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CONTENTS

Virginia Christmas Bird Counts—1966-67 Season	3
Compiled by F. R. Scott	
Exploring the Beartowns	16
By Charles E. Stevens	
Bohemian Waxwing at Alexandria, Virginia	18
By Gorman M. Bond	
A Third Harris' Sparrow Record for Virginia	19
By Roger B. Clapp	
The Hairy Woodpecker As a Destroyer of Elm Bark Beetles	19
By C. C. Steirly	
Hybrid Slate-colored Junco x White-throated Sparrow in Waynesboro, Virginia	20
By Mrs. Mark D. Snyder	
The 1966 Back Bay Field Trip	21
By W. A. Rothery	
Mattamuskeet Field Trip	21
By Carole Massart	
News of the Local Chapters	22
Junco with white wing-bars at Sweet Briar, Virginia	22
By Ernest P. Edwards	
An Eagle in Distress	23
By C. C. Steirly	

The Virginia Society of Ornithology exists to encourage the systematic study of birds in Virginia, to stimulate interest in birds, and to assist the conservation of wildlife and other natural resources. All persons interested in those objectives are welcome as members. Present membership includes every level of interest, from professional scientific ornithologists to enthusiastic amateurs.

Activities undertaken by the Society include the following:

1. An annual meeting (usually in the spring), held in a different part of the state each year, featuring talks on ornithological subjects and field trips to nearby areas.

2. Other forays or field trips, lasting a day or more and scheduled throughout the year so as to include all seasons and to cover the major physiographic regions of the state.

3. A journal. *The Raven*, published quarterly, containing articles about Virginia ornithology, as well as news of the activities of the Society and its chapters.

4. Study projects (nesting studies, winter bird population surveys, etc.) aimed at making genuine contributions to ornithological knowledge.

In addition, local chapters of the Society, located in some of the larger cities and towns of Virginia, conduct their own programs of meetings, field trips, and other projects.

Those wishing to participate in any of the above activities or to cooperate in advancing the objectives of the Society are cordially invited to join. Annual dues are \$1.00 for junior members (students), \$2.00 for active members, \$4.00 for sustaining members, \$50.00 for life members.

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VIRGINIA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS—1966-67 SEASON

F. R. SCOTT

This Christmas count season again set several records. Some 234 persons participated in the 23 counts submitted, somewhat less than the record 251 of last year. But this should be evaluated in the light of another record—19 of the counts reported at least some snow on the ground or falling. In this respect, honors go to the Warren count, which was taken in 12 inches of snow. Indeed, we seem to have a hardy group of count takers! Total coverage was the best yet, with 1085 party-hours reported.

The number of species reported, 186, was also a new record, and there were an astonishing 6 species that appear to be new to Virginia counts: Eared Grebe, Ruff, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Black-headed Gull, Black-and-white Warbler (on two counts!), and House Finch. Technically, the House Finch was recorded last year in Virginia on the Washington, D. C., count, but this count is not published in *The Raven*. All of the "regulars" were reported during this count, and of the "irregulars" missing from it, the Peregrine Falcon and Royal Tern are worthy of note. Six counts reported over 100 species each, and the 155 at Cape Charles and 147 at Chincoteague were both greater than any previous Christmas count in Virginia.

The counts are tabulated in Table I more or less in the order of increasing distance from the coast. Counts 1-10 were on the Coastal Plain, 11-15 on the Piedmont, and 16-23 from the Blue Ridge westward (see Figure 1). Supporting data for the counts are given farther along in this summary.

There were no real general flights of northern birds this winter, and cold and snowy weather in December prior to the count period was not encouraging for southern birds. One might conclude from this that weather has less of an effect on wintering birds than is commonly thought. In any event, perhaps in spite of the weather, it was a highly successful count with excellent numbers of birds, even in many mountain counts. This summary can only touch upon many of the fascinating count details, and a study of the table will reveal many more.

In the pelagic birds, 6 Common Loons at Roanoke were a surprise for so far inland, and Back Bay reported a record count of Horned Grebes and the first count record of an Eared Grebe. Cape Charles again came through with the best count of wintering herons—the 28 Little Blue Herons and 11 Snowy Egrets were probably record winter counts for the state. Blue-winged Teal were found on three counts, and both the Redhead and Canvasback appeared to be increasing somewhat again. Oldsquaws were in excellent numbers, with a record 518 at Chincoteague.

Shorebird counts were excellent along the coast. American Woodcock were seen on 6 counts, and the record 20 at Chincoteague pales into insignificance with the startling count of 109 at Cape Charles. The Whimbrels at Cape Charles were our fourth count record, while the Short-billed Dowitcher at Little Creek was only our third definite count record. Marbled Godwits were seen at both Chincoteague and Cape Charles, with 38 on the latter count. This species has appeared on a Virginia count only once before, 9 years ago at Chincoteague. The Ruff at Little Creek was new for a Virginia count. Gulls and terns were in good variety with two firsts, a Lesser Black-backed Gull at Back Bay and a Black-headed Gull at Little Creek. Bonaparte's Gulls were unusually common, and Common Terns were reported on three counts.

Tree Swallows were quite common along the coast (4 counts) with 321 at Chincoteague, and Black-capped Chickadees were scarce except at Blacksburg. After the big flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches last year, they were predictably much less common. Nevertheless, they were still reported on 10 counts. The Carolina Wren exhibited a tremendous decrease over last year, a good 50%.

The Swainson's Thrush reported from Brooke and the Gray-cheeked Thrush from Chesapeake were our ninth and fourth count records, respectively. The Eastern Bluebird declined from 259 last year to 72 this year, a precipitous decrease from 25 to 7 birds per 100 party-hours, our lowest winter population levels on record (see *Raven*, 34: 12).

Black-and-white Warblers were reported from both Chesapeake and Hopewell and Pine Warblers from 7 counts, the 7 closest to the coast. This was obviously an "off" year for northern finches, with only Roanoke reporting Evening Grosbeaks. Purple Finches and Pine Siskins were also far less common than last year. The House Finches at Fort Belvoir were new to the count list but will probably become rather regular in future years.

1. *Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge* (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center 2 miles north of center of Chincoteague as in previous 12 years; open farmland 13%, insular pine woodland 13%, mainland woodland 17%, scrub pine and myrtle thickets 9%, fresh-water marshes and impoundments 8%, salt marshes 26%, sheltered bays 9%, dunes 2%, sand flats and beaches 3%).—Dec. 29; 6:45 a.m. to 6:15 p.m. Light, gusty rain and fog in early a.m., partly cloudy later; temp. 40° to 51°; wind SW to W, 5-25 m.p.h.; snow patches in sheltered areas, water open. Twenty-seven observers in 9 parties. Total party-hours, 127 (101 on foot, 22 by car, 4 by boat); total party-miles, 330 (77 on foot, 235 by car, 18 by boat). Observers: J. M. Abbott, R. C. Almy, W. L. Anderson, Dan Bystrak, P. G. Bystrak, W. S. Clark, Mrs. G. H. Cole, P. G. DuMont, P. A. DuMont, E. F. Folsom, J. K. Gabler, J. H. Getgood, Mr. & Mrs. Roger Hammill, Paul Kalba, E. T. McKnight, M. C. Newlon, C. F. Noble, C. S. Robbins, George Robbins, Miss G. M. Russell, W. C. Russell, F. R. Scott (compiler), E. W. Stiles, J. W. Terborgh, W. T. Van Velzen, J. S. Weske. This count included parts of extreme southern Worcester Co., Md. Three species were seen only on the Maryland part of the count: Ring-necked Duck, Short-billed Marsh Wren, and Eastern Bluebird. The Yellow-crowned Night Heron, a first count record, was seen by W. C. Russell, and the dowitchers were seen by the party led by P. A. DuMont. The Marbled Godwits, a second count record, were seen by two parties separately and later together (Clark, Getgood, and Scott). Most of the remarkable count of Palm Warblers was reported by the party led by C. S. Robbins, who also found most of the Vesper Sparrows.

2. *Cape Charles* (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center 1.5 miles southeast of Capeville P. O. at south end of Dunton Cove; open bay 25%, salt marsh 20%, sheltered bay and mud flats 17%, open farmland 15%, open ocean and beach 10%, pine and mixed woodland 10%, towns 2%, fresh water 1%).—Dec. 30; 5:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Clear in a.m., a few clouds in p.m.; temp. 30° to 45°; wind NW, 5-10 m.p.h.; ground clear, all water open. Twenty-two observers in 8 parties. Total party-hours, 147 (113.5 on foot, 28 by car, 1.5 by plane, 4 by boat); total party-miles, 697 (128 on foot, 389 by car, 140 by plane, 40 by boat). Observers: J. M. Abbott, R. C. Almy, W. L. Anderson, Harry Armistead, W. B. Beaty, Dr. and Mrs. P. A. Buckley, M. A. Byrd, P. G. DuMont, P. A. DuMont, Luther Goldman, H. L. Jones, Miss G. M. Russell, W. C. Russell (compiler), F. R. Scott, Jared Sparks, P. W. Sykes, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Ray Teele, J. W. Terborgh, Philip Warren, J. S. Weske. One of the Green Herons was seen by the Sykes party and the other by Buckley. The counts of Snowy Egrets and Little Blue Herons seem to be the highest on record for the state in winter. Most of these were reported by the Sykes and Armistead parties. The Blue-winged Teal were seen by two parties (Sykes and W. C. Russell) and the Pigeon Hawk by Goldman and Sykes. Some of the shorebird counts were remarkable. The 130 Ruddy Turnstones, 109 American Woodcock, and 38 Marbled Godwits all appear to be record winter counts for Virginia. The woodcock were reported by 6 of the 8 parties, and the godwits were seen by W. C. Russell in one flock. The skimmers were found by Teele and the Lincoln's Sparrow by W. C. Russell.

3. *Little Creek* (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center 3.8 miles NE of Kempsville in Virginia Beach to include Cape Henry, Lynnhaven Inlet, Little Creek, eastern portion of Norfolk; center moved 2.25 miles to NE of original circle as of this year; farmland 8%, pine woodland 10%, deciduous woodland 16%, salt marsh, beach, rivers, bay, ocean 21%, suburbs 45%).—Dec. 29; 4 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Rain until 7:15, then clear; temp. 47° to 60°; wind SW to W, 10 to 18 m.p.h.; ground bare, water open. Ten observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours, 46 (31 on foot, 15 by car); total party-miles, 320 (19 on foot, 301 by car). Seen in area count period, but not on count day: *Eared Grebe*, Bald Eagle, Least Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, *Dovekie*. Observers: R. L. Anderson, P. A. Buckley, Mrs. F. C. Burford, Mrs. C. W. Darden, Jr., Miss G. A. Grimm, R. H. Peake, Jr., Mrs. T. G. Reese, W. F. Rountrey, Miss E. Scott, P. W. Sykes, Jr. (compiler). The Short-billed Dowitcher was seen and heard calling at Little Creek by Buckley and Sykes and the Ruff at Stumpy Lake by Rountrey. The Black-headed Gull was studied at Cape Henry for over an hour by Anderson and Buckley, and the Common Tern was seen by Sykes in comparison with several Forster's Terns. The Baltimore Orioles were reported by two parties, one by Rountrey and 3 by Mrs. Burford's party.

4. *Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge* (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center 1.5 miles east of Back Bay, to include all of the Refuge and much of the mainland of Virginia Beach; farmland 20%, pine woodland 10%, deciduous woodland 20%, beach and dunes 5%, marshes and brackish bay 25%, ocean 20%).—Dec. 31; 4:40 a.m. to 5 p.m. Overcast; temp. 34° to 41°; wind S, 0 to 6 m.p.h.; ground bare, water open. Fourteen observers in 7 parties. Total party-hours, 73 (60 on foot, 12 by car, 1 by boat); total party-miles, 334 (56 on foot, 273 by car, 5 by boat). Seen in area count period, but not on count day: *Dovekie*, Baltimore Oriole. Observers: R. C. Almy, T. J. Bond, Miss M. W. Bryant, Mrs. F. C. Burford, Misses A. D. & G. A. Grimm, H. L. Jones, W. F. Rountrey, Miss G. M. Russell, W. C. Russell, P. W. Sykes, Jr. (compiler), J. W. Terborgh, P. H. Warren, J. S. Weske. The Red-necked Grebes were seen on the ocean by W. C. Russell, and the Eared Grebe—surprisingly in breeding plumage—was found in a flock of Horned Grebes first by Sykes and later again by Sykes, Jones, and Warren. The Lesser Black-backed Gull was observed carefully by W. C. Russell in comparison with Herring and Ring-billed Gulls, and the Common Tern was reported by Sykes.

5. *Chesapeake* (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center 6.5 miles NE of Wallaceton in Chesapeake, to include eastern edge of Dismal Swamp, western part of Northwest River drainage, Great Bridge, Butts Station, Fentress, Deep Creek; open farmland 25%, wooded swampland 24%, mixed woodland 24%, deciduous woodland 5%, pine woodland 10%, marsh 1%, suburbs 10%; this is the same as the old Norfolk County count).—Dec. 27; 5:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. Clear; temp. 30° to 37°; wind N to NW, 0-13 m.p.h.; ground frozen with $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 inch of snow in scattered patches; most small bodies of water frozen. Five observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours, 27 (20 on foot, 7 by car); total party-miles, 222 (10 on foot, 212 by car). Seen in area count period, but not on count day: American Woodcock, Laughing Gull, Screech Owl, Yellow-throat, Chipping Sparrow. Observers: Miss M. W. Bryant, Mrs. F. C. Burford, Miss G. A. Grimm, W. F. Rountrey, P. W. Sykes, Jr. (compiler). The Gray-checked Thrush was observed at close range by Rountrey and the Black-and-white Warbler by Sykes. The Baltimore Oriole was found at a feeding station (Bryant, Burford, and Grimm).

6. *Nansemond River* (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center 3.5 miles NE of Driver, to include Craney Island disposal area, Nansemond River, Chuckatuck Creek, Chuckatuck; farmland 25%, pine woodland 10%, deciduous woodland 15%, suburbs 10%, marsh, beach, rivers, bay 40%).—Dec. 26; 5 a.m.

to 5 p.m. Clear; temp. 25° to 35°; wind W, 5-15 m.p.h.; ground frozen and covered in places with $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 inch of snow; most fresh-water ponds frozen. Six observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours, 34 (25 on foot, 9 by car); total party-miles, 266 (11 on foot, 255 by car). Seen in area count period, but not on count day: Common Loon, Red-throated Loon. Observers: R. L. Anderson, P. A. Buckley, W. A. Cooper, F. S. Hespenheide, W. F. Rountrey, P. W. Sykes, Jr. (compiler). The Common Tern was seen by Rountrey and the Baltimore Oriole by Sykes.

7. *Newport News* (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, bounded by Chesapeake Bay, Hampton Roads, James River, Grafton; woodland 30%, fields 30%, fresh-water ponds 10%, waterfront 30%).—Dec. 26; 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Clear; temp. 25° to 38°; wind NW, 5-15 m.p.h.; 1 to 2 inches snow cover; ponds frozen. Fourteen observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours, 40 (27.5 on foot, 12.5 by car); total party-miles, 270 (30 on foot, 240 by car). Observers: Ramsay Al-Salam, Mrs. Sue Gray Al-Salam, Mitchell Byrd, Mrs. Georgianna Cumming, C. W. Hacker, Mrs. Barbara Heimerl, John Heimerl, Robert Heimerl, Mrs. Margaret Israel, Mrs. Dorothy Mitchell, Sydney Mitchell, Ash Rawls, Mrs. Doris Smith, W. P. Smith (compiler) (Hampton Roads Bird Club).

8. *Hopewell* (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center in Curles Neck as in last 12 years; includes Presquile National Wildlife Refuge, Fort Harrison, Curles Neck, Harrison Lake, Hopewell, Dutch Gap; open farmland 24%, brushy fields 10%, marshes and river shore 16%, deciduous wooded swamp 9%, woodland 41%).—Dec. 27; 6:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. Clear; temp. 4° to 36°; wind, none; 2-6 inches crusted snow; lakes and river backwaters frozen. Seven observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours, 38 (29 on foot, 6 by car, 3 by boat); total party-miles, 193 (20 on foot, 148 by car, 25 by boat). Observers: J. C. Fields, F. R. Scott (compiler), Mrs. W. M. Smith, T. R. Stone, Miss Mary Tompkins, R. J. Watson, Miss E. Franklin Woodson. The Black-and-white Warbler was seen by Watson feeding with a flock of Golden-crowned Kinglets.

9. *Brooke* (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center on road 3 miles ESE of Brooke, including Potomac River from Widewater to Maryland Point Lighthouse and Virginia upland nearly to Fredericksburg; tidal water 13%, marsh 10%, deciduous wooded swamp 10%, fields 14%, hedgerows 7%, mixed forest edge 23%, deciduous woods 16%, pine woods 4%, slash 3%).—Dec. 21; 5:50 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Cloudy a.m., clear after 11:00; temp. 31° to 40°; wind NW, 5-20 m.p.h.; scattered snow patches, thin ice film in marshes early in a.m., water open. Thirteen observers in 10 parties. Total party-hours, 72 (67 on foot, 5 by car); total party-miles, 79 (44 on foot, 35 by car). Observers: Roy Bailey, A. A. Baker, Henry Bell, III, E. L. Boudette, J. H. Eric, R. G. Luedke, E. T. McKnight (compiler), T. B. Nolan, B. J. Skinner, R. L. Smith, D. B. Stewart, A. M. White, D. R. Wones. The Swainson's Thrush was observed by Eric. Of the two Yellow-breasted Chats reported, one was seen by Eric and the other by Skinner.

10. *Fort Belvoir* (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center on Lebanon; tidal water 30%, deciduous woods 19%, pine woods 10%, pasture and fields 15%, town suburbs 25%, cattail marsh 1%).—Jan. 2; 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Clear; temp. 32° to 45°; no wind; ground covered with 2-9 inches crusted snow; most water frozen. Twenty-one observers in 12 parties. Total party-hours, 80 (69 on foot, 11 by car); total party-miles, 193 (59 on foot, 134 by car). Observers: David Abbott, J. M. Abbott (compiler), E. J. Bierly, William Del Grande, P. A. DuMont, P. G. DuMont, Dan Feaser, C. W. Hacker, J. R. Harris, Mr. and Mrs. I. C. Hoover, W. A. Houston, D. F. Keeney, Gale Monson, Henry Myers, E. T. Podufaly, Mrs. W. A. Rothery, George Sigel, Ruth Strosnider, Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Teele. The House Finches were reported by the Hoovers and the Vesper Sparrows by Del Grande.

11. *Charlottesville* (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center near Ivy as in previous years).—Dec. 31; 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Cloudy; temp. 20° to 34°; no wind; 6-9 inches crusted snow, ponds almost entirely frozen, rivers open. Seven observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours, 44 (40 on foot, 4 by car); total party-miles, 140 (49 on foot, 91 by car). Seen in area count period, but not on count day: Eastern Bluebird. Observers: Mrs. C. O. Gregory, Kenneth Lawless, Peter Mehring, R. S. Merkel, Keith Richards, C. E. Stevens (compiler), Tom Wieboldt. Snow greatly reduced coverage.

12. *Warren* (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center near Keene as in previous years).—Dec. 26; 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Cloudy; temp. 19° to 34°; no wind; 12 inches snow cover, ponds frozen, James River open. Five observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours, 32 (26 on foot, 6 by car); total party-miles, 162 (27 on foot, 135 by car). Observers: Kenneth Lawless, Peter Mehring, R. S. Merkel, C. E. Stevens (compiler), Tom Wieboldt. Snow greatly reduced coverage.

13. *Covesville* (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center 3 miles NE of Greenfield, to include Castle Rock, Mill, south slope of Humpback Mountain, Stony Creek, North and South Forks of Rockfish River; deciduous woods 60%, fields and pastures 20%, stream bottoms 15%, farmyards, orchards 5%).—Dec. 22; 3 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Cloudy; temp. 32° to 45°; no wind; ground bare but up to 4 inches snow cover in mountains, water open. Five observers in 3-4 parties. Total party-hours, 32 (27 on foot, 5 by car); total party-miles, 86 (31 on foot, 55 by car). Seen in area count period, but not on count day: Myrtle Warbler. Observers: Peter Mehring (compiler), R. S. Merkel, Keith Richards, C. E. Stevens, Tom Wieboldt.

14. *Sweet Briar* (all points within a 3-mile diameter circle, center Sweet Briar College; open fields 30%, hedgerows 20%, mixed hardwood forest 10%, buildings and barns 15%, creek bottomland 10%, woodland edge 10%, lakes 5%).—Jan. 2; 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Clear to overcast in afternoon; temp. 30° to 50°; wind, none; ground snow covered, lakes frozen. Ten observers in 3 parties (one party at feeder). Total party-hours, 20 (16 on foot, ½ by car, 3½ at feeder); total party-miles, 13 (11 on foot, 2 by car). Observers: Carolyn Bates, Vicky Bates, Mary Blackwell, Jeanette Boone, Ernest Edwards, Mabel Edwards, Kay Macdonald, Gene Moore, Gertrude Prior (compiler), Harriet Rogers.

15. *Lynchburg* (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at Lynchburg College, to include James River, College Lake, Timber Lake, Pine Hill Lake, Tomahawk, Blackwater, Judith, Opossum, and Beaver Creeks, Woolbridge, Capron, Hawkins, and Burnbrae Farms, and Riverside Park; mixed woods 35%, fields 25%, creeks and river 16%, lakes 13%, pine woods 5%, parks 3%, marsh 3%).—Dec. 31; 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Cloudy; temp. 27° to 39°; wind SW, 3 m.p.h.; 5 inches snow cover, lakes frozen, streams open. Twenty-eight observers in 7 parties. Total party-hours, 56 (48 on foot, 8 by car); total party-miles, 233 (37 on foot, 196 by car). Observers: Arey Bailey, Jeanette Boone, Edith Driskill, Porter Echols, E. P. Edwards, Mabel Edwards, Dorothy Freer, R. S. Freer, Mary Guenther, Melba Hansrote, Elnora Hill, Roger Hill, W. S. Hooks, Gordon Howell, Jr., Robin Jordan, Ginny Mathias, Joseph Mathias, Kay Macdonald, Gene Moore, Myriam P. Moore (compiler), Gertrude Prior, Gwyn Ramsey, M. B. Tillotson, J. S. Thornhill, S. L. Thornhill, Mary Walker, Margaret Watson, Grace T. Wiltshire. The dark-phase Rough-legged Hawk was observed by Hill and Tillotson and the Baltimore Oriole by Hooks.

