern near Scottsville on September 15 was the second Albemarle County record (Mrs. AHM).

Owls to Jays. A Snowy Owl was shot at Bridgewater, Rockingham County, on November 16 by a Mr. Ruff and was mounted by Max Carpenter. Monroe Couper noted a flight of 200 Nighthawks flying north over Waynesboro on September 8, apparently heading for Rockfish Gap to cross the Blue Ridge. A late Ruby-throated Hummingbird was seen at Lexington on September 20 (JJM). A Western Kingbird was seen at Yorktown on November 21, and a Hood Pewee was still feeding young out of the nest at Richmond on September 2 (both FRS). Stevens noted a heavy migration of Blue Jays at Charlottesville and Quantico in late September and early October.

Chickadees to Gnatcatchers. A great flight of Black-capped Chickadees entered northern Virginia and was first reported by A.H. Fast on October 20 in Arlington. He had banded 9 birds by December 1. Good numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported from many parts of the state, particularly Chincoteague, Arlington area, and Charlottesville. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Hog Island, Surry County, on October 24 was very late (FRS, CCS).

Warblers. Many observers reported a good warbler flight. Of particular interest was a Brewster's Warbler at Waynesboro on August 27 (Couper) and a Golden-winged Warbler at Stumpy Lake on October 2 (F.C. Richardson, WFR and others).

Finches and Sparrows. A few Evening Grosbeaks began to appear in northern and western Virginia in late fall, the earliest report being 2 at Arlington on October 15 (RRK). By December 1 they had been reported from Rockingham County (H.G.H. Jopson, M. Carpenter), and Charlottesville (CES). Pine Siskins also appeared in a number of localities. Very unusual was a flock of 16 White-winged Crossbills at Arlington on November 30 (RRK). Stevens located a Sharp-tailed Sparrow near Scottsville on September 25, and a Lark Sparrow was seen near Landstown, Princess Anne County, on August 28 (WFR and others). On Big Flat Mountain, on the crest of the Blue Ridge in Albemarle County, Stevens saw a Lapland Longspur on November 7.

-- Richmond, Virginia

AUDUBON HAWK LEAFLET

Enclosed with this issue of The Raven is a leaflet on hawks. At its October meeting the Executive Committee authorized the VSO Conservation Committee to purchase 3,000 of these leaflets as a part of the program of education that will be necessary if we are to take steps toward saving our hawks from prejudice and persecution.

All VSO members are urged by the committee to do what they can in this campaign. It is suggested that these leaflets be passed on to quarters where they will do the most good. Those who desire more of them may obtain additional copies from the writer. Anyone having suggestions as to effective use of these leaflets, or for the more vigorous prosecution of this campaign in defense of hawks is urged to communicate with --

C.C. Steirly
Waverly, Virginia

ADVANCE CIRCULAR OF INFORMATION

TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING

THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY

The Virginia Society of Ornithology will meet in Salem, Virginia, April 27-28, 1956. Headquarters will be at Roanoke College, Salem, where all meetings will be held, beginning with a business meeting of the Society, Friday, April 27, at 10:00 a.m. On Saturday, April 28, there will be a field trip, ending with lunch at approximately 1:00 p.m.

All members are urged to participate in the program. To aid the Committee in preparation of the program, titles of papers to be presented should be sent to Dr. John Grey, Chairman of Program Committee, Box 445, Williamsburg, Va. Complete information should reach him not later than April 4th, including length of time desired, equipment needed, such as blackboard, projector for slides (size), moving picture projector (size), etc.

In order that our members may be housed together, if they so desire, arrangements have been made with The Regina Motel to accommodate our members on Friday, April 27. This motor lodge is approximately one mile west of Salem on U.S. 11 and 460. This is a modern motel, air-conditioned, TV in each room, AAA recommended. Your Committee also recommends this lodge. REQUEST FOR RESERVATIONS SHOULD BE FORWARDED DIRECT TO THE REGINA MOTEL, RFD 1, Salem, Va. Identify yourself as a VSO member.