16. *Rockingham County* (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at Ottobine, including Silver Lake in Dayton; lawn and shade trees in town 5%, cottonwood-sycamore river bottoms 5%, open farmland and farm woodlots 55%, mixed Appalachian conifers and hardwoods in mountains 35%; elevation 1160 to 3200 feet).—Dec. 30; 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Partly cloudy; temp. 20° to 34°;

wind S, 2 m.p.h.; ground covered with 3 inches crusted snow, water open. Eight observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours, 27 (10 on foot, 17 by car); total party-miles, 150 (12 on foot, 138 by car). Seen in area count period, but not on count day: Lesser Scaup, Hooded Merganser, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Red-winged Blackbird, Evening Grosbeak. Observers: Donald Carpenter, Max Carpenter (compiler), Hollen Helbert, Robert Earl Houff, Richard H. Smith, Jr., J. E. Thornton, Herbert Whitmer, Jr., Charles Wright.

17. *Augusta County* (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center 3 miles SW of Staunton on Rt. 252, to include Bethel Green, Mint Spring, Middlebrook, Staunton; deciduous woods 15%, open fields and pastures 55%, orchards and farmyards 15%, towns 15%).—Dec. 31; 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Cloudy; temp. 24° to 40°; wind SE, 10 m.p.h.; 5-7 inches crusted snow, some ponds frozen. Seven observers on 1 party. Total party-hours, 9 (4 on foot, 5 by car); total party-miles, 80 (5 on foot, 75 by car). Seen in area count period, but not on count day: White-throated Sparrow. Observers: Helen Angier, Wellford Hobbie, Jean Lynn, Dolly McKenney, John Mehner (compiler), Samuel Spencer, James Sprunt. The Osprey was observed flying over the group and major field marks noted.

18. *Waynesboro* (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center between Sherando and Lyndhurst, including airport, golf course, residential areas, ponds and South River, open farmland, and wooded areas).—Dec. 31; 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mostly cloudy; temp. 24° to 35°; wind SE, 0 to 10 m.p.h.; 5-7 inches crusted snow, some ponds frozen, river open. Six observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours, 9 (5 on foot, 4 by car); total party-miles, 35.5 (5.5 on foot, 30 by car). Seen in area count period, but not on count day: Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Red-winged Blackbird, Field Sparrow. Observers: Corda Bott, Monroe Couper, John Henkel, Mozelle Henkel, Kay Holcomb, Ruth Snyder (compiler).

19. *Lexington* (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at Washington and Lee University; open farmland 30%, deciduous woodland 20%, cedar and pine woodlands 25%, scrub 25%).—Dec. 26; 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Clear; temp. 20° to 39°; wind NE, 0 to 20 m.p.h.; 6 inches snow cover, water open. Ten observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours, 28 (16½ on foot, 11½ by car); total party-miles, 91 (13 on foot, 78 by car). Observers: Westbrook Barritt, Mrs. M. D. Campbell, Jr., R. P. Carroll, Gordon Echols, Royster Lyle, Jr., J. J. Murray, Sr. (compiler), Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Murray, Jr., R. O. Paxton, Joshua Womeldorf. The Brown Thrasher is the third winter record for the area.

20. *Roanoke* (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at Wasena Bridge; mixed deciduous and coniferous woods 55%, open fields 30%, suburbs 6%, streams, ponds, and reservoir 9%).—Dec. 31; 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Overcast most of day; temp. 27° to 38°; wind NE, 6 m.p.h.; 5 inches snow cover, ponds frozen. Thirty-six observers in 8 parties. Total party-hours, 59 (43 on foot, 16 by car); total party-miles, 171 (28 on foot, 143 by car). Seen in area count period, but not on count day: Great Blue Heron, Golden-crowned Kinglet. Observers: Charles Ames, Garst Bishop, Mrs. T. H. Cline, David Crowe, Gary Davis, Mrs. Nora Davis, Ben Dulaney, A. O. English, Mrs. Roy Epline, Nay Hankins, Mrs. Norma Harper, Raymond Harper, Mr. and Mrs. Leigh Hawkins, Mrs. James Hiler, Debbie Ingram, Joyce Ingram, Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Jordan, Billy Kendig, Perry Kendig, Rob Logan, Mrs. Margaret Malley, Bill Massart, Mrs. Carole Massart (compiler), Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Moore, Miss Betty Smiley, Ron Sower, Bob Tabor, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Venn, Jane White, Miss Sylvia Yost. The Common Loons were seen at Carvins Cove by a party of ten including Gary Davis, Perry Kendig, and Mrs. Massart. The Evening Grosbeaks were watched for about 15 minutes by Mr. and Mrs. Jordan and the Vesper Sparrows by Hugh Muller and Nay Hankins. In addition to the blackbirds listed, Mr. and Mrs. Harper estimated

nearly 2 million blackbirds in a roost. No attempt was made to break down this number into species.

21. *Blacksburg* (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center near Linkous Store as in past 31 years; pasture and plowed land 20%, town and suburbs 10%, mature white oak woodlots 20%, mixed pine and oak woods 20%, river and creek bottoms 30%).—Dec. 27; 6:50 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Clear; temp. 18° to 42°; wind NW, 0 to 20 m.p.h.; 0-8 inches snow on ground, ponds mostly frozen, streams mostly open. Eighteen observers in 7 parties. Total party-hours, 50 (35 on foot, 15 by car); total party-miles, 226 (39 on foot, 187 by car). Seen in area count period, but not on count day: Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Myrtle Warbler. Observers: Billy Akers, Jack Bishop, Donald Cochran, Vickie Cochran, Clara Dickinson, Dick Dietrich, Maynard Hale, Henry Mosby, John Murray (compiler), Curtis Roane, Lee Roane, Douglas Shear, Myron Shear, Ellison Smyth, Mary Linda Smyth, Connie Stone, Jack Unbehaun, David West.

22. *Mt. Rogers-Whitetop* (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at junction of Va. Rts. 600 and 603, to include the peaks of Mt. Rogers and Whitetop and the saddle between the two; deciduous woodland 50%, grassy fields and briar patches 30%, spruce and fir forest 20%).—Dec. 23; 8:05 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Overcast with snow accumulating to 4 inches by early p.m.; temp. 26° to 32°; wind S, 5 to 6 m.p.h. Seven observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours, 10 (all on foot); total party-miles, 12 (on foot). Observers: Fletcher Bingham, Wallace Coffey (compiler), A. M. Decker, Robert Quillen, John Shumate, Charles Smith, Henry Woodward. The count had to be terminated early because of increasing snow accumulations with predictions of much more.

23. *Bristol* (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at junction of U. S. Rt. 11 and Rt. 625, to include Bristol, Stone Mill Marsh, South Holston Lake and River; fields and farmland 40%, mixed deciduous forest 25%, lakes and river 15%, towns and residences 10%, miscellaneous 10%).—Dec. 31; 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Heavy overcast, sleet in a.m. and light rain in p.m.; temp. 31° to 36°; wind N, 0 to 8 m.p.h.; ground bare, water open. Nine observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours, 25 (19 on foot, 6 by car); total party-miles, 208 (14 on foot, 192 by car, 2 by boat). Observers: Mrs. Carleton Abbott, Fletcher Bingham, Wallace Coffey (compiler), David McPeak, Robert Quillen, John Shumate, Charles Smith, Enno vanGelder, Henry Woodward. This count also included parts of adjacent Sullivan County, Tennessee. The adult Bald Eagle was found in the Tennessee portion of South Holston Lake and was seen by Coffey, Shumate, and Smith.

115 Kennondale Lane, Richmond, Virginia 23226



Figure 1. Locations of the 1966-67 Christmas bird counts in Virginia. The count numbers coincide with those used in the text and in Table 1.

Table 1. The 1966-67 Christmas bird counts for Virginia. Notations in boldface type indicate an unusual species or an unusual number of individuals for that particular count. Items marked with an asterisk (*) are commented on further under count summaries.

	1. Chincoteague	2. Cape Charles	3. Little Creek	4. Back Bay	5. Chesapeake	6. Nansemond River	7. Newport News	8. Hopewell	9. Brooke	10. Fort Belvoir	11. Charlottesville	12. Warren	13. Coveseville	14. Sweet Briar	15. Lynchburg	16. Rockingham County	17. Augusta County	18. Waynesboro	19. Lexington	20. Roanoke	21. Blacksburg	22. Mt. Rogers-Whitetop	23. Bristol
Date	12-29	12-30	12-29	12-31	12-27	12-26	12-26	12-27	12-21	1-2	12-31	12-26	12-22	1-2	12-31	12-30	12-31	12-31	12-26	12-31	12-27	12-23	12-31
Common Loon	125	28	4	34	....	....	9	....	7	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	5	....	....	9	....	....	....
Red-throated Loon	30	8	47	213	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5	....	....	....	1	....	....
Red-necked Grebe	2	....	....	2*	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5	....	....	....	....	....	....
Horned Grebe	370	145	238	2683	....	75	69	4	12	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Eared Grebe	....	....	....	1*	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Pied-billed Grebe	19	45	29	8	5	5	10	8	5	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	3	1	1	1	....	7
Gannet	1	1	17	286	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Double-crested Cormorant	1	13	15	....	....	25	62	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Great Blue Heron	84	74	83	15	2	9	10	15	19	10	....	1	....	....	....	2	....	....	....	....	....	....	9
Green Heron	....	2*	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Little Blue Heron	1	28*	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Common Egret	....	5	14	19	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Snowy Egret	....	11*	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Louisiana Heron	1	21	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Black-crowned Night Heron	31	38	5	4	....	....	7	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	1*	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
American Bittern	4	6	....	4	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Whistling Swan	7	49	2	2250	....	....	1*	....	3	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Canada Goose	2574	1139	32	8300	....	750	2	10,300	25	300	127	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	33
Brant	32,000	3194	257	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Snow Goose	4600	8	....	24,200	....	....	....	12	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	....
Blue Goose	13	....	....	6	....	....	....	175	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Mallard	615	216	89	717	25	19	29	3225	25	65	40	....	....	....	....	112	....	1	31	59	47	....	551
Black Duck	6419	1715	97	716	40	55	27	1739	100	224	75	....	....	....	3	33	....	....	2	4	4	....	1031
Gadwall	103	91	....	20	....	69	19	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	10	....	....	....	....	2	....	....
Pintail	5046	77	34	1025	30	612	....	172	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	10	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Green-winged Teal	679	37	9	918	8	85	1	28	2	4	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	....
Blue-winged Teal	....	5*	2	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
American Widgeon	905	385	14	11	....	150	1861	9	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	87	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Shoveler	965	24	18	10	....	....	....	2	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	6	....	....	....	....	....	....	....

Wood Duck	....	2	8	....	....	1	2	1600	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	2	1	....	....	....	....	....	....
Redhead	73	....	....	....	....	60	94	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	4	....	....
Ring-necked Duck	17	4	34	....	....	1	260	6	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	30	....	....	....	....	3	....	....
Canvasback	51	8	510	....	....	1483	207	....	....	3	182	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3	....	....
Greater Scaup	42	28	51	81	....	2	....	1	....	....	33	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Lesser Scaup	1	1	45	....	....	1	16	161	....	190	185	6	12	....	....	5	....	....	....	....	....	1	21	....
Common Goldeneye	58	130	51	4	....	51	36	....	....	4	1	3	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	51	....	8
Bufflehead	724	5475	61	9	....	499	115	24	7	40	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	6	53	1
Oldsquaw	518	293	26	5	....	....	27	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
White-winged Scoter	612	34	10	10	....	5	6	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Surf Scoter	4372	2290	142	1076	....	....	1010	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Common Scoter	297	330	229	45	....	....	387	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Ruddy Duck	82	13	18	3	....	322	271	514	....	830	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2	....	....	....	2	....	....
Hooded Merganser	129	39	32	12	....	25	8	4	4	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	8	....	4
Common Merganser	1	1	....	6	....	....	....	71	60	8	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3	....	....
Red-breasted Merganser	259	343	40	130	....	177	75	....	145	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Turkey Vulture	131	38	5	4	....	13	33	11	28	80	2	11	36	15	11	1	45	13	3	3	4	4	....	9
Black Vulture	5	....	1	25	....	30	10	4	3	5	....	26	10	11	7	....	21	....	....	....	....	14	....	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	3	1	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Cooper's Hawk	2	3	1	1	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	2	....	1
Red-tailed Hawk	15	8	6	7	....	10	6	1	3	4	8	11	2	2	2	....	1	....	....	....	....	1	2	....
Red-shouldered Hawk	3	1	6	17	....	12	1	....	3	7	6	5	1	....	....	1*	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....
Rough-legged Hawk	4	3	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Bald Eagle	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	1	4	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1*
Marsh Hawk	28	26	3	14	....	2	2	1	1	2	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Osprey	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1*	....	....	....	....	....	....
Pigeon Hawk	....	1*	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Sparrow Hawk	42	48	28	60	....	41	19	15	5	6	5	8	2	2	....	....	2	....	2	5	3	....	....	13
Ruffed Grouse	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3	1	4	....	....	4	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Bobwhite	131	88	58	26	....	19	25	22	22	90	154	68	21	22	23	73	53	25	1	67	79	58	....	30
Ring-necked Pheasant	....	2	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Turkey	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	12	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
King Rail	....	4	....	3	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Clapper Rail	6	58	11	....	....	....	5	2	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Virginia Rail	10	4	1	3	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Common Gallinule	....	1	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
American Coot	652	226	6	11	....	....	18	2	1	3	4	....	....	....	....	....	1	38	....	....	....	173	5	....
American Oystercatcher	115	69	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Semipalmated Plover	9	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Piping Plover	2	7	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Killdeer	140	93	163	11	....	46	28	70	20	11	3	5	1	14	1	....	14	5	2	2	3	16	....	1
Black-bellied Plover	281	654	8	22	....	7	23	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Ruddy Turnstone	54	130*	1
American Woodcock	20	109*	5	1	1	1
Common Snipe	39	11	7	70	3	1	2	14	17	5	4	6	2	14	6	18

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[illegible]

Barred Owl	3	4	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
Short-eared Owl	2	5	1	
Belted Kingfisher	28	20	9	7	4	9	5	4	11	4	3	2	3	2	1	1	2	3	6	3	4
Yellow-shafted Flicker	156	161	52	147	49	42	82	37	36	41	7	6	5	10	3	2	1	6	9	7	3
Pileated Woodpecker	2	9	25	12	1	4	18	10	9	18	17	16	4	13	7	2	1	13	9	11	12
Red-bellied Woodpecker	33	35	29	82	29	13	23	44	50	41	50	15	12	19	42	6	4	1	14	7	23	9
Red-headed Woodpecker	....	2	17	....	....	....	6	4	....	....	1	....	....	....	6	1	....	....	....	....	....	....
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	1	4	12	5	4	4	9	12	2	3	7	6	3	5	....	....	....	1	2	....	....
Hairy Woodpecker	14	12	11	22	14	4	....	5	22	21	6	6	6	1	4	1	3	....	7	6	5	1
Downy Woodpecker	61	33	24	59	43	8	16	32	60	73	65	70	25	13	48	19	8	4	35	34	73	2	
Eastern Phoebe	1	1	1	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	1	....	....
Horned Lark	215	128	1	3	....	3	5	60	28	2	99	1	25	16	10	317	14	....	40	69	111	....
Tree Swallow	321	70	....	17	....	....	271	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Blue Jay	68	20	69	190	104	97	86	118	85	259	117	37	23	24	255	26	14	29	37	221	98	....
Common Raven	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2	2	3	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....
Common Crow	5631	33	285	254	2455	283	554	197	930	449	589	588	162	101	162	769	13,965	21	1276	233	166	1	
Fish Crow	987	8	192	32	711	56	29	....	3	26	16	....	....	....	....	....	20	3	....	....	....	....
Black-capped Chickadee	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	3	....	6	....	....	....	....	....	....	5	....	35	....
Carolina Chickadee	206	99	74	167	87	61	53	105	200	312	185	150	83	37	236	28	7	4	55	195	99	7	
Tufted Titmouse	89	10	49	90	40	17	56	40	60	163	59	92	27	29	138	51	8	2	57	118	85	....
White-breasted Nuthatch	3	....	7	7	2	2	1	7	13	31	24	4	9	8	17	12	2	1	6	30	38	3
Red-breasted Nuthatch	15	3	....	....	....	....	....	2	....	3	6	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	3	5	2
Brown-headed Nuthatch	15	28	6	37	15	....	6	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Brown Creeper	38	7	9	2	6	3	9	12	7	7	11	2	1	2	8	....	....	....	....	1	3	3
House Wren	1	6	3	4	3	1	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....
Winter Wren	18	17	2	19	3	1	1	6	3	3	1	6	1	....	6	....	....	....	....	....	11	....
Carolina Wren	38	25	29	125	49	34	61	22	30	46	4	6	4	2	10	1	....	....	....	4	6	9
Long-billed Marsh Wren	4	3	1	65	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Short-billed Marsh Wren	6	4	....	37	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Mockingbird	70	115	109	143	57	121	96	73	140	152	147	107	56	43	148	42	9	13	59	168	64	....
Catbird	13	18	2	101	5	6	2	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Brown Thrasher	9	17	11	57	20	11	13	9	....	1	1*	....	....	....	1	3	....	....	....	1*	....	....
Robin	1310	914	1386	856	455	461	203	79	34	19	10	10	2	....	....	....	....	....	16	1	1	....
Hermit Thrush	16	14	1	45	19	4	4	12	3	6	3	3	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Swainson's Thrush	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1*	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Gray-cheeked Thrush	....	....	....	....	1*	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Eastern Bluebird	8	22	2	4	5	....	....	11	17	2	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....
Golden-crowned Kinglet	266	26	52	38	18	15	46	54	16	72	64	83	26	2	23	5	....	....	1	....	17	....
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	29	23	30	18	12	10	25	37	15	17	45	21	16	3	31	....	....	....	1	3	5	....
Water Pipit	238	199	13	8	35	98	....	2	19	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Cedar Waxwing	52	88	81	17	4	31	22	13	47	6	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Loggerhead Shrike	....	9	2	3	2	....	2	4	7	1	13	12	10	4	5	4	1	1	6	7	9	....
Starling	2245	4757	5800	9400	30,200	3550	3134	421	850	1084	546	802	589	298	105,600	850	384	223	831	2609	1233	500	
Black-and-white Warbler	1*	1*	
Orange-crowned Warbler	1	

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	1. Chincoteague	2. Cape Charles	3. Little Creek	4. Back Bay	5. Chesapeake	6. Nansemond River	7. Newport News	8. Hopewell	9. Brooke	10. Fort Belvoir	11. Charlottesville	12. Warren	13. Coveseville	14. Sweet Briar	15. Lynchburg	16. Rockingham County	17. Augusta County	18. Waynesboro	19. Lexington	20. Roanoke	21. Blacksburg	22. Mt. Rogers-Whitetop	23. Bristol
Date	12-29	12-30	12-29	12-31	12-27	12-26	12-26	12-27	12-21	1-2	12-31	12-26	12-22	1-2	12-31	12-30	12-31	12-31	12-26	12-31	12-27	12-23	12-31
Myrtle Warbler	5380	3655	141	2838	138	295	257	76	13	49	5	11	....	1	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Pine Warbler	3	3	10	1	3	3	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Palm Warbler	118	33	7	7	33	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Yellowthroat	6	3	....	12	....	1	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Yellow-breasted Chat	....	1	1	....	....	....	....	....	2*	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
House Sparrow	810	234	524	316	500	350	655	191	600	152	111	120	72	174	364	385	243	73	362	308	252	....	130
Eastern Meadowlark	540	173	139	308	301	329	166	122	125	6	11	125	2	13	37	86	11	....	26	15	67	....	123
Red-winged Blackbird	3627	11,175	528	66,500	3,000,000	68,000	2804	18	2000	185	234	13	....	1	14,800	....	....	....	2	33	....	....	....
Baltimore Oriole	....	....	4*	....	1*	1*	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1*	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Rusty Blackbird	27	1	67	73	3	4	200	2	90	17	8	20	....	35	2100	....	....	....	9	37	....	....	....
Boat-tailed Grackle	253	927	....	7	....	1	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Common Grackle	5586	9683	705	102,000	1,000,000	6000	4542	10	9	6	1	....	....	....	73,900	....	....	....	7	1	6	....	....
Brown-headed Cowbird	1355	1006	1239	1182	850	316	2632	20	100	26	176	....	....	81	14,800	20	....	108	....	89	....	....	....
Cardinal	218	179	230	404	210	144	126	221	320	256	277	216	142	119	294	60	24	12	136	254	259	....	185
Evening Grosbeak	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	30*	....	....	....	....
Purple Finch	1	3	6	6	11	9	5	4	7	3	36	1	5	....	2	....	4	....	63	39	2	....	....
House Finch	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5*	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Pine Siskin	....	1	1	....	2	6	....	12	4	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3	....	....	....
American Goldfinch	377	226	50	344	104	16	45	25	400	236	90	54	77	1	44	115	43	28	74	81	245	....	57
Rufous-sided Towhee	41	49	80	239	110	94	29	43	3	4	1	....	....	....	10	1	....	....	....	6	....	....	1
Ipswich Sparrow	1	6	....	3	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Savannah Sparrow	117	57	55	407	60	20	49	7	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Sharp-tailed Sparrow	16	16	78	5	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Seaside Sparrow	1	7	35	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Vesper Sparrow	53	3	....	2	....	....	....	....	....	3*	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1*	....	....	....
Slate-colored Junco	354	269	297	412	509	522	269	411	460	1005	455	647	129	34	742	140	34	20	319	555	373	6	255
Tree Sparrow	15	3	3	....	....	8	....	....	80	151	84	30	8	....	....	21	....	....	19	....	9	....	....
Chipping Sparrow	22	41	9	19	....	....	3	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Field Sparrow	147	172	130	104	150	107	16	55	75	141	51	36	10	2	24	....	....	....	10	14	53	....	102
White-crowned Sparrow	6	10	....	13	....	....	....	7	9	2	32	3	6	42	4	4	....	20	25	32	94	....	26

White-throated Sparrow	771	961	352	1062	645	576	424	253	160	154	72	7	15	15	129	....	....	....	83	113	21	....	11
Fox Sparrow	67	49	17	110	90	31	35	12	3	4	3	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....
Lincoln's Sparrow	1*	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Swamp Sparrow	251	230	141	549	148	170	111	25	2	24	2	4	....	....	3	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Song Sparrow	404	421	88	490	74	138	83	105	90	137	82	46	16	5	86	15	1	12	9	109	115	....	47
Lapland Longspur	6	7	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Snow Bunting	354	....	3	40	....	32	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Total Species	147	155	132	132	78	102	102	87	88	82	66	52	46	40	55	54	29	33	54	59	59	11	51
Total Individuals	108,300	82,684	85,540	241,227	4,042,591	98,765	27,207	21,493	8876	9018	4426	3812	1773	1663	214,302	3788	14,856	613	3799	5985	4077	527	6891
Total Party-hours	127	147	46	73	27	34	40	38	72	80	44	32	32	20	56	27	9	9	28	59	50	10	25
No. of Observers	27	22	10	14	5	6	14	7	13	21	7	5	5	10	28	8	7	6	10	39	18	7	9

EXPLORING THE BEARTOWNS

CHARLES E. STEVENS

While attending the 1966 VSO Foray in Abingdon the writer was afforded the opportunity of visiting two of Virginia's highest mountain peaks, which occur as prominences on the long ridge known as Clinch Mountain. These two peaks bear the same name, strangely, of Beartown. The first, 4710 feet in elevation, lies in Tazewell County overlooking Burkes Garden and forms the northern terminus of Clinch Mountain, which extends southwestward almost to Knoxville, Tennessee. The second Beartown, 4689 feet in elevation, is located 30 miles southwestward from the first, and lies in adjacent Russell County. These two peaks are exceeded in altitude in the state only by the Mount Rogers-Whitetop massif with its associated high ridges, or "junior partners." Both peaks also are just high enough to sustain a touch of Canadian biota, including red spruce.