Mr. L.T. Clark, owner, quotes special rates as follows:

	<u>Usually</u>	<u>Special</u>
1 Double for two persons	\$ 9.00	\$ 8.00
Twin beds for four persons	10.00	8.00
2 Double beds for four persons	12.00	10.00
2 Double beds with convertible couch (5 persons)	15.00	12.00

Directly across the highway from the motel is the Andrew Lewis Tavern, in which miscellaneous meals can be secured.

More detailed information will be found in a later bulletin regarding other hotels and motels.

General Committee:

A.O. English
Dr. Perry Kendig
C.H. Lewis

Program Committee:

Dr. John Grey, Chairman

Sub-Committee Members:

Mrs. Ernest C. Moore
Mrs. William J. Nelson
Mrs. Homer Waid
Mr. Leighman Hawkins
Mrs. Ruth Smiley Venn
Miss Virginia Haller

INDEX TO VOLUME TWENTY-SIX - 1955

(Thanks are due to C.C. Steirly for the preparation of this Index. It does not cover the Season Reports.)

- Abbott, J.M. - "The Brown-capped Chickadee in Virginia" - 39
 Abbott, J.M. - "The Hollis Marsh Heronry, Westmoreland County, Virginia" - 102
 Abingdon, Christmas Count - 25
 Albemarle County, Miscellaneous Notes - 117
 "Arlington, Ten Years of Christmas Bird Counts in" - 29
- Back Bay, Christmas Count - 13
 "Back Bay, Winter Field Trips to" - 45-60
 "Baird's Sandpiper on the Eastern Shore" - 71
 Baldpate - 16
 "Banding Black-capped Chickadees in Northern Virginia" - 104
 Beasley, R.J. "VSO Trip to Back Bay Wildlife Refuge" - 45
 Bird Houses, A Review - 111
 Bird Study - 113
 Bittern, American - 19 - 79
 Bittern, Least - 79
 Blackbird, Brewers - 25 - 40 - 77
 " , Red-winged - 10 - 12 - 20 - 23 - 24 - 94
 " , Rusty - 12 - 23 - 24 - 94
 " , Yellow-headed - 93
 Blacksburg, Christmas Count - 24
 Bluebird - 8 - 14 - 21 - 25
 "Blue Ridge, Foray Report, 1954" - 2
 "Blue Ridge, Foray Report, 1955" - 99
 Bobwhite - 6 - 12 - 14 - 59
 Brant - 12 - 13 - 79
 "Brewer's Blackbird and Leconte's Sparrow in Southwest Virginia" - 40
 Brooke, Christmas Count - 19
 "Brown-capped Chickadee in Virginia" - 39
 Bufflehead - 12 - 14 - 16
 Bunting, Indigo - 11
 Bunting, Snow - 12 - 14 - 46 - 97
- Cardinal - 11 - 12 - 17 - 21 - 24
 Catbird - 8 - 12 - 16
 Charlottesville, Christmas Count of - 19
 Chat, Yellow-breasted - 10 - 101
 Chesapeake Bay, Christmas Count of - 13
 Chickadee, Boreal - 77
 " , Black-capped - 12 - 18 - 22 - 24 - 25 - 42 - 88 - 104
 " , Brown-capped - 39 - 42
 " , Carolina - 7 - 12 - 19 - 21 - 24
 Chincoteague, Christmas Count of - 12
 Chuck-Will's Widow - 87
 Cobb Island, Christmas Count of - 12
 Coleman, Mrs. Hawes - "50th Annual National Audubon Convention" - 44

Coot - 12 - 14 - 19 - 23 - 83
Cormorant, Double-crested - 14 - 78
Cowbird - 10 - 12 - 20 - 25 - 94
Craig, Jane - "Trip to Hog Island" - 59
Crow, Common - 7 - 12 - 15 - 21
Crow, Fish - 12 - 15 - 16 - 23
Creeper, Brown - 12 - 21 - 26 - 88
Crossbill, White-winged - 95
Cuckoo, Black-billed - 6 - 87
Cuckoo, Yellow-billed - 6 - 16

Dennis, J.V. - "A Fall Study of the Food Habits of the Common
Starling in Northern Virginia" - 51
Dennis, J.V. - "Late Nesting of Bob-white Quail - 59
Dennis, J.V. - "Banding Black-capped Chickadees in Northern
Virginia" - 104

Dickcissel - 49 - 63 - 95
Dove, Mourning - 6 - 12 - 16 - 21 - 86
Dowitcher - 12 - 84
Duck, Black - 12 - 14 - 16 - 80
" , Ring-necked - 14 - 16 - 81
" , Ruddy - 12 - 14 - 19 - 81
" , Wood - 14 - 16 - 81

Eagle, Bald - 14 - 17 - 82
"Eastern Black-capped Chickadee and Appalachian Yellow-billed
Sapsucker at Lexington, Virginia" - 42
"Eastern Shore Trip, 1955" - 115
Eider, King - 81
Egret, American - 12 - 14 - 78 - 102
" , Cattle - 76
" , Snowy - 78 - 102

Falcon, Peregrine - 12 - 14 - 82 - 116
"Fall Study of the Food Habits of the Common Starling in
Northern Virginia" - 51
Fast, Arthur H. - "Ten Years of Christmas Bird Counts in
Arlington" - 29
Favour, P.S. and F.R. Scott - "The 1954 Blue Ridge Foray Report" - 2
"Fiftieth Annual National Audubon Convention" - 44
Finch, Purple - 16 - 21
Flicker, Yellow-shafted - 6 - 12 - 21
Flycatcher, Acadian - 7 - 87 - 117
" , Alder - 87
" , Crested - 7
" , Least - 87
" , Olive-sided - 87
Fort Belvoir, Christmas Count of - 18
Fulmar - 77

- Gadwall - 12 - 14 - 16 - 19 - 80
Gallinule, Florida - 26 - 83
Gannet - 12 - 13 - 14 - 78
Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray - 90
Godwit, Marbled - 85
Goldeneye - 12 - 16 - 24
Goldfinch - 11 - 12 - 21 - 24 - 95
Goose, Blue - 12 - 17 - 80
 " , Canada - 12 - 17 - 79
 " , Snow, lesser - 12 - 17 - 80
 " , Snow, greater - 80
Goshawk - 81
Grackle, Boat-tailed - 12 - 94
Grackle, Purple - 10 - 12 - 18 - 21
Grebe, Horned - 12 - 16 - 24 - 78
Grebe, Pied-billed - 12 - 17 - 23 - 24 - 78
Grey, John - "Summary of Christmas Counts in Virginia" - 26
Grosbeak, Blue - 95 - 101
 " , Evening - 18 - 19 - 23 - 25 - 26 - 49 - 95
 " , Pine - 95
 " , Rose-breasted - 11 - 94 - 110
Grouse, Ruffed - 6 - 22 - 23
Gull, Bonaparte - 13 - 14
 " , Glaucous - 85
 " , Great Black-backed - 12 - 15 - 85 - 115
 " , Herring - 12 - 15 - 18 - 85
 " , Iceland - 85
 " , Ring-billed - 12 - 15 - 18 - 85