Robert J. Watson and I climbed the Russell County Beartown Mountain on 9 June from the west side via Mutters Gap. The higher portion had been lumbered probably by the 1920's and burned in 1926 (Shields, 1961). The fire was devastating enough to have destroyed the organic soil, in many places exposing the sandstone substratum. Upon this is springing up a thicket of rhododendron and other shrubs and trees which can be walked through only with great difficulty in places. Young spruce is scattered throughout. At the top we found a very small amount of the original forest consisting of a few remaining large spruce and yellow birch trees as well as a remnant along the western rim of the summit escarpment. In these places were found the following birds of northern affinities: Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 1; Magnolia Warbler, 6; Red Crossbill, 3 (flying over). Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Blue, and Canada Warblers, Slate-colored Juncos, and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were fairly common in the summit area. This mountain is deserving of more ornithological investigation than could be made on our brief visit. The summit is easiest attained by a recently cut path which departs from an old logging road on the west side.

Thirty miles northeastward on Clinch Mountain, in Tazewell County, the other peak named Beartown surveys the scenic and verdant bowl-shaped valley of Burkes Garden. There on 11 June, a brilliantly clear and cool day, the writer climbed from the pastures of the limestone valley floor up the steep slope through a secondary woodland of northern hardwoods to the summit, where there was a small abandoned pasture bordered with spruce. Extending southward down the slope from the summit was a splendid mature forest of yellow birch and spruce with lesser amounts of beech, cucumber tree (*Magnolia acuminata*), buckeye (*Aesculus octandra*), mountain holly (*Ilex montana*), and mountain maple (*Acer spicatum*), from which Red-breasted Nuthatches called and Veeries, Solitary Vireos, Black-throated Blue, Canada, and Magnolia Warblers and Juncos sang. Red squirrels gave their intense chatter here and there. Much of the spruce measured 18 inches in diameter at breast height. On the forest floor grew an herbaceous flora of distinctly northern character which included wood sorrel (*Oxalis montana*), *Clintonia borealis*, painted trillium (*Trillium undulatum*), plus the shining clubmoss (*Lycopodium lucidulum*). From massive rockeries of Clinch sandstone, grown around with *Rhododendron maximum* and on top with *Rhododendron catawbiense*, came the loudly distinct song of the Winter Wren. Northward along the ridge from the summit the aspect was as bleak as that of much of the Russell Beartown. Even more recent fire had ravaged the mountain, consuming the organic soil and leaving a rocky barren which supported a pioneer flora of bracken, ground pine (*Lycopodium obscurum*), and staghorn clubmoss (*L. clavatum*), with a sprout growth of

rhododendron, mountain laurel, and other bushy species. This was the domain of the Rufous-sided Towhee and the Chestnut-sided Warbler.

Limited time forced an early departure. However, having only begun to explore this interesting area, I had to return, which I did with Stevan Calver on 2 July. We camped overnight on the summit and spent most of 3 July reconnoitering the region. No Whip-poor-wills or owls were heard, and happily no biting insects were found.

Exploration of the fine spruce-hardwood forest on the south side of the mountain showed that it extended down to about 4200 feet elevation where it graded into birch-rhododendron with some hemlock lower. Canada and Black-throated Blue Warblers prevailed in the dark rank tangles, with lesser numbers of Magnolia Warblers. Passage through these areas was only made possible by the abandoned lumber roads which originally consisted of poles and small logs set across the stream beds. These watercourses are tributaries of Roaring Fork which drains into Poor Valley. A Winter Wren was singing at 3900 feet in such a situation, which is the lowest altitude that we found it on the mountain.

Several hunter access trails permitted travel through the burned portions of the mountain, especially the area about the head of Cove Branch. The open sproutland here is reached without difficulty by a jeep road from Thompson Valley west of Clinch Mountain.

J. J. Murray (1940) visited Burkes Garden and surrounding Garden Mountain but did not list any birds from the spruce zone. He noted, however, that lumbering operations were in progress at the time on Beartown.

There is a surprising mixture of northern and southern forms on both Beartowns. Several tulip poplar saplings, a species of the coves and lower slopes, were seen on the burned summit of the Russell County peak with spruce, a most unexpected combination. Another tulip tree of medium size was seen high on the Tazewell Beartown with spruce. A Hooded Warbler was singing in summit birch-spruce on the Russell Beartown, after which we found a singing Golden-crowned Kinglet by descending several hundred feet! On the same mountain a Kentucky Warbler and a Canada Warbler could be heard singing in a wooded ravine just west of Mutters Gap at 3600 feet.

An annotated list of birds recorded on the Tazewell County Beartown follows.

Turkey Vulture—several.

Black Vulture—2 on June 11.

Red-tailed Hawk—1 on June 11.

Ruffed Grouse—21, including 14 young in 3 groups, on July 3.

American Woodcock—2 on July 3.

Mourning Dove—several in openings near summit.

Chimney Swift—several.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird—1 on July 3.

(Red-headed Woodpecker—1 seen in grove in Burkes Garden.)

Hairy Woodpecker—1 on June 11 and July 3.

Downy Woodpecker—1 on July 3.

Wood Pewee—2 on July 3.

Blue Jay—10 on July 3, scattered.

Common Raven—a family group of 6 on June 11 seen over the ridges and later flushed from a bovine carcass in Burkes Garden.

American Crow—a few.

Carolina Chickadee—all chickadees appeared to belong to this species. Although none were heard singing, the calls agree with those of the Carolina. It was a little unexpected to find them in the spruce. Collecting here would be desirable. Single birds on the summit on June 11 and July 2, with 16 throughout on July 3. The Tufted Titmouse was not found at the higher elevations.

White-breasted Nuthatch—1 on July 3 just below the spruce.

Red-breasted Nuthatch—6 on June 11 and 11 on July 3, always in spruce and mixtures containing it.

Winter Wren—Occurred in dense rhododendron-birch-spruce from summit down to 3900 feet in one case. Two on June 11, 1 on July 2 and 5 on July 3.

Catbird—several.

Robin—a few in the summit spruce where they often occur in the high Southern Appalachians.

Wood Thrush—common throughout, with a maximum of 38 on July 3.

Veery—common throughout, with a maximum of 25 on July 3.

Golden-crowned Kinglet—3 on June 11 and 9 on July 3, confined to spruce and mixtures.

Cedar Waxwing—1 on July 3.

Solitary Vireo—9 on June 11 and 12 on July 3. Nestbuilding on June 11.

Red-eyed Vireo—7 on July 3. Scarce at highest elevations.

Black and White Warbler—several.

Golden-winged Warbler—2 on June 11 in openings.

Magnolia Warbler—3 on June 11, 1 on July 2, 14 on July 3. A denizen of the rhododendron-spruce-birch occurring down to 3700 feet on the south side. An addition to our extension this year of its known range in southwest Virginia.

Black-throated Blue Warbler—fairly common, maximum of 16 on July 3.

Black-throated Green Warbler—surprisingly only 1, heard in spruce-hard-woods July 3. The Blackburnian was conspicuously absent.

Chestnut-sided Warbler—maximum of 13 on June 11, openings and burns.

Ovenbird—not common, maximum of 9 on July 3.

Yellowthroat—several in shrubby weedy openings.

Canada Warbler—common in rhododendron, maximum of 22 on July 3.

Scarlet Tanager—uncommon, maximum of 5 on July 3.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak—maximum of 14 on June 11.

American Goldfinch—a few flying over.

Red Crossbill—10 birds of both sexes feeding on upper terminal branches of spruce at summit on July 2. Three heard flying over on July 3.

Rufous-sided Towhee—common in burns, maximum of 23 on July 3.

Slate-colored Junco—common throughout, maximum of 33 on July 3.

Field Sparrow—one in summit opening.

* * *

The Burkes Garden Quadrangle is the Geological Survey topographic map of the Tazewell County Beartown, while the Russell County Beartown can be found on the Elk Garden and the Saltville Quadrangles.

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615 Preston Place, Charlottesville, Virginia 22903

BOHEMIAN WAXWING AT ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

GORMAN M. BOND

On Sunday afternoon, 5 February 1967, as my field companion, George Valentine, and I were returning from an otherwise uneventful bird walk near the Belle Haven Marina, New Alexandria, we noticed a rather large, chunky waxwing sitting alone in a sumac shrub about eight feet above the ground.

Since we had not seen other flocks of waxwings in the area, my first impression was that this bird was a sick or injured straggler. My curiosity was further aroused by the fact that although we approached the bird to a point almost directly beneath its perch, it did not attempt to fly away. At this close range I could see that the bird had bright chestnut under-tail coverts, pink-tipped tertials, and white wing markings, and suddenly realized that I was looking at a Bohemian Waxwing! While we were checking these points in our *Field Guide* a Cedar Waxwing arrived and excitedly flew about the larger bird, which continued to remain immovable. Shortly afterwards a Mockingbird appeared and attacked the pair, after which they all disappeared into the forest.

6413 15th Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22307

A THIRD HARRIS' SPARROW RECORD FOR VIRGINIA

ROGER B. CLAPP

In November and December 1964 Church (1965, *The Raven*, 36(1):19) captured and banded two immature Harris' Sparrows (*Zonotrichia querula*), two miles north of Ashburn, Virginia. These two well-documented records were the first for Virginia.

On 11 November 1966 I captured and banded another immature at my home, 13¼ miles north-northeast of Fairfax, Virginia, and 18 miles southwest of the site of the previous two records. The bird was easily identified by its pink bill, its buffy-brown head and scaly pattern of the darker crown, and by its large size. Its weight and measurements were: weight, 38 gm.; wing (chord), 86 mm.; exposed culmen, 13 mm.; tarsus, 27 mm.; and tail, 84 mm.

Subsequently I saw the Harris' Sparrow several times on two days, 19 and 21 November, but did not observe it thereafter. On several occasions it ate finely cracked corn while associating with White-crowned Sparrows, Song Sparrows, and Slate-colored Juncos.

U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.

THE HAIRY WOODPECKER AS A DESTROYER OF ELM BARK BEETLES

C. C. STEIRLY

For some years the writer has had a professional interest in the several woodpecker species of eastern Virginia, especially their ecology and food preferences. During the period 26 December 1966 to 15 February 1967 the work of a Hairy Woodpecker on an American elm was under intermittent observation, the tree being close to the writer's office in the town of Waverly.

Almost daily a male Hairy Woodpecker appeared at the tree tapping and working for insects just under the bark. The tree was carefully investigated and larvae and adults of the elm bark beetle (*Scolytus multistriatus*) were found in abundance within the phloem tissues of the trees. Sample sections of the outermost portions of the woody tissue revealed a great deal of fine gallery working typical of the particular species of insect. Evidence was also at hand of the presence of the Dutch elm disease, a disease of the elm caused by the fungus *Graphium ulmi* of which several species of bark beetles, notably *S. multistriatus*, are important vectors.

During the several weeks of observation the one woodpecker had removed the outer bark from approximately seventy percent of the bole and larger

branches of the infested elm. Fearing the further spread of the disease the writer was professionally obligated to recommend the felling and complete disposal of the tree. During the felling process the writer had an opportunity to dissect the remaining portion of the tree that had not been worked by the woodpecker. This portion contained numerous larvae of the elm bark beetle just under the outer bark. In areas that had been worked there were no larvae. This lack of larvae is due largely to their having been consumed by the woodpecker and by dessication and exposure to freezing weather caused by the woodpecker's removal of the outer bark. Further studies could not be made, nor did time permit any counts of larval population per square foot of bole surface.

The whole episode points to the practical value of our wintering woodpeckers in severely reducing the breeding potentials of the more important timber destroying bark beetles, and in this case reducing drastically the possible rate of spread of the fungus disease associated with the elm bark beetle. To the casual observer however the woodpecker might easily be blamed for the death of the tree since his work was so apparent and superficially more manifest than the hidden work of the beetle and of the fungus.

Virginia Division of Forestry Waverly, Virginia 23890

HYBRID SLATE-COLORED JUNCO X WHITE-THROATED SPARROW IN WAYNESBORO

MRS. MARK D. SNYDER

Our home is in a fairly new residential section on former pasture land with no trees of any size. Any birds other than Starlings, English Sparrows and occasional Bluejays are uncommon and therefore eagerly studied when they do appear.

Early on the morning of 18 October 1966 a flock of about eight White-throated Sparrows was noted feeding under forsythia bushes on the edge of the patio. Since this was a new species for the yard and since one seemed to flash white in the tail, I gave them my complete attention from a window about 24 feet away.

One, as I soon discovered, was different from the rest. Its back, wings, and head were streaked; there were light spots between eye and bill; and the throat was white, like an immature White-throat, but the breast was gray, terminating in light under parts like a Junco. When it perched in a bush for a bit of preening I was able to determine beyond a doubt that its outer tail feathers were white. The bill was a lighter color than that of a White-throat.

Once the flock flew away, but soon returned, and was watched for about half an hour. Then they were gone and not seen again. For a few days small groups of Juncos were noted in the vicinity, but the strange bird was not with them.

Through correspondence with friends in the Augusta (Georgia) Bird Club I learned of a similar bird taken in Dalton, Georgia, and wrote to Mrs. R. E. Hamilton there. She sent me a reprint from *The Auk* (Vol. 74, January 1957, p. 94) describing the hybrid which was collected in her yard on 16 January 1955. The description of her bird fits that of the one I observed in all major points of appearance. As Dr. David W. Johnston, Department of Biology, Mercer University, pointed out in the case of the Dalton bird, "in all probability this hybrid came from *Zonotrichia albicollis* X *Junco hyemalis hyemalis*, and not *J. h. carolinensis*, because the ranges of the White-throat and Carolina Junco do not overlap."

Other records of such hybrids are listed as follows: Townsend, Bull. Nuttall Ornith. Club, 8:78-80, 1883; Stone, Auk, 10: 213-214, 1893; and Snyder, Auk, 71: 471, 1954.

1245 Chatham Road, Waynesboro, Virginia 22980

THE 1966 BACK BAY FIELD TRIP

W. A. ROTHERY

The forty "odd" hearty souls who embarked on the journey from below Sandbridge for the Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge on 3 December 1966 will long remember it as a voyage into the hinterlands. The temperature hovered in the low 20's, and there was a bitter northeast wind of 20 to 30 knots. The birds were there in great variety, but having better sense than we, they stayed in the shelters available to them, and we did not see them in great numbers.

After our usual lunch, which was eaten in the lee of the sheds at the Refuge, we decided that the birding would be better at Seashore State Park on the nature trails which are in the sheltered woods out of the bitter wind. Don Ambrosen and his accommodating crew started hauling us up the beach to our cars until we found that one of our hardier souls was missing. We and our hosts spent more than an hour looking for him and finally gave up on the supposition that he would return at our usual parting time. We then headed north to warmer territory. We found later that our lost member had headed back to the motel without notifying his party, the Tripmaster, or his hosts, although he did tell a couple of people who couldn't have cared less.

On Saturday evening the larger part of the group that stayed at the Thunderbird in Virginia Beach decided to have dinner at a little off-beat restaurant which had served a smaller party delightfully a couple of nights previously. Sad to say, this spot was not equipped to handle the 22 people that we thrust upon them, and though the food was good, the service was so poor that a lot of the pleasure was lost in the shuffle.

On the following morning, Ed Ames met us at the gates to Craney Island, near Chesapeake, and furnished us a bitter but satisfying jaunt around the dikes. Of particular note were the Purple Sandpipers that allowed us to get within a few feet of them and put on a real fashion show with their posing. There were also several beautiful flocks of Canvasbacks, one of Redheads, and more Horned Grebes together than most of us had ever seen at once. Also seen were great clusters of icicles formed by the bitter weather and the salt spray from the waves breaking on the rocks.

Credit should be given to Roy Jackson of Virginia Beach for the local arrangements both at the Thunderbird and at the Refuge. Our thanks also go out to Ed Ames, who always manages to stake out several spectaculars every time he squires us around Craney Island. The group saw 61 species on Saturday, 20 on Sunday, and eliminating duplications, a total of 72 species, mostly water-oriented birds.

3629 Gunston Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22302

MATTAMUSKEET FIELD TRIP

CAROLE MASSART

Blue skies and temperatures in the seventies accompanied 48 VSO members as they journeyed to Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge, North Carolina, on Friday, 27 January 1967. Though Saturday dawned bright and clear, the temperature had dropped to the thirties, and a very brisk wind was blowing

as the members were trucked to the east end of the lake for a full morning of birding guided by Hal Swindell, Refuge Manager. Canada Geese were present in large numbers, and fair numbers of Whistling Swans and Pintails were noted. Snipe were reported in unusually large numbers, and a Marsh Hawk put on a fine display. Highlighting the morning trip were several otters cavorting in a canal and four white-tailed deer in sight for a large part of the trip.

After lunch observers traveled in private cars to Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge on Pamlico Sound. A Bald Eagle and an Osprey were sighted here, but high winds in general made the water surface too choppy for good birding. After leaving Swanquarter, birding was resumed on the west end of Lake Mattamuskeet.

Evening found the group in front of a roaring fire viewing slides and listening to an interesting talk by Hal Swindell about the management of Mattamuskeet and Swanquarter Refuges.

On Sunday morning members birded in small groups around the lodge for land birds before returning home from an enjoyable and rewarding week end. Final tabulation revealed that 90 species had been observed.

Route 1, Troutville, Virginia 24175

NEWS OF THE LOCAL CHAPTERS

Roanoke Valley Bird Club

In the last year and a half the Roanoke Valley Bird Club has held ten meetings with a variety of programs, including talks by Dr. J. J. Murray and Mrs. James W. Wiltshire and a number of films. Beginning in September 1966 the meetings have been scheduled on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Roanoke Memorial Rehabilitation Center auditorium. A number of field trips have been organized by the Club, with special emphasis perhaps on a Blue Ridge hawk watch in September and the Christmas count in late December. For the spring migration, field trips are scheduled almost weekly.

At the January annual meeting of the Club the following new officers were elected: President, Mrs. Carole Massart; Vice President, Hugh Muller; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. John Edmunds; Board Member, Ben Dulaney. Mrs. E. C. Moore is also a board member with another year to serve.

The Club at present has approximately 85 members.—Mrs. Carole Massart.

JUNCO WITH WHITE WING-BARS AT SWEET BRIAR, VIRGINIA

ERNEST P. EDWARDS

On February 18, 1967, a junco with two white wing-bars on each wing, and a trace of white on the greater primary coverts, was seen at the Sanctuary Cottage in the Carry Nature Sanctuary woodland at Sweet Briar College. After the heavy snow of the previous night, this bird came in the morning to feed on grain scattered on the porch of the cottage, and it was seen twice around the cottage later in the day. This same bird, or a similar one, was also reported at two other places on campus, about a half-mile from the point where originally seen, on Monday, February 20 and Saturday, February 25. It was seen in the immediate vicinity of the Sanctuary Cottage on February 18, 19, 24 and 25, 1967.

The bird appeared slightly duller than the bright male Slate-colored Juncos

in the vicinity, but did not seem to be notably larger, nor was there noticeably more white in the tail. Lacking verification of differences other than the white on the wings, the bird should doubtless be considered simply an unusual Slate-colored Junco, but it may possibly have been a White-winged Junco.

Sweet Briar College, Sweet Briar, Virginia

AN EAGLE IN DISTRESS

C. C. STEIRLY

In mid-February Robert E. Dill, a forester with the Virginia Division of Forestry, while working in New Kent County near the Chickahominy River found a Bald Eagle in distress. The unfortunate eagle had become caught in a steel muskrat trap and had pulled its chain loose from the stake that keeps an entrapped animal from getting away. The chain in this case had become hopelessly entangled about forty feet up in a cypress tree out in the swamp.

Dill procured a small boat, paddled out to the tree, climbed up the tree and removed the trap from the eagle's leg. The bird's foot seemed to have suffered no injuries and it flew off. Never once did it threaten its rescuer. How many VSO members would have had the courage or resourcefulness to do what Dill did? Yet he is not basically a bird lover.

District Forester, Virginia Division of Forestry, Waverly, Virginia

NEWS AND NOTES

DEADLINES FOR THE RAVEN. Members are reminded that deadlines for copy for *The Raven* fall on the 15th of February, May, August, and November.