Handley, C.O., Jr. - "A Possible Sight Record of Brewer's
 Blackbird in Virginia" - 40
Harrisonburg, Christmas Count of - 22
"Hawk and Owl Protection in Maine" - 108
Hawk, Broad-winged - 6 - 81
 " , Cooper's - 14 - 15 - 19 - 20 - 23
 " , Marsh - 12 - 13 - 14 - 16 - 82
 " , Pigeon - 14 - 15 - 16 - 19 - 82
 " , Red-shouldered - 6 - 12 - 14 - 20
 " , Red-tailed - 6 - 12 - 14 - 20
 " , Rough-legged - 16 - 82
 " , Sharp-shinned - 12 - 15 - 20 - 81
 " , Sparrow - 12 - 14 - 16 - 20
"Help Us Band Mourning Doves" - 61
Heron, Black-crowned Night - 12 - 102
 " , Great Blue - 12 - 16 - 78 - 102
 " , Green - 100 - 103
 " , Little Blue - 15 - 79 - 102
 " , Louisiana - 12 - 79 - 103
 " , Yellow-crowned Night - 15 - 72 - 79
Hog Island, Christmas Count of - 17
"Hog Island, Trip to" - 59
Hopewell, Christmas Count of - 17
"Hollis Marsh Heronry, Westmoreland County, Virginia" - 102
Hoover, Charlotte M. - "Jaeger in Chesapeake Bay" - 118
Hummingbird, Ruby-throated - 6 - 71 - 87

Ibis, Glossy - 76

" , White - 79

" , Wood - 79

"Jaeger in Chesapeake Bay" - 118

Jaeger, Parasitic - 62 - 85 - 115 - 118

Jaeger, Pomarine - 85

Jay, Blue - 7 - 16 - 21

Junco, Slate-colored - 11 - 12 - 16 - 21 - 96

Killdeer - 12 - 14 - 16 - 21

Kingbird, Eastern - 7 - 87

Kingfisher, Belted - 12 - 16

Kinglet, Golden-crowned - 12 - 16 - 17 - 21 - 25

Kinglet, Ruby-crowned - 12 - 16 - 21

Kittiwake - 86

Lark, Horned - 12 - 20 - 21 - 25 - 87

"Late Nesting by Bob-white Quail" - 59

Lexington, Christmas Count - 23

Little Creek, Christmas Count - 14

Longspur, Lapland - 96

Loon, Common - 12 - 14 - 16

Loon, Red-throated - 12 - 14 - 16 - 78

Lynchburg, Christmas Count - 21

Mallard - 12 - 14 - 16 - 20 - 80

Meadowlark - 10 - 12

Merganser, American - 15 - 19 - 81

" , Hooded - 12 - 14 - 15 - 19 - 81

" , Red-breasted - 12 - 14 - 15 - 19

Mockingbird - 8 - 12 - 19 - 21 - 89

"Mountain Vireo at Charlottesville" - 43

Mount Rogers, Christmas Count - 25

Murray, J.J. - "Eastern Black-capped Chickadee and Appalachian
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Lexington, Virginia" - 42

Murray, J.J. - "What Kind of Material is Ravenworthy?" - 46

Murray, J.J. - "Second Revision of the Virginia 1952 Check List" - 75

Murray, J.J. - "Buggs Island Reservoir as a Place for Bird Study" - 113

Newport News, Christmas Count - 16

Nighthawk - 87 - 109

Norfolk, Christmas Count - 15

Nuthatch, Brown-headed - 14 - 15 - 16

" , Red-breasted - 12 - 16 - 21 - 25 - 88

" , White-breasted - 7 - 12 - 16 - 21 - 25 - 89

Old Squaw - 12

Oriole, Baltimore - 10 - 63 - 94

Oriole, Orchard - 10

"Our National Emblem is Endangered" - 58

Ovenbird - 9 - 100

- Owl, Barn - 14
" , Barred - 6 - 12 - 14 - 18
" , Great-horned - 12 17
" , Long-eared - 87
" , Saw-whet - 87
" , Screech - 12 - 15 - 24
" , Short-eared - 18 - 24 - 87
" , Snowy - 49 - 87
Oystercatcher - 13 - 83
- Peaks of Otter, Christmas Count - 22
Peewee, Wood - 7
Pelican, Brown - 77
Phalarope, Northern - 85
Phalarope, Wilson's - 85
Pheasant, Ring-necked - 13
Phoebe, Eastern - 7 - 14 - 18 - 21
"Pine Forest Winter Bird-Population Study (Albemarle)" - 56
"Pine Forest Winter Bird-Population Study (Sussex)" - 54
Pintail - 12 - 14 - 17 - 24
Pipit - 12 - 14 - 15 - 18 - 90
Plover, Black-bellied - 12 - 13
" , Golden - 83
" , Piping - 15 - 83
" , Ringed - 15 - 83
" , Upland - 84
Prior, Gertrude - "An Upland Pasture Winter Bird-Population Study" - 57
Puffin - 48 - 77
- Rail, Black - 83
" , Clapper - 12 - 15 - 82 - 103
" , King - 14 - 16 - 82
" , Virginia - 12 - 16 - 82
Raven - 7 - 88 - 101
Redpoll, Common - 12 - 95
Redhead - 14 - 19
Redstart - 10 - 93
"Richmond Area, The" - 33
Roanoke, Christmas Count - 24
Robin - 8 - 12 - 20 - 21 - 89
Rockingham County, Christmas Count - 22
Rountrey, W.F. - "The 1955 Annual VSO Field Trip" - 70
Ruff - 85
Russell, Stephen M. - "Brewer's Blackbird and Leconte's Sparrow in Southwest Virginia" - 40
- Sanderling - 12 - 14-71
Sandpiper, Baird's - 71 - 84
" , Buff-breasted - 85
" , Pectoral - 71 - 84
" , Purple - 15 - 84
" , Red-backed - 12 - 13 - 71 - 84
" , Semi-palmated - 12 - 72 - 85
" , Solitary - 84

- Sandpiper, Spotted - 84
" , Stilt - 116
" , White-rumped - 84
Sapsucker - 14 - 16 - 21 - 42 - 76
Scaup - 14 - 15 - 19 - 24
Scoggin - 116
Scoter, American - 12 - 16 - 81
" , Surf - 12 - 16 - 81
" , White-winged - 12 - 16
Scott, F.R. - "The Richmond Area" - 33
"Second Revision of the Virginia 1952 Check List" - 75
Shearwater, Cory's - 75
Shearwater, Greater - 45
Shenandoah National Park, Christmas Count - 22
Shoveller - 12 - 17 - 80
Shrike, Loggerhead - 8 - 14 - 15 - 21 - 90
Shrike, Migrant - 23
Siskin, Pine - 12 - 14 - 16 - 21 - 24 - 95 - 101
Skimmer, Black - 86
Skua - 76
Snipe, Wilson's - 12 - 14 - 16 - 83
Sora - 16 - 25 - 83
Sparrow, Chipping - 11 - 15
" , Field - 11 - 12 - 21
" , Fox - 12 - 16 - 21
" , Grasshopper - 11
" , Henslow's - 96
" , House - 10 - 12 - 21
" , Ipswich - 13 - 14 - 95
" , Lark - 96
" , Leconte's - 25 - 77
" , Lincoln - 15 - 96
" , Savannah - 12 - 14 - 21 - 96
" , Seaside - 96
" , Sharp-tailed - 12 - 16 - 96
" , Song - 11 - 12 - 14 - 21
" , Swamp - 12 - 14 - 21
" , Tree - 12 - 14 - 21 - 23
" , Vesper - 11 - 18
" , White-crowned - 21 - 23 - 24 - 57 - 96
" , White-throated - 12 - 14 - 16 - 21 - 23
Starling - 8 - 12 - 21 - 23 - 51
Steirly, C.C. - "Striking Back at Hawk and Owl Persecution" - 37
Steirly, C.C. - "A Pine Forest Winter Bird-Population Study
(Sussex County)" - 54
Steirly, C.C. - "Baird's Sandpiper on the Eastern Shore" - 71
Steirly, C.C. - "Yellow-crowned Night Heron Nest in Sussex County" - 72
Steirly, C.C. - "1955 Blue Ridge Foray" - 99
Stevens, C.E. - "Mountain Vireo at Charlottesville" - 37
Stevens, C.E. - "Miscellaneous Albemarle County Notes" - 117
Stevens, C.E. - "A Pine Forest Winter Bird-Population Study" - 56
"Striking Back at Hawk and Owl Persecution" - 37
"Summary of 1954 Christmas Counts in Virginia" - 26
Swan, Whistling - 14 - 19 - 79