HAWK COUNTS. Counts for the fall of 1966 are to be sent to F. R. Scott, 115 Kennondale Lane, Richmond, Virginia 23226.

HOUSE FINCH SUMMARY. Arthur H. Fast, 4924 Rock Spring Road, Arlington 22207, will prepare for *The Raven* a summary of House Finch occurrences for the 1966-67 season. These should be sent to him not later than 1 July.

THE COLONIAL NATURALIST. A film with this title on the work of Mark Catesby, the English naturalist who visited Williamsburg in 1712, has been prepared by Colonial Williamsburg. It will be made available to television stations.

EASTERN SHORE TRIP. The time and place for the Eastern Shore Field Trip next summer has been set for 19 August at Wachapreague.

ANOTHER ONE-LEGGED CROW. Dwight R. Chamberlain writes that *The Auk* (Volume 22, 1905, pp. 312-313) had an account of a one-legged Common Crow shot near Ottawa, Canada, with the stump "completely healed and well worn, as though it always had been in this condition." The bird appeared in good condition, and its stomach was filled with earthworms. He adds: "Over a lifetime I have shot hundreds of crows for stomach examination and only recently, 27 August 1964, have encountered the above anomaly in the field. Using a crow call, I 'talked' over a small flock of crows approximately seven miles northeast of McDowell, Virginia. I managed to shoot three birds, one of which had only one foot. It was an adult male Eastern Common Crow in

good molting plumage and preponderant in basic measurements to the other two. The tarsus was truncated three-fourths of an inch below the heel, and the remaining well-healed, rounded stump left no doubt about its long existence. The crow's gizzard contained mostly Japanese beetles and a few wild cherry pits and skins, which showed its resourcefulness in spite of an apparent handicap."

CROW ROOST IN AUGUSTA COUNTY. Dr. John F. Mehner, Professor of Biology at Mary Baldwin College, writing about a crow roost east of Staunton, states on the Augusta County Christmas Count on 31 December 1966 they spent two hours in the late afternoon at the roost. "We counted between 14,000 and 15,000 crows. Most of the birds flew to the roost between 4:45 and 5:30 p.m., and counting them was difficult. Only about 20 Fish Crows were noted."

A NOTE ON THE FEEDING OF THE TUFTED TITMOUSE. C. C. Steirly writes: "During snowy weather prevailing on 11 February 1967 at Waverly, Virginia, the writer observed a Tufted Titmouse feeding on the eggs of the praying mantis, *Stagomantis carolina*. Mantis eggs are encased in chambered oothecae that are often an inch or so in length and are fastened to tree twigs. The titmouse skillfully tore into the parchment-like chambers of the mass and removed the tiny eggs as food."

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE FEEDING ON A CARDINAL. Myron and Douglas Shear, Blacksburg 24060, write the following: "On the afternoon of 21 February 1967 a Loggerhead Shrike was observed in our garden. It had a male Cardinal that appeared to be dead. The shrike flew with its prey for a short distance and then dragged the dead Cardinal near a small boxwood where it proceeded ravenously to devour the bird's head. At about six o'clock it was eating on the body. At 7:30 the next morning it was seen pecking on the remains. This was the first time a shrike had been seen in the neighborhood this winter. For the next several days it was frequently seen eating suet hanging from a branch. We have seen reports of shrikes killing sparrows. We do not know that it killed the Cardinal but we wonder whether they commonly eat birds as large as this."

DICKCISSEL AT LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA. On 8 February 1967 Mrs. Edward F. Turner telephoned the Editor that she had a Dickcissel at her feeding tray. I went to the home and soon saw the bird. It was a well-marked female. She had first seen the bird on 2 February and again on 6 February. This is the first record anywhere near Lexington.

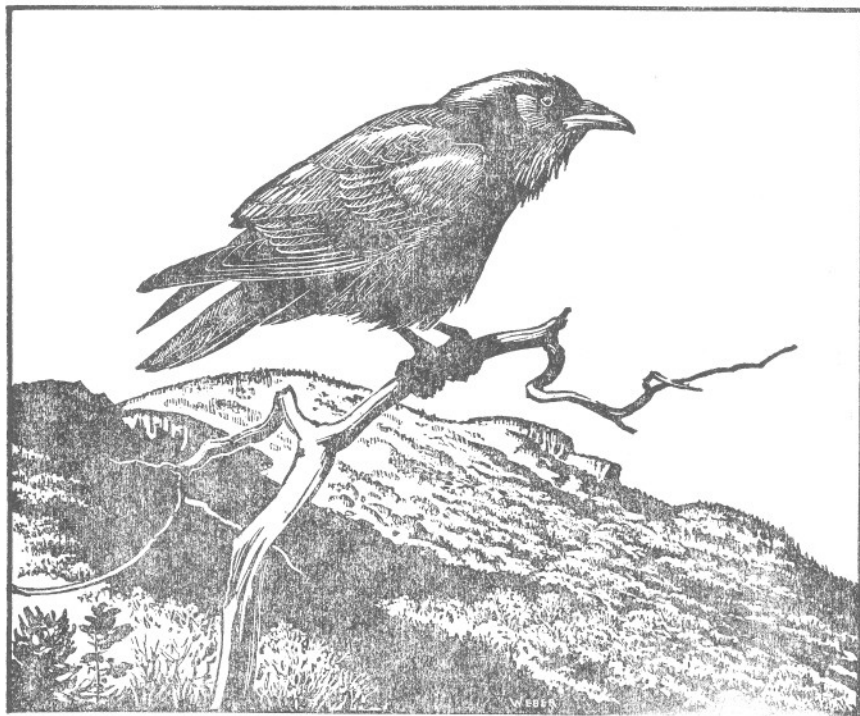
The Raven

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Courtesy of Walter Weber

CONTENTS

William Cabell Rives: Distinguished Virginia Ornithologist	27
By J. J. Murray	
The Breeding Habits of the Ovenbird	28
By Henry Drudge	
American Golden Plover at Sweet Briar, Virginia, in November	31
By Ernest P. Edwards, Katherine Macdonald, and Emmy Savage	
Glossy Ibis at Sweet Briar, Virginia	32
By Ernest P. Edwards	
Adult Little Blue Heron in Albemarle County, Virginia	32
By Keith C. Richards	
The 1967 Annual VSO Meeting	32
By Robert J. Watson, Secretary	
The 1967 Annual Meeting Field Trips	34
Actions by the Executive Committee	34
Another VSO Chapter	34
By James W. Eike	
Conservation Corner	35
By Ruskin S. Freer	
News and Notes	35

The Virginia Society of Ornithology exists to encourage the systematic study of birds in Virginia, to stimulate interest in birds, and to assist the conservation of wildlife and other natural resources. All persons interested in those objectives are welcome as members. Present membership includes every level of interest, from professional scientific ornithologists to enthusiastic amateurs.

Activities undertaken by the Society include the following:

1. An annual meeting (usually in the spring), held in a different part of the state each year, featuring talks on ornithological subjects and field trips to nearby areas.

2. Other forays or field trips, lasting a day or more and scheduled throughout the year so as to include all seasons and to cover the major physiographic regions of the state.

3. A journal, *The Raven*, published quarterly, containing articles about Virginia ornithology, as well as news of the activities of the Society and its chapters.

4. Study projects (nesting studies, winter bird population surveys, etc.) aimed at making genuine contributions to ornithological knowledge.

In addition, local chapters of the Society, located in some of the larger cities and towns of Virginia, conduct their own programs of meetings, field trips, and other projects.

Those wishing to participate in any of the above activities or to cooperate in advancing the objectives of the Society are cordially invited to join. Annual dues are \$1.00 for junior members (students), \$2.00 for active members, \$4.00 for sustaining members, \$50.00 for life members.

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WILLIAM CABELL RIVES: DISTINGUISHED VIRGINIA ORNITHOLOGIST

J. J. MURRAY, Sr.

William Cabell Rives, although he was born in Europe and died in the District of Columbia, and although he received all of his higher education outside our State, was by heritage and by inclination a loyal Virginian. His ancestors were prominent in the Old Dominion: the first William Cabell Rives, who married Judith Page Walker of Albemarle, was a distinguished lawyer, who represented Virginia in the Senate and served the United States as Minister to France from 1849 to 1853. Castle Hill in Albemarle County was the home of the second William Cabell Rives, an uncle of the writer Princess Amelie Rives Troubetzkoy.

William Cabell Rives III was born in Paris on 10 January 1850 while his mother was visiting there with his grandfather. He was educated at Harvard, graduating in 1871, and at Corpus Christi College, Oxford University. His medical degree was received abroad, after study at Vienna. Rives practiced his profession in the hospitals of New York and Newport, Rhode Island, chiefly in charity work, and, after 1900, in Washington. During the Washington years he was active in philanthropic efforts, especially in child welfare organizations and in work among the Negroes. He was a trustee of the Washington cathedral, in the development of which he was greatly interested.

In 1876 Rives married Mary Rhinelander Sears, who preceded him in death. In his last years he was deaf, living a quiet life at his home on Rhode Island Avenue. He died in Washington on 18 December 1938, just short of his 89th birthday, and his funeral services were held in the Washington Cathedral. He was a man of distinguished appearance, tall, white-haired handsome, dignified. Dr. T. S. Palmer, a noted historian of ornithology, wrote of him, "It is said that he never learned how to ignore a human need."

Dr. Rives' interest in birds began during his childhood at the Castle Hill home at Cobham. His first ornithological production, a paper entitled "List of the birds of Cobham, Va." was an annotated account of 128 species, published at Newport, Rhode Island, in 1884. In addition to his book, *A Catalogue of the Birds of the Virginias*, he published ten shorter papers, three relating to Rhode Island, two to West Virginia, and five dealing with Virginia birds. These last five, including the Cobham paper, were: "Nesting of the Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmitherus vermivorus*) in Virginia" (1885), "Notes on birds of Salt Pond Mountain, Virginia" (1886), "Notes on the birds of White Top Mountain, Virginia" (1889), and "Audubon's Shearwater (*Puffinus auduboni*) on the coast of Virginia" (1901). Of these contributions, the most important is that treating the avifauna of Salt Pond Mountain (the location of the well-known Mountain Lake). In this paper, Rives gives a good description of the Mountain Lake area and its bird life. Aside from its comments on the region, the paper is of particular interest in showing Rives' understanding at an early date (1886) of the concept of faunal zonation and of the effect of temperature on the distribution of plants and animals. For the time his interest and knowledge are quite unusual, for although Dr. J. A. Allen had published at least one paper in this field, Rives' Mountain Lake paper came two years before the chief pioneer worker on the subject, Dr. C. H. Merriam, published his initial contribution. Rives' comments reflect a real comprehension of the zonal concept, although he assigned (as did most of the earlier investigators) too much territory to the Canadian Zone in the Southern Appalachians.

The most important work of Dr. Rives, indeed the most important work so far published on Virginia birds, was *A Catalogue of the Birds of the Virginias* which appeared in October 1890 as Document VII of the "Proceed-

ings of the Newport Natural History Society." It was an octavo volume of 100 pages, in paper covers, with a good faunal map. As indicated by the title, it treated also the birds of West Virginia but dealt much more fully with the avifauna of our state.

The book is much more than a mere list of birds. A third of it is a background study of Virginia natural history. The first chapter gives a record of "Early Accounts of the Birds of Virginia" from the first colonial days down through the Eighteenth Century. Rives comments on, and quotes from, the work of Thomas Hariot in North Carolina and of such Virginia writers as William Strachey, Captain John Smith, Raphe Hamor, Thomas Glover, George Percy, and particularly of the Reverend John Clayton, who made a journey to Virginia in 1685, as well as Mr. Jefferson himself. A second chapter discusses the "Ornithological Position of the Virginias" and the main geographic regions of the state with their characteristic flowering plants, their mammals and other forms of life.

In this book Rives accounts for 305 species and subspecies of birds that have been put on the Virginia list. It should be mentioned that although he inadvertently skipped the number 300 in his listing, he did not give a number to the Carolina Paroquet, which leaves his 305 a correct total. But inasmuch as the book also includes West Virginia, and since there are four species listed only from that state, Rives' actual total for Virginia itself is reduced to 301. In a critical analysis of Rives' list by the present writer ("Additions to the Virginia Avifauna since 1890", *The Auk*, vol. 50, pp. 190-200, 1933) it was deemed necessary to eliminate nine other forms because of inadequate documentation, leaving the Virginia list of 1890 at 292 species and subspecies. Of the 13 forms thus removed, 11 have been subsequently reinstated on the state list, however. The book concludes with a list of 40 additional species that Rives considered as likely to be found in Virginia, 33 of which have in fact since been verified as members of our fauna.

Rives was a most careful investigator in the field or at his desk, and his work will always be basic in the study of the Virginia avifauna. He bridged the gap between early writers on Virginia natural history and the great development of ornithological work in the present century. C. F. Batchelder, in a review of Rives' book (*The Auk*, vol. 8, pp. 105-06, 1891), said of it that "This catalogue of the birds of Virginia and West Virginia is so admirably proportioned and so carefully worked out in its details, that it will serve as a model for works of its kind."

[This paper is reprinted by permission from *The Radford Review* (Vol. 20, No. 2, 1966, pages 97-100). It was presented at the Harrisonburg meeting of the Virginia Academy of Science on 5 May 1966. A fuller sketch of Dr. Rives, published in *The Raven* in February 1939, is not now easily available].

THE BREEDING HABITS OF THE OVENBIRD

HENRY DRUDGE

The following information was obtained by observations of the Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*) during its 1965 breeding season at the Mountain Lake Biological Station. On 14 June 1965 four Ovenbird nests were discovered in the immediate vicinity of the station. The nests are designated as A, B, C, and D.

The four nests were at various degrees of development: nest A contained two Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) eggs and four Ovenbird eggs with the female incubating; nest B was occupied by four young Ovenbirds with definite feather tracts; nest C contained four Ovenbird eggs, with the female incubating; and nest D was occupied with three young Ovenbirds with down feathers.

Careful observations of the above nests led to the identification of the male and female Ovenbird. Nest B, with the male and female actively engaged in feeding, enabled the observer to make a careful study of the physical features of the birds. The male appeared to be about six inches in length with a brightly colored crown patch as compared to the female, which was about five inches in length with a duller patch. Otherwise, the two sexes are very similar in color. The upper portion of the bird was olive and the under parts white with black spots. The crown had two narrow lateral stripes of black enclosing a much broader center stripe of tawny. The bill was much shorter than the head and was slender and tapering gradually to the tip. The wings were long and pointed, the tail slightly notched.

The period of observation extended from 14 June 1965 through 25 June 1965. Six hours of observation were made between the hours of 6:30-7:30 a.m.; twelve hours of observation between the hours of 2:00-3:00 p.m.; and six hours between the hours of 8:15-8:45 p.m. This short span of time did not cover the entire breeding cycle of any one nest. The nests, located along road and paths, were open to intruders and may account for the disappearance of eggs from nests A and C. In nests B and D the fledging of the young was completed.

Nests A, B, and C were found within a range of three acres, whereas nest D was approximately three miles away from the other nests. The distance from A to B was about 8,000 feet and from B to C about 2,000 feet.

Call-notes by the male and female were detected at nests B and D upon the approach of an intruder. These nests contained young. The call was a chirp, indicating worry or fright. A warning note was heard at nest C (incubating) when the observer approached the nest. The male bird was giving a warning note to the incubating female.

Nest. The Ovenbird builds its nest on the floor of the forest. Nest A was located in a rather open area, typical of Ovenbirds, near a large white oak which reached a height of about forty feet. A path ran nearby with a few shrubs and vines in the immediate vicinity. Leaves were numerous on the floor of the forest. Nests B and C had a similar surrounding. Nest D was unique in its location, occupying the side of a bank and well exposed to the road running beside the embankment. White oaks extended overhead and moss and leaves occupied the floor of the embankment.

The nesting sites chosen by the birds were located so that they could easily leave and enter the nest, sufficient sunshine reached the nesting area and the sloping terrain provided drainage. All four nests faced a northeasterly direction. Evidently, the direction the nest faces is of little significance although sufficient conclusions could not be drawn at this point because of the limited number of nests observed. It was noted that the entrance to the nests always faced the sloping terrain.

For the structure of the nest, a comparison will be made between nest C and D because of their variations. Nest C was arched with an oven-like lid made primarily of leaves overhanging the entrance to the nest. Woody and slender weed stems with fibrous bark, dry leaves of oak and maple and rootlets comprised most of the nest. Nest D contained an additional material, moss, with fewer leaves and a distinct lid of leaves missing. With nest D being depressed in the bank, protection evidently was sufficient, therefore, no lid was required. The lining of both C and D nests consisted of fine plant stems. Below are the measurements of the nests, which showed little variation except in the case of nest D.

Nest	Lid	Entrance	Inside Depth	Outside Depth	Diameter
A	3½X5"	1½X3"	1"	1½"	2½"
B	3½X4½"	1¾X2½"	1¾"	2½"	2½"
C	3½X6"	1½X3½"	1"	1½"	2"
D	.....	2½X4"	2"	.....	2¾"

Eggs. Nest A contained three Ovenbird eggs and two Cowbird eggs. The eggs of the Ovenbird are glossy white marked by specks and spots scattered over the entire surface and usually concentrated around the larger end. Cowbird eggs could be distinguished from the Ovenbird eggs by their larger size. The size of the Ovenbird eggs in nest A ranged from 20 to 21 mm. Cowbird eggs ranged from 23 to 24 mm. Nest B and D possibly contained four and three eggs originally.

Nest C contained four Ovenbird eggs that ranged from 21 to 22 mm. It was noted that in nests A and C the female incubated the eggs and rarely left the nest in the morning and evening. On a number of occasions the nest was found unoccupied during the middle of the day. Departure time in the morning and evening ran from 15-20 minutes; during the middle of the day from 45-55 minutes. During the last few days that observations were made of the incubating females, it was observed that she left the nest less frequently, probably approaching time of hatching.

The observer deliberately frightened the birds from nests A and C and witnessed the female quickly but quietly dashing from the nest and moving across the ground among the vegetation for some distance from the nest, 30 to 40 feet. After reaching a safe distance, she flew to a branch and began chirping. It was also observed that when the female left the nest under natural conditions, she responded in the same manner except the rapid movement from the nest was decreased considerably. Only once did the female put on the broken wing act when leaving the nest. Returning to the nest on all occasions resembled the route she took in leaving the nest.

The female will rarely fly directly from her nesting site unless the intruder frightens her suddenly. This was observed once at nest A. The male was encountered only on a few occasions; the time was presumably near hatching. He was singing from one of the nearby branches about sixty feet away.

Intrusion of a predator prevented the observation of completion of incubation time in nests A and C.

Nestling Stage. Both male and female Ovenbirds displayed a considerable amount of chirping, which enabled the observer to locate nest B. It contained four young birds with feathers covering the surface of the tracts. The young were just beginning to open their eyes but they were quite alert when either parent approached the nest, opening their mouths to receive insects. Peeping was more distinct on the second day of observation. Tail feathers were then becoming prominent. All the young were beginning to stand as if they were ready to leave the nest. On the third day greater exercising activity began to show as illustrated by the extending of the wings and the legs. On the fourth day of observation feathers were well developed and the nest was occupied to capacity. Observations on the fifth day found two young out of the nest but being attended by the parents. No attempt was made by the young to fly, merely hopping along on the ground seeming to satisfy them. On the sixth day the young had left the nest and the observer was unable to locate them.

The length of time in the feeding of the young varied but most feeding was done in the morning and evening. Several rainy days found the female at the nest, with little feeding activity by the male. The length of time away from the nest by the parents in collection of insects, mainly from the forest floor, varied from fifteen to thirty minutes.

Nest D was observed for only three days, after which the three young left the nest. Pronounced feathers and body development was well in progress by the time of finding.

Removal of waste after feeding was observed in nest B. On several occasions the waste was eaten by the female, whereas the male carried materials away from the nest.

Conclusions could not be drawn from these observations of the breeding

period of the Ovenbird because of the fact that no one nest was followed from the building time through fledging, because of the short span of time in observations, and because of the limited number of nests.

28 Mammoth Oak Drive, Newport News, Virginia 23606

AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER AT SWEET BRIAR, VIRGINIA, IN NOVEMBER

ERNEST P. EDWARDS, KATHERINE MACDONALD, AND EMMY SAVAGE.

An American Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*) was observed at Sweet Briar, Virginia, on 4 November 1966, two days after severe storms had swept across Virginia and much of the eastern seaboard. It remained for approximately two weeks, at least through 13 November, when it was photographed by Edwards. It frequented the Sweet Briar College hockey field much of the time. The plover's left leg had been injured, but otherwise the bird seemed perfectly healthy and unharmed. It permitted close approach, but when unduly pressed it would take off in strong, swift, darting flight to a more distant portion of the grassy area, occasionally circling far out over the adjacent fields before returning to alight on, or close by, the hockey field.

When first observed and identified by Macdonald, the bird was in full fall plumage, a rather dull grayish-brown and dull buffy-white. Subsequent observers, including Edwards and Savage, further verified its diagnostic features, such as the dark tail feathers and upper tail coverts, and the light gray axillary feathers.

The weather was quite variable during the plover's stay at Sweet Briar, with a few windy and cold nights and days. Nevertheless the bird seemed to have little difficulty in obtaining a plentiful supply of earthworms, which made up its principal food. The short grass and broad open expanse of the hockey field provided habitat much like that of the bird's winter haunts on the open plains of Argentina.

The American Golden Plover nests along the Arctic coast of Canada, Alaska, and eastern Siberia. In late summer the birds begin their southward migration, the Canadian population generally passing west of Hudson Bay, then swinging east across Nova Scotia and northern New England. They then fly out to sea, moving generally to the south-southeast, often passing over Bermuda and the Lesser Antilles. Seldom do any individuals alight after leaving the New England coast, unless forced down by bad weather, until they arrive finally in north-eastern South America. They then continue southward to Argentina. Only occasionally is there any notable deviation from this pattern. We speculated that the bird seen at Sweet Briar may have been driven inland by strong winds.