Swallow, Bank - 88
" , Barn - 7 - 88
" , Cliff - 88 - 110
" , Rough-winged - 7 - 88
" , Tree - 12 - 17 - 88
Sweet Briar Christmas Count - 20
Swift, Chimney - 6

Tanager, Scarlet - 10 - 94
Tanager, Summer - 11 - 94
Teal, Blue-winged - 14 - 80
" , European - 80
" , Green-winged - 12 - 14 - 16 - 24
Tern, Caspian - 86
" , Common - 16 - 86
" , Forster's - 14 - 15 - 16 - 86
" , Gull-billed - 86
" , Least - 86
" , Roseate - 86
" , Royal - 16 - 86
Thrasher, Brown - 8 - 14 - 16 - 19 - 89
Thrush, Hermit - 12 - 16 - 21
Thrush, Wood - 8 - 89
Titmouse - 7 - 12 - 21 - 25
Toano, Christmas Count - 16
Towhee, Red-eyed - 11 - 12 - 15 - 21
Tropic Bird, Yellow-billed - 49 - 76
Turkey, Wild - 109

"Upland Pasture Winter Bird-Population Study" - 57

Veery - 8 - 90 - 100
Veery, Willow - 77
Vireo, Philadelphia - 90
" , Red-eyed - 9 - 90 - 100
" , Solitary - 8 - 43 - 90 - 100
" , Warbling - 90
" , Yellow-throated - 8 - 100
Vulture, Black - 6 - 14 - 15 - 20 - 81
Vulture, Turkey - 6 - 12 - 15 - 20

Warbler, Bachman's - 91
" , Bay-breasted - 92
" , Black & White - 9 - 100
" , Blackburnian - 9 - 100
" , Blackpoll - 92
" , Black-throated Blue - 9 - 100
" , Black-throated Green - 92
" , Blue-winged - 91
" , Canada - 10 - 93 - 100
" , Cerulean - 92
" , Chestnut-sided - 9 - 92 - 100
" , Connecticut - 93
" , Golden-winged - 91
" , Hooded - 10 - 100

Warbler, Kentucky - 16 - 93 - 101
" , Magnolia - 92
" , Mourning - 93
" , Myrtle - 12 - 14 - 16 - 21
" , Nashville - 91
" , Orange-crowned - 12 - 14 - 15 - 60 - 91
" , Palm - 23
" , Parula - 9 - 91 - 100 - 118
" , Pine - 14 - 16 - 92
" , Prairie - 9 - 92 - 101
" , Prothonotary - 90
" , Sutton's - 91
" , Tennessee - 91
" , Wilson's Pileolated - 93
" , Worm-eating - 9 - 90
" , Yellow - 9 - 92 - 100
" , Yellow-throated - 92
Warren, Christmas Count - 20
Waterthrush, Louisiana - 9 - 100
Watson, R.J. - "The 1955 VSO Annual Meeting" - 66
Watson, R.J. - "The 1955 Eastern Shore Trip" - 115
Waxwing, Cedar - 8 - 16 - 26
Whimbrel, Hudsonian - 83
Widgeon, European - 80
Woodcock - 17
Woodpecker, Downy - 6 - 12 - 14 - 21
" , Hairy - 12 - 14 - 24
" , Pileated - 6 - 14 - 17 - 21 - 25
" , Red-bellied - 14 - 21 - 22
" , Red-headed - 18 - 22 - 24 - 110
Wren, Bewick's - 20 - 89
" , Carolina - 12 - 16 - 21 - 23
" , House - 8
" , Long-billed Marsh - 14 - 16 - 20 - 89
" , Short-billed Marsh - 12 - 14 - 17 - 89
" , Winter - 12 - 14 - 17 - 21 - 89

Yellow-legs, Greater - 12 - 14 - 16
Yellowlegs, Lesser - 12 - 84
Yellowthroat - 10 - 14 - 93 - 101