Bent (*U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull.* 146:193, 1929) notes that, in autumn, the American Golden Plover is very rare in the Atlantic coastal states south of New Jersey, and only two of the records cited (Charleston, S.C., 29 November, and Miakka, Florida, 19 November) are later than our record of 13 November. J. J. Murray (*Raven* 26:83, 1955, and subsequent corrections and revisions) cites the latest Virginia date for the species as 2 November. However, a report has come in recently of an American Golden Plover sighted by Dan Bystrak and Paul Kalka during the 1965-1966 Christmas Count at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, Virginia (Scott, *Raven* 37:20, 21, 23, 1966). The date remains uncertain, because it was indicated in the text as 29 December, and in the table as 12-21. [*Audubon Field Notes*, 20:2:184, indicates that 29 December is correct. Editor]

Sweet Briar College, Sweet Briar, Virginia 24595

GLOSSY IBIS AT SWEET BRIAR, VIRGINIA

ERNEST P. EDWARDS

A Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) visited Sweet Briar College during the annual Spring Ornithological Census, 13 May 1967. It was seen by the writer as it flew over the campus from the south. It apparently landed in a marshy cove of Sweet Briar Lake, because a few minutes later it was seen there by the Ornithology class and a number of other observers as it flew up from this cove and went out of sight toward the northeast. Apparently there are no other records of the Glossy Ibis so far distant from the coast in Virginia.

Sweet Briar College, Sweet Briar, Virginia 24595

ADULT LITTLE BLUE HERON IN ALBEMARLE COUNTY,
VIRGINIA

KEITH C. RICHARDS

On 15 April 1967 Jack Reichardt and I observed an adult Little Blue Heron (*Florida caerulea*) at Red Hill Quarry which is ten miles south of Charlottesville. This bird was studied intermittently with 7x35 binoculars for several hours. We observed both the dark legs and the bluish cast of the base of the bill.

This record is most unusual in both species and date. While immature birds of this species occur regularly as post-breeding wanderers, the only other record of an adult for Albemarle County is one individual at Langhorne's Pond from 2 August to 30 August 1958, Charles E. Stevens. There are no other spring records for this county.

John Bull in *Birds of the New York Area* states that adult birds predominate in that area in spring. He refers to seven specimens, all adult, from 3-24 April.

27-8 Copeley Hill Apts.
Charlottesville, Virginia 22903

THE 1967 ANNUAL VSO MEETING

ROBERT J. WATSON, *Secretary*

The 1967 meeting of the Virginia Society of Ornithology was held in the Lee Room of the Virginia Inn, on the outskirts of Richmond, on 28 April 1967. Vice-President Eike called the meeting to order at 2:15 PM. A welcome was tendered the Society by Mrs. Warren M. Smith, president of the Richmond Natural History Society (the host chapter), and by Mrs. Eleanor P. Sheppard, of the Richmond City Council.

The afternoon program consisted of papers on the following subjects:

"Sound Production in the Common Crow"—Dr. Walter B. Gross, Virginia Polytechnic Institute

"The Language of the Crow"—Mr. Dwight Chamberlain, Virginia Polytechnic Institute

"William Cabell Rives: Distinguished Virginia Ornithologist"—Dr. J. J. Murray, Lexington

"Studies on Nesting Evening Grosbeaks in Northern Minnesota"—Dr. John F. Mehner, Mary Baldwin College

"The New Breeding Bird Survey"—Mr. W. T. Van Velzen, Migratory Bird Populations Center, Laurel, Maryland

"The House Finch in Virginia"—Mrs. William H. Babcock, Gordonsville

"Bird Population Studies of the Cacapon River Valley"—Mr. W. W. Wiggins, Alexandria

"Kiptopeke Operation Recovery, 1966"—Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Smith, Hampton; Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Mitchell, Newport News; Dr. Mitchell Byrd, College of William and Mary

An unscheduled feature of the program was a short explanation by J. J. Murray of the manner in which the Raven came to be chosen as the Society's official emblem. The suggestion for this choice, according to Dr. Murray, came originally from Mr. C. O. Handley.

Of a number of exhibits offered for observation during the afternoon refreshment break, special interest was shown in an extraordinary display of carved bird decoys by Dr. Roscoe L. Brumback, of Kilmarnock. It was informally agreed that a letter to Dr. Brumback from the Secretary, expressing appreciation for the loan of this exhibit, would be in order.

President Hacker presided at the banquet and business meeting, which convened at 7:15 p.m. with 87 persons in attendance. Secretary Watson submitted the following recommendations, all of which were officially approved:

(1) That Article I, Section 4, of the Constitution, be amended to read as follows:

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

(2) That Article II, Section 2, of the Constitution be deleted and replaced by two other sentences, reading as follows:

"Membership shall be open only to individuals. Institutions shall be allowed to subscribe to *The Raven* at a rate to be determined by the Executive Committee."

(3) That the Society approve in principle a plan of incorporation, with details to be worked out by Mr. Arthur Fast and Mr. Harry Frazier.

(4) That the Society approve a resolution urging the establishment of a "museum of science and history," as recently proposed by a member of the staff of the Virginia State Library.

As chairman of the Local Chapters Committee, Mr. Eike transmitted a request by Mrs. Margaret Watson, of Darlington Heights, that a newly organized "Spring Creek Bird Club," in Prince Edward County, be approved for affiliation as a chapter of the Society. A motion to this effect was carried.

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Mrs. Wiltshire submitted the following nominees:

President: CHARLES W. HACKER, Hampton.

Vice-President: JAMES W. EIKE, Falls Church.

Secretary: ROBERT J. WATSON, Arlington.

Treasurer: MRS. MYRIAM P. MOORE, Lynchburg.

Executive Committee: DR. MITCHELL A. BYRD, Williamsburg; DR. JOHN F. MEHNER, Staunton; MRS. CAROLE MASSART, Roanoke.

There being no other nominations, the above nominees were elected.

The President introduced the featured speaker, Mr. John Trott, of McLean, who entertained the group with a well-illustrated talk on the "Wildlife of South Texas." Following his presentation, the members approved a resolution drafted by a Resolutions Committee headed by Mrs. Wiltshire, expressing appreciation to all those contributing to the success of the meeting, to President Hacker and the rest of the Executive Committee for their leadership during the previous year, and to Dr. Alexander Wetmore for his long and loyal support of the Society. Total registration for the meeting was 101.

THE 1967 ANNUAL MEETING FIELD TRIPS

On the morning of 29 April about 60 members and guests divided into groups for three different field trips. One went to Elsing Green in King William County, one to Yorktown, and the third to Pocahontas State Park. Elsing Green, the Pamunkey River estate of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Lafferty, was very profitable for spring transients, and the setting was beautiful, complete with peafowl and guineas. The Yorktown group had an opportunity to see an active Great Blue Heron colony and several Prothonotary Warblers and later had lunch on the shore of the York River, where a number of Royal Terns posed for them. The Pocahontas State Park group encountered a magnificent show of wildflowers in this upland wooded area and were treated to a number of transient and summer resident birds, including Worm-eating Warblers.

ACTIONS BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee of the VSO met in Richmond on 28 April 1967 just before the Annual Meeting and took the following actions:

1. Approved payment of dues to the Virginia Wildlife Federation for the previous and current years, dues to be based on the number of members living in Virginia.
2. Requested Arthur H. Fast and Harry Frazier to draw up a detailed plan for the incorporation of the VSO to be presented for the vote of the members at the next annual meeting.
3. The Secretary was asked to write to the Army Engineers Corps and request that a key to the Craney Island Disposal Area be issued to J. E. Ames as the official representative of the VSO.
4. A donation of \$10 was voted to the World Wildlife Fund to assist in the rescue of British seabirds endangered by oil from the wreckage of a tanker off the British coast.
5. Reelected J. J. Murray as editor and W. O. Lewis as publisher of *The Raven*.

ANOTHER VSO CHAPTER

JAMES W. EIKE

Due to the patient and untiring efforts of Mrs. Margaret Watson and her associates a new bird club has been formed and was approved for affiliation as a chapter of the VSO on 28 April 1967. This chapter, based in Darlington Heights, Prince Edward County, Virginia, has been organized as The Spring Creek Bird Club. It becomes the fourteenth chapter of the VSO.

The chapter started with about 18 charter members. The officers are:

President: MRS. MARGARET WATSON

Vice-President: MRS. LOUISE DILLON

Secretary-Treasurer: MR. BILL COPPLE

Club Representative to VSO: MR. W. L. DICKENSON, Darlington Heights, Virginia.

This group takes its name from one of the landmarks in its home community, Spring Creek. Its membership includes several enthusiastic youthful bird students and their parents.

2231 N. Tuckahoe Street, Falls Church, Virginia 22403.

CONSERVATION CORNER

RUSKIN S. FREER

The Conservation Committee wishes to express appreciation to the Editor for granting space for comments in each issue on the activities of our Committee.

Sources of information on current conservation matters are legion these days, but we will mention a few which we have found to be especially good: *Virginia Wildlife*, *National Wildlife*, *National Parks Magazine* and *Conservation News*, the latter a semi-monthly, free publication of the National Wildlife Federation. Suggestions of additional sources are desired.

Two other excellent and very useful publications are the brochure, *Virginia's Common Wealth*, published by the Virginia Outdoor Recreation Study Commission, outlining proposals of its successor, the Commission of Outdoor Recreation, and the *Conservation Directory*, 1967, giving names and addresses of senators and congressmen, useful for writing in the interest of proposed legislation, and listing government agencies and citizens' groups concerned with conservation. The first may be obtained from Elbert Cox, Director, the Commission of Outdoor Recreation, Ninth and Grace Streets, Richmond, 23219, and the second from the National Wildlife Federation, 1412 16th Street N.W., Washington, D.C., 20036, for \$1.00.

The Chairman attended the hearing at Luray on June 14, at the request of President Hacker, on proposals of the National Park Service for setting aside certain Wilderness Areas in the Shenandoah National Park. Contrary to news reports of the meeting, by far the greater majority of speakers favored the proposals. The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, Sierra Club and Wilderness Society had many representatives. The hearing was sponsored by a number of conservation organizations including the VSO.

1158 Timberlake Drive, Lynchburg, Virginia 24502

NEWS AND NOTES

COLOR BANDED ROYAL TERNS. Dr. Paul A. Buckley makes the following request of observers noting color banded Royal Terns: "Royal Terns from coastal Virginia have recently been color banded as part of a study by P. A. and F. G. Buckley on variation in chick down color. A total of ten different colors have been used (including light blue, purple and dark blue); three at a time plus one Fish & Wildlife band have been placed on each bird, in unique combinations.

Anyone observing such a banded bird is asked to send a postcard to Dr. Buckley, Department of Biology, Old Dominion College, Norfolk, Virginia 23508, with the following information on it: date, location, and observer's name, plus the band colors and their positions (upper, lower, right or left leg). Assistance in this project will be greatly appreciated."

ROANOKE-SALEM SPRING BIRD WALKS. In a series of 4 April and 3 May 1967 trips 103 species were noted. Leaders were Ben Dulaney, Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Harper, Mrs. W. J. Massart, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Moore, Mrs. W. J. Nelson, and Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Thomas. Others participating were J. H. Clemmer, Mrs. Thomas Cline, Mrs. John Edmonds, Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Goodman, Mrs. James Hiler, Debbie Ingram, Joyce Ingram, N. R. Lehmann, Mrs. Marilyn McCauley, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Muller, Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Norton, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Venn, and Miss Sylvia Yost, and six guests.

NOTES FROM THE HAMPTON-NEWPORT NEWS AREA. The

Sydney Mitchells (596 Harpersville Road, Newport News, 23601) report the following items. In the spring count in the area on 13 May 25 observers turned up 156 species. The Blue-headed Vireo, new bird for the area, was seen on 16, 17 and 21 April and on 2 May. They found the Prothonotary Warbler nesting in the new city park on 23 April. A Scarlet Tanager was singing at their home on 24 April. Wilson's Warblers were seen on the spring count, also on 12 May, and 5 or 6 on 22 May. Canada Warblers were seen from 13 to 22 May. A Blacburnian Warbler was singing on 19 May, and a Black-billed Cuckoo was seen the same day. The Chestnut-sided Warbler on 1 May in their woods was a new bird for the area. The Blue-winged Warbler was found on 2 May, and the Cape May on 5 May.

SNOWY EGRET AT LYNCHBURG. A Snowy Egret, new to the Lynchburg list, was seen at Timber Lake, Campbell County, on 1 May 1967, by R. S. Freer and Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Cartwright.

AMERICAN AVOCETS AT LEXINGTON. On 6 May 1967 Joshua Womeldorf discovered at his farm fish pond near Lexington, Virginia, six birds which he took to be American Avocets (*Recurvirostra americana*). He called J. J. Murray, who saw the birds and confirmed the identification. They were in bright plumage. Evidently weary from travel on the preceding foggy night, they allowed close approach. Away from the coast there have been in Virginia two recent records for the Piedmont, one at Mountain Lake, and this, the first record for the Valley of Virginia.

SWAINSON'S WARBLER'S NEST IN THE DISMAL SWAMP. Brooke Meanley of the Fish & Wildlife Service, in a letter to F. R. Scott, reported the finding of a Swainson's Warbler's nest with 3 fresh eggs in the Dismal Swamp on 16 June 1966.

KENTUCKY WARBLER IN THE BLUE RIDGE. We do not know enough about the distribution of the Kentucky Warbler in our State. Apparently it is scarce to rare in the Blue Ridge. Dr. Freer writes: "On Tuesday, June 6, on a trip up Taylor's Hollow from Route 608, at a point about three miles south of Vesuvius, we found a Kentucky Warbler at the lower end of the hollow . . . I have gotten the Kentucky in recent years, twice or three times at the Peaks of Otter, and once on Potato Hill on Route 130, making three counties altogether—Rockbridge, Bedford and Amherst."

RED CROSSBILLS. Mrs. W. J. Massart, President of the Roanoke Valley Bird Club, reports the sighting of a pair of Red Crossbills in Roanoke County on 30 April 1967 by herself and a dozen other members of the club. They were on the Blue Ridge Parkway on Roanoke Mountain at an elevation of 1900 feet. Dr. Freer reports the following 1967 records: two seen on 1 April by Charles E. Stevens and heard by Freer in Rockbridge County on U. S. 60, just below the Blue Ridge Parkway; two seen on 4 April by Freer, flying from Bedford County to Botetourt County at Black Horse Gap, Blue Ridge Parkway; one heard but not seen on 8 April by Stevens near Adams Peak, Rockbridge County; two seen on 16 April by Stevens on U. S. 501 at the Amherst-Rockbridge line; one seen on 16 April by Stevens on Gunters Ridge, Rockbridge County; 7 seen by F. R. Scott on 16 April on U. S. 250 at the crest of Shenandoah Mountain, Highland-Augusta line; one seen on 23 April by Stevens on the Blue Ridge Parkway at Black Horse Gap, Botetourt County.

ANOTHER DICKCISSEL IN ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY. Mrs. William C. Sauder, Rt. 1, Lexington, Virginia 24450, reports seeing a male Dickcissel at her feeder in the Kerr's Creek area, Rockbridge County, from 2 May through 9 May. It appeared several times each day.

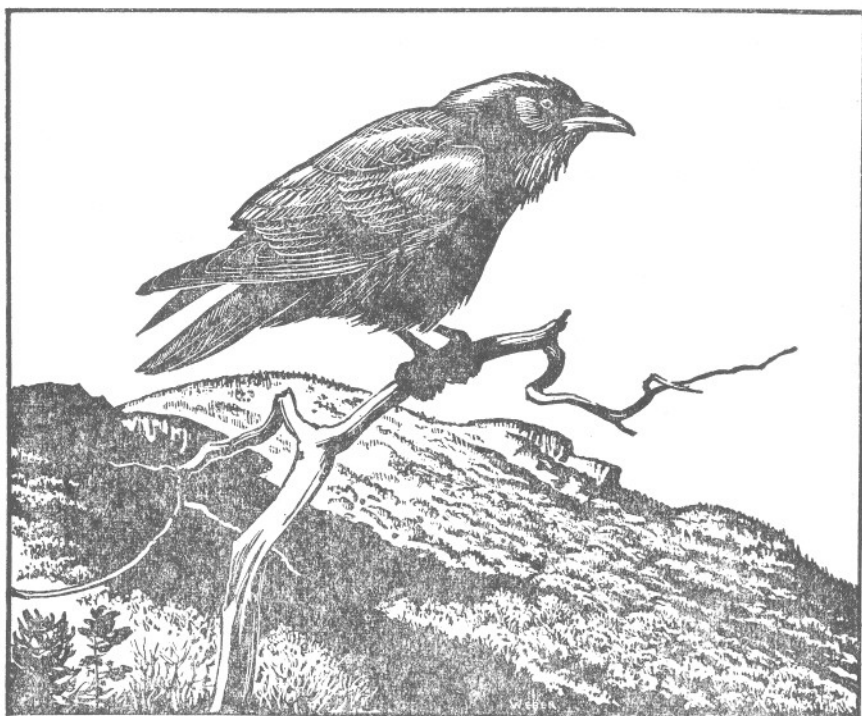
The Raven

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CONTENTS

The Current Status of Certain Birds in the Virginia Capes Area. I. Fall and Winter 1966-1967	39
By P. A. and F. G. Buckley	
Dickcissels in Montgomery County	45
By C. W. Roane	
Review	46
News and Notes	46

The Virginia Society of Ornithology exists to encourage the systematic study of birds in Virginia, to stimulate interest in birds, and to assist the conservation of wildlife and other natural resources. All persons interested in those objectives are welcome as members. Present membership includes every level of interest, from professional scientific ornithologists to enthusiastic amateurs.

Activities undertaken by the Society include the following:

1. An annual meeting (usually in the spring), held in a different part of the state each year, featuring talks on ornithological subjects and field trips to nearby areas.

2. Other forays or field trips, lasting a day or more and scheduled throughout the year so as to include all seasons and to cover the major physiographic regions of the state.

3. A journal, *The Raven*, published quarterly, containing articles about Virginia ornithology, as well as news of the activities of the Society and its chapters.

4. Study projects (nesting studies, winter bird population surveys, etc.) aimed at making genuine contributions to ornithological knowledge.

In addition, local chapters of the Society, located in some of the larger cities and towns of Virginia, conduct their own programs of meetings, field trips, and other projects.

Those wishing to participate in any of the above activities or to cooperate in advancing the objectives of the Society are cordially invited to join. Annual dues are \$1.00 for junior members (students), \$2.00 for active members, \$4.00 for sustaining members, \$50.00 for life members.

OFFICERS OF THE VSO

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THE CURRENT STATUS OF CERTAIN BIRDS IN THE
VIRGINIA CAPES AREA. I. FALL AND WINTER
1966-1967 OBSERVATIONS

P. A. AND F. G. BUCKLEY

INTRODUCTION

For the purposes of this and subsequent papers, we will consider the Virginia Capes area to be, roughly, from and including Cape Charles; south to the North Carolina line and including Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge; west to, and including, Craney Island Disposal Area, Hampton Roads and Fort Monroe. This is one of the most diverse areas of Virginia in terms of birds found as breeders, migrants, winter residents, or vagrants. Unfortunately, it has been neglected for intensive study by students of migration and distribution. The first and only treatment of the major part of the area was Grey's check-list of birds of the Cape Henry area (1950). Primarily it represented the results of observation and sporadic collecting by its author, with observations by a few other regulars afield often, but not constantly.

Consequently, a number of birds that were then, and undeniably are today, of regular occurrence in this area were listed in 1950 as "casual," "vagrant," "unrecorded," "one record," etc. However, since that time there has been an increase in the number, competence and frequency of observers afield in this area. Now that recent Cape Charles Christmas Counts have indicated the richness of that section, perhaps the extreme south end of the Eastern Shore will get the coverage it should. On the Cape Henry side of the Bay, there has always been greater coverage, but still inadequate, considering its location at the mouth of Chesapeake Bay and leading directly to the Outer Banks.

We felt that with concerted field work and selective collecting, there would accrue a number of significant observations bearing on the distribution, frequency of occurrence and abundance of birds in eastern Virginia. Our predictions have been amply borne out, and if future information is accumulated at the rate it has since September, this paper will be the first of a series dealing with the same general subject, culminating in an up-to-date annotated list of the birds of the Virginia Capes area.

The purpose of this paper is threefold: (1) to record the status of certain species of birds in this area, particularly for the upcoming 6th Edition of the A.O.U. check-list; (2) to provide data for Dr. J. J. Murray's anticipated revision of the Birds of Virginia, an annotated check-list; (3) to stimulate field work along the entire east coast of Virginia, from Chincoteague to the North Carolina line on the barrier beach. Needed are data on breeding birds, especially colonial littoral birds, in view of the tenuous existence of most of these colonies, particularly on Fisherman's Island (off Cape Charles) and the Eastern Shore barrier beach islands south of Assateague.

ANNOTATED LIST

Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*): Probably more regular than available data indicate. One, developing breeding plumage, was seen at Craney Island on 17 January and again on 9-10 March 1967 in exactly the same place as the Eared Grebe in January (on the 14th) (P.A.B. and F.G.B.). Two were also recorded at Back Bay (ocean side) on the Christmas Count of the 31st December 1966 (W. Russell). If data from Long Island, New York, and New Jersey are indicative, there should be coastal flights of this species in Virginia in November and in March/April, with some also appearing coastally after severe inland mid-winter freezes. The flock of 16 at Kiptopeke on 24 March 1951 were certainly northbound migrants, not winter visitors.

Eared Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*): The status of the species in Virginia and elsewhere along the Atlantic seaboard will be discussed in another paper (Buckley, Buckley and Anderson, manuscript). For the present, we will note that prior to the autumn of 1966, there were three Virginia records of this Western United States (and European) bird, all sight records: two from Craney Island and one from the nearby Nansemond River. In the Fall and Winter of 1966-67, at least five were recorded, as follows: probable immature, Craney Island, 8-12 November (P.A.B. and F.G.B.); adult female, collected at Craney Island on 9 November (P.A.B., Anderson): first Virginia specimen, now in American Museum of Natural History in New York City and determined to be *P. n. californicus*, the western United States form, as expected; probable adult, 22 December, Seashore State Park (Cape Henry) (P.A.B., F.G.B., Anderson); probable adult, 31 December, Sandbridge (Sykes, Jones and Warren); probable adult, Craney Island, 13 January to 18 April (by which time it was in breeding plumage) (Burford, P.A.B., F.G.B. *et al.*), photographed in color on several occasions (P.A.B.).

We have seen four of the five birds involved, and read a detailed description of the Sandbridge bird. There is little likelihood that there was any duplication involved, even taking into account plumage changes; the Craney Island birds in November and in January were both in winter plumage. In all cases, at least some of the observers were familiar with the species in life. Either this winter was exceptional; or Eared Grebe is far more regular in this area than ever imagined and had just been overlooked; or its status has recently changed.

Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*)

King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*): An immature male King Eider, recognized immediately by its white chest, was seen in the surf at Cape Henry on 6 December 1966 (P.A.B., F.G.B.). It was initially with several Surf Scoters (*Melanitta perspicillata*), but soon left them and began swimming westward, past the lighthouse, and was last seen, 45 minutes later, at the U. S. Weather Bureau Station at Fort Story. Repeated efforts to find the bird again in the next few weeks were fruitless, but we felt it was probably in a scoter flock somewhere in the Hampton Roads area. This prediction was borne out on 22 January 1967 when Mitchell Byrd discovered a white-chested male King Eider in a mixed scoter flock at Fort Monroe, Hampton, on Chesapeake Bay. The writers went there on 27 January and found four male King Eiders, one female King Eider and one female Common Eider in one small group of Surf and Black (Common) Scoters (*Oidemia nigra*). Three of the males were dark-headed and white-chested, indicating that they were probably birds of the year. The fourth had some white on the cheeks and shoulder area and was either in its second winter or a few months older than the other three. On 29 January, the four drakes and one hen King were still present (Buckleys, Hespeneheide, Anderson) but on 31 January only two females were present (Byrd).

Identification of eiders in other than adult male plumage is far less difficult than most field guides suggest. A more diagnostic feature is usually head shape, rather than bill frontal processes; the former can be seen at some distance, particularly with a 20x or 30x prismatic telescope, while the latter is normally visible only under ideal conditions in direct sunlight, etc. A Common Eider's head offers a long sloping profile in front like a Canvasback (*Aythya valisneria*) and high at the top and in the rear gently rounded, like a Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*). A King Eider's head in profile is basically rectangular or perhaps square, with a steeply and abruptly rising forehead. In addition, female King Eiders are usually colored a warm cinnamon-buff, with rather delicate spotting or scalloping

along the flanks and on the back. Common Eider females, in addition to being appreciably larger than Kings, are usually more coarsely marked, with pronounced striping on the body. When female eiders of both species are seen side-by-side, these differences are especially noticeable, but when alone, particularly if seen by observers not thoroughly familiar with both species in life, they can present problems. Skins should be consulted if live birds are unavailable for practice.

Eiders of both species are generally considered quite rare in Virginia, although there are more records for King than Common. In his 1952 check-list, Murray gave only two Common Eider records, both specimens, none later than 1900. We have been able to find three recent records, as follows: one (sex not given), Little Creek Inlet jetties, 15-26 December 1957 (Sykes *et al.*); a female, Craney Island jetties, 27 September 1963 (Sykes); and a female "dead a few days," Wreck Island, 6 June 1964 (Conway *et al.*). King Eider is known from at least seven Virginia specimens, according to Murray (*in litt.*) and there have been at least three sight reports: female, Lynnhaven Inlet, 23 May 1950 (Scott); two, Back Bay, 28 December 1957 (Sykes; cf. Common Eider date, above); and one male, Wallops Island, 6 June 1958 (Scott, Valentine). There has been an increasing incidence of late spring and summer reports of both eiders from the Long Island and New Jersey coasts, plus winter reports from the Delaware and Maryland coasts, so none of these reports is unexpected. Eiders like rocky areas, and are more often than not associated with large scoter flocks, particularly Surf Scoters. Once again, specific searching will probably show that both these species are not as uncommon in Virginia as recently thought.

Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*): Almost unknown in winter in the United States, a Whimbrel was recorded at Chincoteague on 13 December 1959 (Thomas W. Morten) and on the Chincoteague Christmas Count of 29 December 1965 and again on 30 December 1964. In 1966 four were recorded on the Cape Charles Christmas Count: three were seen from the Count airplane, on the extensive marshes behind Smith Island, NE of Cape Charles (Russell *et al.*) and one was heard and seen at very close range on the Fisherman's Island flats (P.A.B. and R. L. Anderson). Particularly in mild winter, it will probably be shown that Whimbrels winter in limited numbers on the Eastern Shore marshes.

Purple Sandpiper (*Erolia maritima*): Since the construction of artificial rocky habitat in coastal Virginia, Purple Sandpipers have begun to appear and winter regularly. They are now seen all winter, and every winter, along the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel artificial islands (Baltimore and Thimble Shoal Channel Tunnels), at Little Creek Inlet jetties, and in greatest numbers, at Craney Island jetties. They also appear from time to time, and may winter in limited numbers, at some of the other rocky outcroppings in the Hampton Roads area. In the winter of 1966-67, the first arrival at Craney Island was on 9 November and the estimated maximum was 110 on 17 January. Since they seem to move to other, adjacent areas of Hampton Roads, this is certainly a very conservative estimate of the wintering population in the immediate vicinity of Craney Island. On 17 December at least 30 were seen from a boat at the Thimble Shoal Channel on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, but the actual number of winter residents on the four islands of the entire span is more likely in the neighborhood of 200.

Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Ereunetes pusillus*)

Western Sandpiper (*E. mauri*)

Least Sandpiper (*Erolia minutilla*): All three species were seen in large numbers this winter in the Norfolk area and one large mixed flock remained at Craney Island until mid-April at least, spending most of its time on the jetties with Dunlins (*E. alpina*), Purple Sandpipers and Sanderlings (*Crocethia alba*), feeding on the rocks like Purples. By early April all were in breeding plumage.

The relative Fall abundance of Semi and Western is at present not clear in this area, and may vary from year to year. However, Western is probably more numerous and more regular than formerly believed, and both are probably wintering more in recent years, particularly at favored locations like Craney Island. In 1966 both species were present, usually no more than a combined total of 100, through September and October. The first major post-September influx of peep was on 9 November when over 500 were counted, probably 80% of which were Westerns. Approximately 1000 Dunlin were seen the same day. Numbers dropped shortly thereafter, and on 21 November about 300, almost all Western, were seen. By 2 December, the more or less stable wintering flock of about 100 peep had established itself, but about 80 of these were Westerns and only 20 or so Semis.

Migrant Least Sandpipers disappeared from Craney Island in mid-October (none seen on 19 October), but reappeared as wintering birds on 21 November when 30 were seen. This flock usually remained separate from the Semis and Westerns and was down to eight or ten on 17 January and thereafter.

One White-rumped Sandpiper (*Erolia fuscicollis*) was seen on the late date of 9 November (P.A.B., Anderson).

An undisclosed number of Semis, Westerns and Leasts remained at Stumpy Lake until 29 December (Rountrey) in the same place they had been seen since October. They probably left when waters rose on the 30th.

Dowitchers (*Limnodromus* spp.): The relative status of the two dowitchers is currently open to debate, and not only in Virginia. A large part of the problem concerns the unanswered question of whether voice alone can be safely used to separate the two species, Short-billed (*L. griseus*) and Long-billed (*L. scolopaceus*). However, it is our contention, and that of many others as well, that *griseus* never gives the single, sharp *keek* or *weeek* note (although *scolopaceus* may double or treble it) and that *scolopaceus* never gives the usually trebled *tu-tu-tu*. Birds that have the appearance of Long-billeds (extremely long bills, larger size, darker grey all over, and in breeding or partly in breeding plumage, intense salmon-pink on the spotted breast, extensively *barred*, not *spotted* flanks and undertail coverts) are found in brackish or fresh water, particularly after 1 October and invariably, in our experience, if calling, give a single *weeek* note. Birds having the appearance of Short-billeds (shorter bills, appreciably smaller, lighter grey colors, and in breeding or partly in breeding plumage, orange-buff on the relatively unspotted breast, lightly spotted on the flanks and undertail coverts) are found along tidal flats and rarely in fresh water, and, invariably, if calling, give a trebled *tu-tu-tu*. It seems probable, although yet to be shown conclusively, that these vocalizations are homologous alarm notes in the two species, and are probably, if not certainly, mutually exclusive. Identifications made on the above grounds, including voice, should be published as to species, with some notation that voice was the one *qualitative* character used in separation to species.

The Virginia status of the two species, complicated by another race of *griseus*, *L. g. hendersoni*, is currently uncertain. Nevertheless, both species are probably regular fall migrants, both probably winter occasionally (if not regularly) in limited numbers, but *scolopaceus* is probably rare as a Spring migrant. Collecting is therefore desirable, but sight identifications

are nonetheless valuable, particularly if they can be made to species. We predict that those wintering dowitchers found along the larger coastal mudflats, particularly along the Eastern Shore, will be almost pure *griseus* ssp. and those wintering inland or near any brackish or fresh water habitats, such as Stumpy Lake, will be mostly, if not all, *scolopaceus*. In addition, in (Fall) migration, *griseus* should be restricted almost completely to the coast, while inland reports should be almost exclusively of *scolopaceus*.

The relative status of the two species at a "mixed" area like Craney Island is of interest, and this Fall (1966) several dowitchers were seen and heard there. Short-billeds were seen on 17 and 21 September (up to 10-12) and 17 October (two). Suspected Long-billeds were seen on 17 September (6-7) and one definite Long-billed was seen and heard on 21 October. There was marked separation of habitat, Short-billeds usually preferring the Craney Island analogue of mudflats: areas where pumped sludge reached the edge of the water; Long-billeds preferred pools of standing water where they would wade in belly-deep and probe with head completely submerged, suggesting Stilt Sandpipers (*Micropalama himantopus*). At Lynnhaven Inlet one Short-billed Dowitcher fed on the extensive mudflats from 11 to 29 December 1966 and on the latter date was finally heard calling (Buckleys and Sykes); it had been thought to be *griseus*, habitat supporting this contention.

At Stumpy Lake a number of Long-billeds (up to eight) were seen and heard in October 1966 (P.A.B., F.G.B. *et al.*). Presumably the same birds were still present on 29 December, when they were recorded on the Little Creek Christmas Count (Rountrey); however, they were not flushed and did not call on that date.

Further study is required before we can make any more definite statements about the relative status of the two dowitchers in eastern Virginia, but if collecting and voice recording is not feasible, detailed notes should be taken, and observations published recording what the observer felt the available information indicated.

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*): Recorded every year, often in both Spring (occasionally Summer) and Fall from the Massachusetts—Long Island—New Jersey—Philadelphia axis, the Ruff is nonetheless virtually unrecorded elsewhere along the Atlantic seaboard, although since the mid-1950's there have been several scattered records (this configuration of reports is followed almost exactly by the Curlew Sandpiper (*Erolia ferruginea*); both are Eurasian breeders that probably breed in limited numbers somewhere in the Canadian Arctic). Its frequency of occurrence south of the Boston-Philadelphia axis is probably directly correlated with numbers and ability of observers, and as they increase and become more proficient, so will reports of Ruffs, and particularly of the more difficult to identify female or Reeve. Up to 1965 there were five Virginia Ruff records, all adult or immature males, all but two in the Fall: 1894 (specimen), 1944, 1953, 1959, 1964. The latter two were in Spring. On 14 October the writers and Floy Burford found a male in Winter plumage (probably but not certainly an immature) at Stumpy Lake, Norfolk, and it was seen in the same place by numerous observers until the 17th (Rountrey *et al.*). It was thought to have left, although much of Stumpy Lake is not easily accessible and many shorebirds did remain. On 29 December, working Stumpy Lake thoroughly for the Little Creek Christmas Count, Rountrey found it still present, with the Yellow-legs (*Totanus* spp.) and [Long-billed] Dowitchers it had been with in October. On 30 December it and the dowitchers were gone, forced out by high water on the Lake, and none were seen again.

Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*): Reported almost every year in recent winters, particularly from the Cape Henry-Back Bay area. One in all white

plumage, with a slight buffy cast, was seen at Craney Island on 14 January 1967. In what has been an exceptionally good and early "white-winged gull" year in the New York City region, this has been the only report from coastal Virginia so far.

Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*)

Little Gull (*Larus minutus*): These two species are now recorded every year, often in some numbers, from Nova Scotia to Ocean City, Maryland, and (Little Gull especially) inland on the Great Lakes from Rochester and Buffalo, New York, to Chicago. Prior to 1954, there was no record of Little Gull from Virginia, but only one of Black-headed (Craney Island, 14 February 1959, Ames *et al.*), but on 4 December 1964, Carlson *et al.* recorded individuals of both species from the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel. Suspecting the regular occurrence of both species in the Virginia Capes area we began systematic searching of the large flocks of Bonaparte's Gulls (*L. philadelphia*) coursing between Cape Henry and Hampton Roads. On 14 December 1966, three Little Gulls, two adults in winter plumage and one immature, flew past Cape Henry lighthouse very close to shore, with several hundred Bonaparte's. (P.A.B.). On 29 December at the same location, P.A.B. and Anderson watched a sub-adult Black-headed Gull for over an hour with a flock of about 600 Bonaparte's. It was seen later in the day about four miles west at Seashore State Park. Despite repeated efforts to relocate both species, only Little Gull was seen again: on 9 February 1967, at Cape Henry, one immature and at least one adult fed in front of the lighthouse with Bonaparte's Gulls for 45 minutes (P.A.B., F.G.B.). We feel that, like King Eider, they are wintering in the Chesapeake Bay-Hampton Roads area, and probably do so every year.

Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*): One of the so-called "western vagrants" that show up with clockwork regularity in Fall along the Eastern seaboard (literally: they are rarely seen 10 miles from the ocean front or from major bodies of water). Most depart shortly after their arrival (almost all in September, October and November) but there are a few post-November winter records north of Georgia and Florida. In Virginia, winter records are all from December, as follows: Back Bay, 26 December 1959 (Burford *et al.*); Back Bay, 28 December 1962 (Richardson and Rountrey); and Chincoteague, 12 December 1965 (Hood). One seen near Little Creek Inlet in the City of Norfolk on 7 January 1967 (P.A.B.) is both the latest winter and first January report for Virginia, and might have been the same bird seen at Lambert's Point, Norfolk, on 16 October 1966 (P.A.B., F.G.B.).

Oregon Junco "types": A male junco with a blackish head, dark rusty back and rump, and bright rusty flanks, was seen at our feeder in Norfolk on the day of a heavy snowstorm, 19 January 1967. It appeared similar to a male P.A.B. collected in New Jersey in 1958, identified as one of the more northern population of *Junco oregonus montanus* (Buckley, 1959). However, there is the distinct possibility that the Norfolk bird might have been *J. hyemalis cismontanus*, a so-called intermediate or hybrid population between "typical" Slate-colored and "typical" Oregon Juncos. Female juncos seen by the writers, but uncollectable, on the following occasions were also probably either *oregonus* or *cismontanus*: near West Norfolk, 6 December 1966; Cape Henry, 7 January 1967; NW part of Norfolk, near the Naval Base, 27 January 1967. Collecting of suspicious birds, particularly females after the first of January, will have to be done before the status of these "forms" can be clarified in this part of Virginia.

Both *oregonus* ssp. (at least two sight records from the Washington region, in the Winters of 1954/55 and 1956/57) and *cismontanus* (banded

twice in December 1952 in Arlington but specimens not taken) have been reported from Virginia but exact status of the two is dependent on critical examination of specimens of a notoriously difficult group. Any identifications and conclusions based on identifications without permanent specimens of record are to be taken with reservations but should nonetheless be published.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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DICKCISSELS IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY

C. W. ROANE

The Dickcissel, *Spiza americana* (Gmelin), has been observed many times in Virginia (Murray 1952, 1953, 1955, 1966, 1967; Freer 1962; Scott 1962, 1963, 1964) but most sightings have been made east of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Scott (1962) reports having seen a single male at Stuarts Draft in Augusta County on 3 July 1961 and 5 pairs in the same area on 25 May 1962. Recently, Murray (1967) reported the presence of a female at Lexington in February 1967. Although the Dickcissel is a summer resident of the Prairie States, it somehow manages to appear occasionally in the more prairie-like areas of Virginia without being detected in the mountains. I would like to report 3 visitations to the Blacksburg area of Montgomery County.

The first observation of the Dickcissel in this area was by Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Blaser. The Blasers, having been residents of Nebraska for some time, recognized one when it visited their yard on York Drive in Blacksburg. They reported it to their neighbor and well known bird enthusiast J. W. Murray who confirmed their observation. The bird was a male and it remained in the area from 24 March to 1 April 1954.

The second and third sightings were made on the V.P.I. Agronomy Research Farm, also known as the Kipps Farm, by the writer who was on data collecting excursions at the times. A single male was observed on 25 May and again on 27 May 1962. Two males were observed on 2 June 1967, and on several days from 2 to 4 birds were heard singing on various parts of the farm until 19 June 1967. The birds were observed by G. M. Shear, J. W. Murray, members of VSO, and by several others. None reported seeing females.

Our experience with Dickcissels was similar to that reported by Freer (1962). The Agronomy Farm is a patchwork of cereal, alfalfa, clover and soybean nurseries, interspersed with native grasses such as orchardgrass, quackgrass, bluegrass, timothy and tall oatgrass. The various nurseries were harvested at intervals but the birds persisted until 19 June, when the native grasses and an alfalfa field were mowed. The birds departed. One would suspect that nests were disturbed, but no one could say positively.

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REVIEW

The Vocalization and Syringeal Anatomy of the Common Crow, by Dwight R. Chamberlain. Typed copy of thesis for degree of Master of Science in Wildlife Management at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, March 1967, 184 pages, 73 figures, 37 tables, and an extensive bibliography.

All of us who have attended recent meetings of the Virginia Society of Ornithology know that Chamberlain has been doing extensive research into the habits of the Common Crow, *Corvus brachyrhynchos*, with special reference to the factors indicated in the title of this thesis. His work in the relatively new field of bio-acoustics was supported by the Frank M. Chapman Memorial Fund and by a grant from the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries. The crow, because of its high position in the A. O. U. 'Check-List' order (the British 'Check-List' puts the *Corvidae* in an even higher position, at the very end of the list) is particularly suitable for this type of study.

The extensive literature on this genus and on the matter of vocalization, both in America and abroad, was carefully studied. Its conclusions are briefly presented. His methods of procedure and apparatus used are described. Some 25 different kinds of calls, from assembly, warning, food, distress, to courtship vocalization, are distinguished. They are indicated in 'missilgrams' and their significance discussed.

His conclusion, reached tentatively and on the basis mainly of his own work, is as follows. "It appears that the crow is better equipped to convey more and varying degrees of information than a majority of avian species." In summing up methods of controlling crows, he states: "It is my opinion that crows, like other species, should be locally evaluated as 'beneficial' or 'harmful' to man's interests, and the appropriate management procedures initiated." This, so far as the Editor knows, is the first piece of work done in this particular field by a member of the VSO.

J. J. Murray

(This paper will eventually be deposited with the other VSO material in the library of the University of Virginia.)

NEWS AND NOTES

AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILMS—NORFOLK. Robert C. Hermes, "South on the Wind," 15 November; D. J. Nelson, "Three Seasons North," 7 December; Charles T. Hotchkiss, "Queen of the Cascades," 26 January 1968; Robert W. Davison, "The Vanishing Sea," 17 February.

MEETINGS OF THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER OF VSO. Don Messersmith, "Birds of Iceland and Greenland," slides, 9 November; Philip DuMont, slides of wildflowers, 25 January 1968.

MASSANUTTEN PLAN, WILDERNESS AREA. The staff of the George Washington National Forest has developed a plan for a wilderness area in the Massanutten Range of the George Washington National Forest. This plan deserves the support of all VSO members.

THREE NEW COMMISSION LAKES PLANNED. The Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries has approved the construction of two new fishing lakes and the purchase of property for a third. One is in western Wythe County, south of Rural Retreat. The second is in the Commission's Clinch Mountain Wildlife Management Area. The third is in Amelia County, bordering the Appomattox River. While these are planned primarily for fishing, camping, and other types of recreation, they will no doubt attract considerable numbers of water birds.

OSPREYS IN TIDEWATER. Kenner Rice writes that for the past two seasons Ospreys have had a nest on the pilings of the old steamboat wharf at Sharps. Almost every duck blind in the Rappahannock and Potomac River areas carries a nest, he says. The birds also use buoys. When he placed broken limbs and sticks along the shore, the Ospreys would come in and pick them up, always on the wing. They also get material which is floating on the water.

FORSTER'S TERNS AT LEXINGTON. It is becoming more and more difficult to add a species to the Rockbridge County list, but the junior writer has done it again. On 21 August 1967 he called the senior writer to say that there were some terns at the farm pond. They turned out to be Forster's Terns, 7 of them, all adults, 4 still in summer and 3 in winter plumage. We watched them at close range, perched and in flight, as long as we wished. The next morning only one was left at the pond, in company with a Black Tern that had come in late on 21 August. (J. J. Murray and Joshua Womeldorf.)

BEWICK'S WREN AT NEWPORT NEWS. Mrs. Sydney Mitchell netted, banded, and photographed a Bewick's Wren in her yard at Newport News on 25 September 1967. The Hampton Roads Bird Club has no report of one since its records began in 1950. (Back in the early 1890's it was a common breeder in the Norfolk area, but there are only a few winter records in recent years. Editor)

BROWN CREEPER IN SUMMER IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY. John W. Murray writes: "Prior to this year the earliest fall record for Montgomery County was 5 October 1933 (Ralph M. Brown), and the latest spring record was 22 May 1965 (J. W. Murray). This year a Brown Creeper was seen in the Poverty Creek valley in a quarter mile section which appears on the topographic maps to have an elevation of 2000 to 2100 feet. It was seen on 7 June, 25 June, and 21 July. These three observations are from the same area as the 22 May 1965 record. The site of these observations is about 7 miles south and 1100 feet lower than White Pine Lodge in Giles County, where a nest was found on 22 June 1965 (*Raven*, 36, 59-60).

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER IN SUMMER IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY. John W. Murray makes the following interesting report: "On 7 June 1967 I found a Prothonotary Warbler in a *Rhododendron maximum* bush on the bank of Poverty Creek in Montgomery County at an elevation of 2000 to 2100 feet. I had a good view with 7x binoculars at a distance of about 25 feet. The only previous record for Montgomery County was by D. H. Messersmith at the New River near Radford on 26 April 1963 (*Raven*, 34, 36)."

ANOTHER LARK BUNTING AT BACK BAY. Mrs. Floy C. Burford writes: "On 7 September 1967 Don Ambrosen, Manager of Back Bay Refuge, called to say that a male Lark Bunting had been at the Refuge since 20 August. He had only seen the bird that morning, as he had been away on vacation. He wanted me to confirm the identifications made by the Refuge biologists, Romie Waterfield and John Fields. They had caught the bird twice in dove traps. I went down with Miss Hank, Mrs. Forrest and Mrs. Gwathmey and found the bird in a fig tree at headquarters. It was predominantly black, but showed moulting on head and breast that was brown streaked. The black wings, back and tail and the big white patches in the wing were very prominent. It is definitely a Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*). We observed the bird at close range, while it fed on the figs, for at least 20 minutes. The bird made no sounds or chirps." (There are two previous Virginia records: Lexington, 11 February 1932, specimen now in U. S. National Museum, and Sandbridge, one in brown plumage, 5 September 1960, seen by Hespenheide and Sykes. *Raven*, 32, 5. Editor)

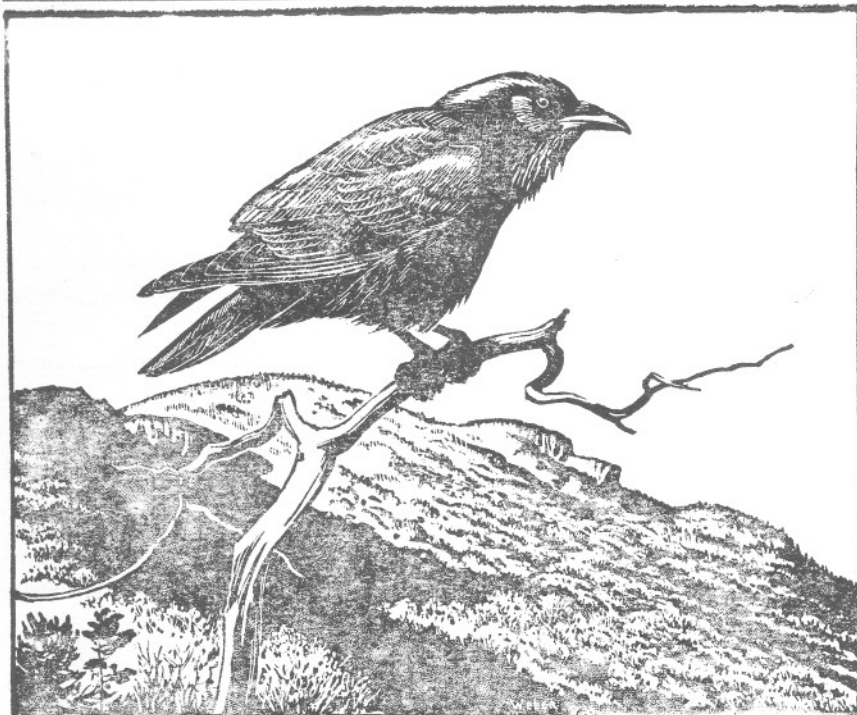
The Raven

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CONTENTS

The VSO Foray to the Lower Valley	51
By F. R. Scott	
Banding Results at Kiptopeke Beach	57
By F. R. Scott	
Several Nashville Warbler Occurrences in Virginia During 1967 Breeding Season	64
By Charles E. Stevens	
White-fronted Goose at Chincoteague Refuge	65
By Carl W. Carlson	
The 1967 Skyland Field Trip	65
By James W. Eike	
The 1967 Wachapreague Field Trip	66
By James W. Eike	
In Memoriam: Bernard Thielen	67
In Memoriam: Ben B. Dulaney	68
Officers and Committees of the VSO	68
News of the Local Chapters	69
Conservation Corner	70
By Henry S. Mosby and Ruskin S. Freer	
Reviews	71
News and Notes	71
VSO Membership, December 1967	73
Corrigenda	82
Index to Volume 38—1967	82

The Virginia Society of Ornithology exists to encourage the systematic study of birds in Virginia, to stimulate interest in birds, and to assist the conservation of wildlife and other natural resources. All persons interested in those objectives are welcome as members. Present membership includes every level of interest, from professional scientific ornithologists to enthusiastic amateurs.

Activities undertaken by the Society include the following:

1. An annual meeting (usually in the spring), held in a different part of the state each year, featuring talks on ornithological subjects and field trips to nearby areas.

2. Other forays or field trips, lasting a day or more and scheduled throughout the year so as to include all seasons and to cover the major physiographic regions of the state.

3. A journal, *The Raven*, published quarterly, containing articles about Virginia ornithology, as well as news of the activities of the Society and its chapters.

4. Study projects (nesting studies, winter bird population surveys, etc.) aimed at making genuine contributions to ornithological knowledge.

In addition, local chapters of the Society, located in some of the larger cities and towns of Virginia, conduct their own programs of meetings, field trips, and other projects.

Those wishing to participate in any of the above activities or to cooperate in advancing the objectives of the Society are cordially invited to join. Annual dues are \$1.00 for junior members (students), \$2.00 for active members, \$4.00 for sustaining members, \$50.00 for life members.

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THE VSO FORAY TO THE LOWER VALLEY

F. R. Scott

For the second successive year the VSO sponsored a working foray to a part of the state where the breeding birds were not well known. In 1966 the group went to Abingdon for four days of intensive field work, and the results were published in *The Raven* last year (*Raven*, 37: 66-67 and 71-76, 1966). This year the foray was held in the lower Shenandoah Valley of Virginia from 7 to 11 June 1967 and was based at Middletown, Frederick County, which lies more or less between Winchester, Strasburg, and Front Royal.

Total registration for the foray was 17, of which 8 were active in the field. These, whose names are mentioned frequently in the annotated list below, were Mrs. Herbert M. Church, Mr. and Mrs. Paul S. Dulaney, Mrs. Morgan M. Gilbert, J. J. Murray, George M. Smith, C. E. Stevens, and the writer. All of these put in many hours of hard work in the field during the few days they were there, and all contributed significantly to the results. George Smith also very kindly handled a lot of the local arrangements prior to the foray, and Don Messersmith served as foray director during the winter and spring, which included one survey trip to the area in April. Dr. Murray also read over the manuscript of this paper and made some helpful suggestions.

The same successful format which had been tested at the Abingdon foray was tried again. The observers went out in a number of small parties each day and then submitted record cards for the various areas they had visited. Twenty-one record cards were amassed from these parties (plus some incidental observations), and the total species list was 112.

The area covered by the foray was essentially the counties of Frederick, Warren, and Clark and the northern half of Shenandoah County. The topography of this area is fairly clear-cut, consisting essentially of the valley floor bordered on the east by the Blue Ridge and on the west by various other ridges of the Appalachians, such as Cacapon Mountain and North Mountain. The northern end of the Massanutten Mountains intrudes up the valley as far as Strasburg and is a prominent feature of the area. The North and South Forks of the Shenandoah River flow along each side of this range and finally merge at Front Royal, where the river then flows northeasterly into West Virginia and, finally, the Potomac.

Elevations are principally quite low, the Shenandoah River varying from under 700 feet at Woodstock down to 360 feet at the West Virginia line, and most of the main valley floor lies under 700 feet. The Massanutten Mountains in this area are actually three parallel ridges, with the maximum elevation being about 2400 feet on Signal Knob. The main valley floor separating these ridges, Fort Valley, ranges from about 640 to 820 feet. (This is considered part of the "lowlands" in the annotated list.) The western side of Shenandoah Valley is broken up into numerous ridges and stream valleys that range up to over 3000 feet in some areas. Points that were covered by the various foray parties included Cacapon Mountain at the extreme northern tip of Frederick County (2500 feet—farther north than Baltimore), Vances Cove in the extreme southwestern part of Frederick County (1400 to 2000 feet), and the North Mountain ridge of western Shenandoah County, including Little Stony Creek, Sugar Knob, and Wolf Gap (1100 to 3200 feet).

As might be expected, the birdlife was essentially Carolinian with a few northern overtones. For example, only a few Summer Tanagers and one Blue Grosbeak were reported. Some Alleghenian influence was found at the higher elevations, especially on North Mountain, but it was far from typical. For example, no Veeries, Black-throated Blue Warblers, or Slate-colored Juncos were found. Other species that were looked for and missed included Spotted Sandpiper, Upland Plover, Traill's Flycatcher, and Yellow-throated Warbler,

although both the first and the last of these were reported in this area in 1962 (*Raven*, 33(3): 5-7, September 1962).

The purpose of this preliminary annotated list is to give a base for other field workers to start from. No four-day foray, of course, can give a complete picture of the breeding birds of an area. Many parts of this area were not covered at all, and those that were, were covered inadequately. The varying song cycles of many species make it very difficult for one to assess their abundance when they are not singing well, and by early June some species are well past their peak song periods. Finally, many species that require specialized field work (e.g., marsh birds and owls) are almost out of the question for a small foray of this type. It is hoped that other observers will, in the future, build on this list to make it more accurate and more complete. A few records in the following list were made by George Smith at times prior to the foray period, and these are clearly indicated.

Pied-billed Grebe. One report, a bird in a farm pond northwest of Winchester on 10 June (Gilbert and Scott).

Green Heron. Fairly common along the larger rivers and streams in the lowlands, with a peak count of 4.

Mallard. Uncommon, with 6 birds reported by 3 parties.

Black Duck. Two reports, an adult with 10 young on the Shenandoah River east of Front Royal on 8 June (Dulaney) and an adult with 5 young in the same general area on 9 June (Church and Scott).

Wood Duck. Apparently fairly common in the lowlands, with a maximum of 20 plus a nest with 8 eggs on 8 June near Strasburg (Murray and Smith). A young bird was found north of Front Royal on 9 June (Church and Scott) and 2 northwest of Winchester on 10 June (Gilbert and Scott). From April to early June 1967 Smith banded 77 of these at Strasburg.

Turkey Vulture. Rather common, with a maximum count of 51 birds on 8 June in the lowlands west of Strasburg and Woodstock (Gilbert and Scott). Young were found in a nest in the rocks on Signal Knob on 9 June (Stevens).

Black Vulture. Local, with only two reports: 10 in the lowlands west of Strasburg on 8 June (Gilbert and Scott) and one east of Winchester on 9 June (Church and Scott).

Red-tailed Hawk. Uncommon, with 4 birds reported by 3 parties. Murray and Smith found a nest with young near Strasburg on 8 June.

Broad-winged Hawk. Uncommon, with 7 birds reported by 6 parties.

Osprey. One was seen along the Shenandoah River in Clark County on 11 June (Gilbert). This appears to be the second recent summer record for this area (*Raven*, 33(3): 5, September 1962).

Sparrow Hawk. Uncommon, with 5 reports of single birds.

Ruffed Grouse. Rather uncommon, mainly on the mountain slopes. Young out of the nest were reported by 4 parties, including 1 young on the bank of Shenandoah River south of Front Royal on 9 June (Dulaney).

Bobwhite. Common in the lowlands.

Wild Turkey. One report, a bird heard in Fort Valley near Elizabeth Furnace on 9 June (Dulaney).

Killdeer. Fairly common in the lowlands with a peak count of 8.

American Woodcock. One report, a bird on Cacapon Mountain on 8 June (Stevens).

Mourning Dove. Common in open areas, with a peak count of 26. Stevens found a nest with one egg on Cacapon Mountain on 8 June.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Common, with a peak of 20 on 9 June around Signal Knob (Stevens).

Black-billed Cuckoo. Quite uncommon, with only 6 birds reported by 3 parties.

Screech Owl. One report, a bird along the Shenandoah River east of Front Royal on 9 June (Church and Scott).

Barred Owl. One report, a bird in Vances Cove on 8 June (Gilbert and Scott).

Whip-poor-will. Two reports of single birds, one at Signal Knob on 9 June and the other along Little Stony Creek on 10 June (both Stevens).

Common Nighthawk. Two reports, one at Middletown on 8 June (Scott) and 2 near Mountain Falls on 10 June (Gilbert and Scott).

Chimney Swift. Fairly common, particularly around the towns, with a peak of 30 on 11 June.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Only two reports of single birds, Vances Cove on 8 June and Signal Knob on 9 June.

Belted Kingfisher. Fairly common in the lowlands, mainly along the Shenandoah River.

Yellow-shafted Flicker. Common. A nest with young was found in northwestern Frederick County on 10 June (Church and Murray).

Pileated Woodpecker. Fairly common, with a peak of 5 being reported by 3 parties.

Red-bellied Woodpecker. Fairly common at least up to 1500 feet. The peak count was 10 on 9 June.

Red-headed Woodpecker. One report, a single bird in Sleepy Hollow, northwestern Frederick County, on 8 June (Stevens).

Hairy Woodpecker. Fairly common on the mountain slopes with only one record from the main valley floor. A nest with young was found on Signal Knob on 9 June (Stevens).

Downy Woodpecker. Common. Gilbert and Scott found a nest with young in Vances Cove on 8 June.

Eastern Kingbird. Common in the lowlands. A nest with an apparently incubating bird was found north of Front Royal on 9 June (Church and Scott).

Great Crested Flycatcher. Common, with a peak count of 14.

Eastern Phoebe. Common. A nest with 3 young was found on 9 June (Gilbert and Murray).

Acadian Flycatcher. Very common, with peaks of 30 north of Front Royal on 9 June and 26 along Little Stony Creek on 10 June. Two were found nest building along the river, one on 8 June (Dulaney), the other on 9 June (Church and Scott).

Least Flycatcher. One report, a persistently singing bird in Vances Cove on 8 June at 1420 feet elevation (Gilbert and Scott).

Eastern Wood Pewee. Very common, with a peak of 39 on 9 June (Stevens).

Horned Lark. Rather uncommon on the farming areas, with 12 birds reported by 5 parties. One young out of the nest was found west of Strasburg on 8 June (Gilbert and Scott).

Rough-winged Swallow. Fairly common in the lowlands.

Barn Swallow. Common in the lowlands. Young were found in the nest at Middletown on 7 June (Scott) and out of the nest on 8 June (Dulaney).

Cliff Swallow. One report. One bird and 2 probably old nests were found at Middletown on 7 June (Murray and Scott).

Purple Martin. Uncommon and local, with only two reports away from known colonies. Three colonies were located on 9 June, one at Reliance, Warren County, and 2 in Front Royal (Church and Scott). The peak count was 35, also on 9 June.

Blue Jay. Common, with a peak count of 20 on 10 June.

Common Raven. Scarce and local, with only 4 reports. Two were seen at Middletown on 7 June (Murray), one on Cacapon Mountain on 8 June (Stevens), one in the lowlands east of Strasburg on 9 June (Gilbert and Murray), and 4 at a dump in Fort Valley near Elizabeth Furnace on 9 June (Dulaney).

Common Crow. Common.

Fish Crow. Two reports, one near Front Royal on 9 June (Dulaney) and another near Woodstock on 8 June (Gilbert and Scott).

Black-capped Chickadee. Fairly common near the state line in extreme southwestern Frederick County (Vances Cove) and western Shenandoah County (North Mountain, Wolf Gap, Little Stony Creek, and Sugar Knob) at least down to 1420 feet in Vances Cove. Reported by Gilbert, Scott, and Stevens, with a peak count of 7. Stevens also reported a probable bird of this species on Cacapon Mountain on 8 June. An adult feeding a fledged young bird was seen on North Mountain on 11 June (Scott). Smith had previously reported hearing the Black-cap singing in Vances Cove in early August 1961.

Carolina Chickadee. Common through most of the area. A few occurred with the Black-caps in Vances Cove and along Little Stony Creek.

Tufted Titmouse. Common, with a peak count of 30.

White-breasted Nuthatch. Common, especially on the mountain slopes, with a maximum count of 16 on Signal Knob on 9 June (Stevens).

House Wren. Common in the lowlands. Two pairs with fledged young were found at Middletown on 7 June (Murray).

Bewick's Wren. Scarce, with 4 birds reported by 3 parties at Cacapon Mountain, Signal Knob, and Vances Cove.

Carolina Wren. Uncommon, with most records close to the river. The peak count was only 6.

Mockingbird. Common in the lowlands, with a peak count of 28.

Catbird. Common.

Brown Thrasher. Common. A nest with 1 egg and 2 young was found west of Strasburg on 8 June (Murray and Smith).

Robin. Abundant, with a peak count of 96. Murray found a nest with 3 eggs at Middletown on 7 June.

Wood Thrush. Very common. Stevens found a nest with eggs in the Little Stony Creek area on 10 June.

Eastern Bluebird. Fairly common, with 42 birds reported by 9 parties. The Dulaney's reported 4 fledged young near Front Royal on 9 June.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Fairly common, with a peak count of 8. Recorded by 13 parties.

Cedar Waxwing. Fairly common. Recorded by 11 parties with a maximum count of 12.

Loggerhead Shrike. Two reports, an adult and a young bird near Strasburg on 8 June (Murray and Smith) and one in Fort Valley on 9 June (Dulaney's). On 23 May Smith found a nest with 5 young at the same place the adult and young were seen on 8 June.

Starling. Very common in the lowlands.

White-eyed Vireo. Only two reports of single birds, both along the river east of Front Royal, one on 8 June (Dulaney's) and the other on 11 June (Gilbert). This bird is probably more common than these two records indicate.

Yellow-throated Vireo. Fairly common but perhaps a bit local. Surprisingly, the best counts were at elevations over 1000 feet. Recorded by 11 parties, with 2 peak counts of 6.

Solitary Vireo. Rather uncommon, with a peak of only 3. Recorded by 3 parties on Cacapon Mountain (1500 feet) and the North Mountain area.

Red-eyed Vireo. Common, with a peak count of 51. An incubating adult was found on a nest on 9 June (Gilbert and Murray).

Warbling Vireo. Common along the Shenandoah River, with a peak count of 34. Very few recorded elsewhere.

Black-and-white Warbler. Fairly common on the mountain slopes. Only one record from the valley floor.

Prothonotary Warbler. Probably fairly common along the river east of Front Royal, where 7 birds were reported by 3 parties.

Worm-eating Warbler. Fairly common on the wooded mountain slopes, with a peak count of 11. A few were found on the valley floor.

Golden-winged Warbler. One report, a male along Little Stony Creek (1100 feet) on 10 June (Stevens).

Nashville Warbler. One report, 2 singing birds, well separated, on the Signal Knob trail on 9 June (Stevens), one of the few summer records for Virginia.

Parula Warbler. Probably rather common, but abundance obscured by lack of singing. Only 13 birds were reported by 8 parties, although Scott recorded 22 here on 2 June 1962 (*Raven*, 33(3): 7, September 1962).

Yellow Warbler. Fairly common, especially in the lowlands. Recorded by 13 parties, with a peak count of 10. An adult carrying food was seen on 10 June in northwestern Frederick County (Church and Murray).

Black-throated Green Warbler. One report, 3 along Little Stony Creek (1300 feet) on 10 June (Stevens).

Cerulean Warbler. Probably locally fairly common. Recorded only at Cacapon Mountain, Vances Cove, and North Mountain, with a maximum count of 6 singing males.

Blackburnian Warbler. Probably locally fairly common but recorded only at Little Stony Creek and Vances Cove down as low as 1300 feet. Steven found an adult carrying food on 10 June. Peak count, 6.

Chestnut-sided Warbler. Probably fairly common locally, but recorded only along Little Stony Creek and North Mountain. Peak count, 12.

Pine Warbler. Common on the slopes of the Massanutts, rather uncommon on other mountain slopes, and only one record from the valley floor. Peak count, 17 around Signal Knob on 9 June (Stevens).

Prairie Warbler. Fairly common. An adult feeding young in the nest was seen on 8 June (Dulaney).

Ovenbird. Common on the mountain slopes, less so in the lowlands. Young out of the nest were found on Signal Knob on 9 June (Stevens).

Louisiana Waterthrush. Fairly common, with a peak count of 11.

Kentucky Warbler. Apparently uncommon, with only 4 birds reported by 3 parties, all on the valley floor.

Yellowthroat. Fairly common in the lowlands, with a peak count of only 8. An adult carrying food was seen on 10 June (Church and Murray).

Yellow-breasted Chat. Fairly common in the lowlands, with a peak count of 18.

Hooded Warbler. Surprisingly uncommon, with only 11 birds reported by 5 parties. Except for 2 near Strasburg on 9 June (Gilbert and Murray), all were found on the mountain slopes, and 2 singing males on North Mountain on 11 June were on the crest of the ridge at 2950 feet (Scott).

Canada Warbler. One report, a male on Sugar Knob on 10 June at 2750 feet (Stevens).

American Redstart. Common in Vances Cove and the Little Stony Creek area, with a peak count of 26. Rather uncommon elsewhere, though the birds' main song period may have been over. An adult was seen nest building at Wolf Gap on 8 June (Gilbert and Scott).

House Sparrow. Common in the lowlands.

Eastern Meadowlark. Common in the lowlands.

Red-winged Blackbird. Common in the lowlands. Murray and Smith found two nests near Strasburg on 8 June, one with 1 egg, the other with 4 young.

Orchard Oriole. Fairly common in the lowlands, with 32 birds reported by 8 parties. Gilbert and Murray found a nest near Strasburg on 9 June.

Baltimore Oriole. Common in the lowlands, with a peak count of 18. This species was more than twice as common as the Orchard Oriole. A pair were found feeding young in a nest on 8 June (Dulaney).

Common Grackle. Abundant in the lowlands, with a few occurring even on the mountains. Peak count, 280. Young out of the nest were everywhere in the lowlands, and one nest with young was found north of Front Royal on 9 June (Church and Scott).

Brown-headed Cowbird. Common in all areas.

Scarlet Tanager. Common on the mountain slopes, with a peak count of 25. Fairly common in the lowlands.

Summer Tanager. Uncommon, with 7 birds reported by 4 parties, mostly in or near Fort Valley.

Cardinal. Common, especially in the lowlands.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Common in the North Mountain and Little Stony Creek area, with a peak count of 17 on 10 June (Stevens). Elsewhere, recorded only on the slope of Signal Mountain, where Stevens found 2 males on 9 June, one at 1000 feet, the other at 2200 feet.

Blue Grosbeak. One report, a bird in Fort Valley on 9 June (Gilbert and Murray).

Indigo Bunting. Common in the lowlands, less so higher up.

Dickcissel. Rare and local. Gilbert and Murray found 3 singing birds in a small colony east of Front Royal in Warren County on 9 June, which were subsequently seen by other observers. Later, on 11 June, Gilbert checked the colony more carefully and recorded 10 singing birds.

American Goldfinch. Common, with a peak count of 39.

Rufous-sided Towhee. Very common. Young out of the nest were found on 9 June on Signal Knob (Stevens).

Grasshopper Sparrow. Common in the lowlands, with a maximum count of 15.

Henslow's Sparrow. One report, a singing bird near Reliance, Warren County, on 9 June (Church and Scott).

Vesper Sparrow. Rather uncommon in the lowlands, with 16 birds reported by 7 parties and a peak count of 7.

Chipping Sparrow. Common, especially in the lowlands. Nest with 3 young at Middletown, 7 June (Murray).

Field Sparrow. Common, especially in the lowlands.

Song Sparrow. Common in the lowlands, with a peak count of 29. Not recorded at higher elevations.

1967 FORAY FIELD TRIPS

Numbers Keyed to Tabulation

1. 6/8/67, 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lowlands from Middletown east to River and North to Berryville. Altitude 400-700 feet. Mr. & Mrs. P. S. Dulaney.
2. 6/9/67, 5:45 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lowlands from Middletown to Front Royal and north along River (principally west side). Altitude 420 to 600 feet. Mrs. H. M. Church and F. R. Scott.
3. 6/11/67, 6:30 to noon. Along river valley north of Front Royal in Warren and Clark Counties. Altitude 420-800 feet. Mrs. H. S. Gilbert.
4. 6/9/67, 8-11:30 a.m. Warren County from Fort Valley entrance to Front Royal and south to Page County line. Altitude 500-650 feet. Dulaney.
5. 6/8/67, 5:30 to noon. Lowland area west of Strasburg. Altitude 530-750 feet. J. J. Murray and George M. Smith.
6. 6/7/67, evening. Middletown. Altitude 670 feet. J. J. Murray.
7. 6/7/67, evening. Middletown. Altitude 670 feet. Scott (It was noted belatedly that this report and #6 contain mostly the same birds).
8. 6/8/67, 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Stephens City south to Front Royal. Altitude 500-700 feet. Dulaney.
9. 6/9/67, 5 to 11 a.m. Lowland area east of Strasburg. Altitude 500-700 feet. Gilbert and Murray.
10. 6/8/67, 9:45 a.m. to 1 p.m., 2:30-3:30 p.m. Lowlands west of Strasburg and Woodstock including rt. 55, Cedar Creek, Zepp, Fetzer Gap. Altitude 550-1880 feet. Gilbert and Scott.
11. 6/10/67, 6:15 to 11 a.m. Northwestern Frederick County. Altitude 600-900 feet. Church and Murray.

12. 6/10/67, 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mid Frederick County—Middletown, Mountain Falls, and north to Green Spring and Dehaven. Altitude 580-1100 feet. Gilbert and Scott.
13. 6/9/67, 6-8 a.m. Fort Valley to Seven Fountains. Altitude 600-820 feet. Dulaney.
14. 6/9/67, 4:45 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Fort Valley area mostly. Altitude 500-800 feet. Gilbert and Murray.
15. 6/9/67, most of day. Signal Knob area, Shenandoah and Warren Counties. Altitude 750-2400 feet. C. E. Stevens.
16. 6/11/67, morning. Massanutten Mountain—from Fort Valley via Chalybeate Spring to Milford Gap and down to Shenandoah River and back. Altitude 600-1750 feet. Stevens.
17. 6/8/67, most of day. Cacapon Mountain, Frederick County. Altitude 900-2500 feet. Stevens.
18. 6/8/67, 6:30-9:30 a.m. Vances Cove and Wilson's Cove. Altitude 1400-2100 feet. Gilbert and Scott.
19. 6/8/67, 1-2:30 p.m. Wolf Gap and vicinity. Altitude 1500-3000 feet. Gilbert and Scott.
20. 6/10/67, most of day. Little Stony Creek area of western Shenandoah County, including Sugar Knob. Altitude 1100-3000 feet. Stevens.
21. 6/11/67, 6:30-9 a.m. North Mountain along Forest Service road west of Wolf Gap. Altitude 1500-3000 feet. Scott.

Active participants in foray field work:

Mrs. Herbert M. Church
Mr. & Mrs. Paul S. Dulaney
Mrs. Morgan M. Gilbert
J. J. Murray
F. R. Scott
George M. Smith
Charles E. Stevens

115 Kennondale Lane, Richmond, Virginia 23226

BANDING RESULTS AT KIPTOPEKE BEACH—1966

F. R. Scott

For the fourth successive year a banding station was operated during the fall migration at Kiptopeke Beach, Virginia, in cooperation with *Operation Recovery*, a cooperative banding program to study bird migration principally with the use of mist nets to capture small land birds. In 1966, with the help of seven banders and many assistants, the station was operated for 37 consecutive days from 10 September through 16 October, and a total of 5251 birds of 95 species were trapped during this period. The banders are indebted to J. Howard Smith, Inc., and its president, C. M. Cabbage, for permission to use their property for this operation, and to Arthur Addison, manager of the Tourinns Motor Hotel, who put all of the facilities of his motel at their disposal.

The results of the trapping are shown in detail in Table 1, and these compare very favorably with the results of the preceding three years (Scott, 1963 and 1965; Smith, 1966). The procedure used was essentially the same as in prior years. Up to 31 mist nets, each about 40 feet long and 7 feet high, were set up in lanes cut through the woods and hedgerows. These were generally kept open during the daylight hours unless excessive rain or wind forced early closure. Only one day was a total failure, and that was 20 September, when heavy rains and high winds prevented the station from opening at all. There were two improvements over previous years which undoubtedly resulted in

Table 1. Banding results at the Kiptopeke Beach, Virginia, station during September and October 1966. Licensed banders present each day are indicated below by the following code: a, M. A. Byrd; b, C. W. Hacker; c, Dorothy Mitchell; d, Sydney Mitchell; e, F. R. Scott; f, Doris Smith; g, W. P. Smith. Totals below include a few dead birds as well as those that were banded and released.

	September	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	Sept. Total
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Cooper's Hawk	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Bobwhite	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1	.....	1	.....	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	1	1	2	.....	.....	7
Black-billed Cuckoo	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	1	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	8
Screech Owl	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Whip-poor-will	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Yellow-shafted Flicker	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	2	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	6
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	.....	.....	.....	1
Downy Woodpecker	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Great Crested Flycatcher	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Eastern Phoebe	0
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1	1	.....	.....	.....	1	3	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	1	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10
Acadian Flycatcher	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1	.....	.....	1	.....	2	8	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	1	16
Traill's Flycatcher	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	3	.....	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	5	.....	2	.....	1	1	.....	21
Least Flycatcher	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	3	.....	.....	1	11
Eastern Wood Pewee	0
Tree Swallow	0
Blue Jay	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	3
Carolina Chickadee	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Tufted Titmouse	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Brown Creeper	0
House Wren	1	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	2
Winter Wren	0
Long-billed Marsh Wren	0
Mockingbird	1	.....	.....	1	.....	1	2	2	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	8
Catbird	1	.....	.....	2	3	.....	2	1	.....	2	.....	1	23	5	4	8	4	3	15	74
Brown Thrasher	2	1	.....	2	1	1	3	13	.....	5	4	.....	1	.....	.....	32	6	2	7	2	3	.....	85
Robin	0
Wood Thrush	1	.....	.....	.....	1	2	3	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	26	2	.....	1	.....	.....	3	40
Hermit Thrush	0
Swainson's Thrush	11	31	14	1	.....	3	21	62	.....	20	3	.....	.....	1	25	155	13	2	6	1	4	18	391
Gray-checked Thrush	1	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	10	20	.....	4	1	.....	1	.....	11	118	2	1	4	1	.....	4	182
Veery	17	33	3	3	.....	1	17	27	.....	16	5	.....	3	.....	21	122	5	2	6	1	1	3	286
Golden-crowned Kinglet	0
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Cedar Waxwing	0
Loggerhead Shrike	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
White-eyed Vireo	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Yellow-throated Vireo	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1

(Continued from preceding page)

	September	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	Sept. Total
White-crowned Sparrow		0
White-throated Sparrow		0
Fox Sparrow		0
Lincoln's Sparrow		0
Swamp Sparrow		0
Song Sparrow		1	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
Total New Individuals		67	136	41	23	7	19	183	266	105	33	0	21	26	137	737	117	57	130	23	23	95	2246
Total Species		14	24	11	11	6	12	27	30	21	20	0	12	17	29	39	27	21	26	12	10	23	66
Repeats		3	6	5	4	1	5	4	8	7	6	0	3	5	7	11	8	5	9	4	6	6	113
Total Net-hours		267	378	384	310	114	288	386	396	396	305	0	366	351	351	387	381	321	387	175	235	364	6542
New Birds per 1000 Net-hours		213	333	107	74	61	66	475	672	266	108	....	57	74	390	1904	307	178	336	131	98	261	343
Prevailing Wind		NNE ab	ENE ab	SE	E	E	NW	NW	SW acd	SW acd	E	SE	S	W	NW	NW bcd	W bcd	NE	E	SE	SW	SW	....
Banders		eg	eg	eg	eg	e	ace	ace	efg	fg	fg	fg	fg	fg	fg	efg	fg	bg	bg	b	b	abe	....

	October	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	Oct. Total	Grand Total
Sharp-shinned Hawk	5	2	2	6	3	3	5	....	2	5	2	4	2	1	42	44	
Cooper's Hawk	1	....	....	....	1	2	
Bobwhite	0	3	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	4	1	1	6	13
Black-billed Cuckoo	1	1	9
Screech Owl	1	1	2
Whip-poor-will	0	1
Yellow-shafted Flicker	9	1	....	....	....	4	1	9	....	....	....	1	....	1	....	17	23	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	....	....	....	....	3	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5	6	
Downy Woodpecker	1	....	....	....	1	3	
Great Crested Flycatcher	0	4
Eastern Phoebe	2	1	....	....	....	2	....	....	....	....	11	2	2	....	....	20	20	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	2	2	....	....	2	1	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	8	18	
Acadian Flycatcher	0	16	
Traill's Flycatcher	2	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	3	24	
Least Flycatcher	1	....	1	4	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	6	17	
Eastern Wood Pewee	1	....	....	....	2	1	....	....	....	....	....	2	3	....	....	9	9	
Tree Swallow	1	....	....	1	1	
Blue Jay	1	11	5	....	1	6	14	29	24	1	3	32	27	22	16	2	194	197
Carolina Chickadee	1	....	....	....	....	....	2	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	4	5	

Tufted Titmouse	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	3
Brown Creeper	....	....	....	....	....	....	3	2	....	....	4	4	....	2	....	....	15	15
House Wren	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	1	....	....	3	5
Winter Wren	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	1	1
Long-billed Marsh Wren	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	1
Mockingbird	....	1	2	1	....	....	1	....	3	....	1	....	....	1	....	....	10	18
Catbird	2	301	23	1	2	36	37	7	2	1	51	45	8	3	4	....	523	597
Brown Thrasher	....	58	9	4	....	4	7	1	2	....	2	1	1	1	....	....	90	175
Robin	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	1	1
Wood Thrush	....	10	....	....	....	4	11	....	2	....	3	9	2	2	1	....	44	84
Hermit Thrush	....	....	....	....	....	....	6	1	1	....	7	13	2	1	....	1	32	32
Swainson's Thrush	4	30	55	5	2	21	48	10	4	3	26	26	8	2	....	....	244	635
Gray-cheeked Thrush	2	35	57	4	1	43	79	9	2	3	72	74	20	1	4	2	408	590
Veery	....	20	11	1	3	7	2	1	1	....	1	1	....	....	....	....	48	334
Golden-crowned Kinglet	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3	....	1	....	....	....	4	4
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	....	4	....	....	....	1	3	1	....	....	2	1	2	....	....	....	14	15
Cedar Waxwing	....	....	3	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3	3
Loggerhead Shrike	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	2
White-eyed Vireo	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2	7
Yellow-throated Vireo	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	1
Solitary Vireo	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2	2
Red-eyed Vireo	1	4	2	5	....	....	8	3	1	....	1	2	1	1	....	....	29	85
Philadelphia Vireo	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	5
Black-and-white Warbler	1	9	13	1	2	5	7	2	2	....	....	....	2	2	....	....	46	197
Prothonotary Warbler	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	0	1
Worm-eating Warbler	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	0	3
Tennessee Warbler	....	1	....	....	....	2	....	....	....	....	....	3	....	....	....	....	6	6
Orange-crowned Warbler	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2	2
Nashville Warbler	....	....	....	....	....	2	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3	4
Parula Warbler	....	2	3	....	....	3	2	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	11	18
Yellow Warbler	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	2	3
Magnolia Warbler	2	6	2	1	....	5	11	3	1	....	3	4	1	....	....	....	39	102
Cape May Warbler	....	1	....	....	....	2	3	....	....	....	1	....	1	1	....	....	9	15
Black-throated Blue Warbler	....	4	6	3	3	13	12	1	1	13	7	2	2	....	....	....	66	133
Myrtle Warbler	....	....	9	1	....	....	79	17	8	1	23	30	37	9	5	1	220	220
Black-throated Green Warbler	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	1	1	....	2	....	....	....	....	....	5	8
Yellow-throated Warbler	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	0	1
Chestnut-sided Warbler	1	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3	6
Bay-breasted Warbler	....	....	2	....	....	3	2	1	....	....	....	....	2	....	....	....	10	18
Blackpoll Warbler	....	2	4	....	....	9	5	2	4	....	1	1	5	1	....	....	34	47
Pine Warbler	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	1
Prairie Warbler	....	2	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3	7
Western Palm Warbler	....	7	8	2	....	4	6	3	....	1	2	1	17	2	3	....	56	67
Yellow Palm Warbler	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	1	....	....	4	1	3	1	2	....	13	14
Ovenbird	....	12	15	5	1	10	9	11	3	1	9	13	2	1	1	....	93	237
Northern Waterthrush	....	....	1	....	....	3	5	....	....	....	....	....	2	1	....	....	12	51
Kentucky Warbler	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	0	1
Connecticut Warbler	....	4	2	1	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	9	28
Mourning Warbler	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	0	1
Yellowthroat	....	17	6	1	1	10	4	6	1	....	7	9	3	3	....	....	68	167

(Continued on following page)

	October	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	Oct. Total	Grand Total
Yellow-breasted Chat	5	1	....	....	1	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	8	25
Hooded Warbler	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	2
Wilson's Warbler	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	2
Canada Warbler	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	2	4
American Redstart	3	50	18	6	1	17	7	6	6	....	1	5	2	1	....	....	123	413
Baltimore Oriole	1	....	....	....	0	5
Boat-tailed Grackle	1	....	....	....	1	1
Common Grackle	2	1	....	....	3	3
Scarlet Tanager	2	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2	8
Cardinal	1	1	....	....	....	....	1	1	4	....	1	4	....	....	....	1	14	24
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2	25
Blue Grosbeak	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	1
Indigo Bunting	1	1	1	....	....	....	1	2	....	....	2	2	3	1	....	....	14	19
American Goldfinch	1	....	....	....	1	4	1	....	....	....	7	7
Rufous-sided Towhee	2	1	....	....	....	....	2	3	1	1	17	42	4	1	....	....	74	74
Savannah Sparrow	1	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	3	4
Vesper Sparrow	1	....	....	....	1	1
Slate-colored Junco	1	....	....	....	4	1	....	....	5	11	2	1	1	....	27	27
Chipping Sparrow	1	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2	....	....	....	4	4
Field Sparrow	1	....	....	....	....	1	2	2	1	....	....	7	7
White-crowned Sparrow	1	1	....	....	....	....	3	....	....	1	6	6
White-throated Sparrow	2	....	1	....	....	5	6	19	5	1	42	36	12	3	2	....	134	134
Fox Sparrow	1	....	....	....	....	1	1
Lincoln's Sparrow	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	1
Swamp Sparrow	1	....	....	....	....	....	1	1	....	....	8	2	1	....	1	....	15	15
Song Sparrow	1	1	....	....	1	2	3	2	2	1	19	6	2	1	3	2	46	48
Total New Individuals	19	626	279	49	20	236	418	159	89	18	353	407	200	72	48	12	3005	5251	
Total Species	11	42	38	22	12	33	49	37	27	14	37	40	45	29	16	9	85	95	
Repeats	2	17	22	5	3	11	12	14	13	3	2	6	14	12	6	1	143	256	
Total Net-hours	378	372	372	310	217	372	372	330	325	93	310	310	310	310	300	124</			

more birds being captured. The placement of the nets was changed somewhat to reflect the experiences of the previous years, and some tethered English mist nets were used in addition to the standard Japanese nets. These were found to be such a great improvement during windy conditions that it is probable that no additional nontethered nets will be secured for this station.

As in past years one licensed bander was in charge of the station each week, the changeover in command occurring at noon on Sunday. In 1966 the writer was in charge from 10 to 18 September, W. P. Smith from 18 to 25 September, C. W. Hacker from 25 September to 2 October, Sydney Mitchell from 2 to 9 October, and Dorothy Mitchell from 9 to 16 October. There were also over 50 assistants and visitors, many of whom contributed greatly to the success of the project.

The table shows both the results and the biases inherent in this project. Because of the characteristics of the nets and their placement, the results are biased in favor of (a) woodland or hedgerow birds, (b) birds that generally move fairly close to the ground, and (c) birds of a size and weight varying from the Ovenbird up to the small thrushes. Larger birds, such as Brown Thrashers, were often able to work themselves out of the nets after a while, and smaller birds frequently either did not have the weight to force the net open or simply passed through the mesh. The dates of operation were also important, for if the station had been kept open later, Myrtle Warblers, Slate-colored Juncos, and White-throated Sparrows would have made up a much higher percentage of the birds trapped. Earlier operation would have probably resulted in more *Empidonax* flycatchers and more of some of the warblers.

As in the previous two years, the Catbird, the Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes, and the American Redstart were in the top five in number of birds banded. For some inexplicable reason, the Veery was fifth this year, with 334 birds trapped as compared to only 34 in 1965. The 44 Sharp-shinned Hawks were nearly twice the previous maximum and were especially noteworthy since such a small proportion that hit the nets were actually captured. Some 75 *Empidonax* flycatchers were captured, and all four species were in reasonably comparable numbers. Identification of these was improved this year by the use of a new publication (Phillips, Howe, and Lanyon, 1966) in addition to the guide used in previous years (Robbins, 1959). Nevertheless, it was felt advisable to secure a specimen of each, and on 16 September the writer collected one each of the Yellow-bellied, Traill's, and Least Flycatchers. (An Acadian Flycatcher had previously been collected here on 5 October 1965.)

Wood Thrushes were in unusually good numbers with 84 banded versus only 16 in 1965 and 3 in 1964. Perhaps the most unusual bird was the Mourning Warbler trapped on 24 September. This might well have been identified as a Connecticut Warbler had not some measurements been taken. This bird had a wing chord of 61 mm. Most of the common winter residents were in smaller numbers than in 1965, indicating that the migration was later in 1966. (KIBOR 65 closed on 17 October versus 16 October for KIBOR 66.) These winter birds included Brown Creeper, both kinglets, Myrtle Warbler, and Slate-colored Junco. There were two returns from previous years. A Cardinal banded on 17 September 1965 (Scott) was retrapped on 30 September 1966, and a Carolina Chickadee originally banded on 2 October 1965 (Hacker) was caught again on 8 October 1966. No birds banded elsewhere were trapped.

A number of interesting visual observations were made, mainly of diurnally migrating birds. (All counts are by the writer unless otherwise indicated.) The first flock of Canada Geese (5 birds) flew over the banding station on 21 September (W. P. Smith). No sizable flocks of Broad-winged Hawks were seen, the largest count being 55 on 16 September. October 15 was the best hawk day, however, and totals included 42 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 52 Red-tailed Hawks, and 101 Sparrow Hawks. Dorothy Mitchell had a peak count of 21 Ospreys on 13 October. A number of Red-headed Woodpeckers flew over the

banding station culminating in a count of 43 on 25 September (Smith). This was especially outstanding since the observer felt he saw only a small fraction of the birds that actually passed over. Other peak counts of migrating birds included 82 Eastern Kingbirds on 11 September, 950 Blue Jays (plus 16 banded) on 15 October, 310 Bobolinks on 12 September, 33 Baltimore Orioles on 11 September, and 21 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks (including 9 banded) on 16 September.

The operation of this banding station is expected to be continued in future years, and it is hoped that it can be expanded and improved. Those wishing to help in this project, whether banders or not, are urged to contact one of the banders mentioned in this note.

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115 Kennondale Lane, Richmond, Virginia 23226

SEVERAL NASHVILLE WARBLER OCCURRENCES IN VIRGINIA DURING 1967 BREEDING SEASON

CHARLES E. STEVENS

As part of the 1967 VSO Foray the writer had occasion to visit, via the Signal Knob Trail, some of the high points at the northern terminus of Massanutten Mountain. The range of mountains ends rather abruptly near Strasburg as the resistant Massanutten Sandstone terminates, and the ridges drop away sharply to the shales and limestones of the Shenandoah Valley below. With relatively low altitudes prevailing on the ridges here, the second-growth hardwoods, predominately oak, support few Alleghenian bird species.

On 9 June, much to my surprise, I heard a Nashville Warbler (*Vermivora ruficapilla*) singing repeatedly in young chestnut oaks with a blueberry understory at 2250 feet on the north side of Meneka Peak, just inside Warren County. I was most disappointed in never being able to get sight of the bird.

Several hours later and a mile farther south on the ridge, in Shenandoah County, at 1800 feet I heard another Nashville. Here the warbler's habitat was a 20-30 year old burn consisting of scattered pitch pine and oak scrub with a waist high laurel, blueberry, and huckleberry understory. The bird moved from pine to pine singing persistently. Considerable difficult stalking through the scrub was required to finally obtain a sight of it. The warbler sang at least a hundred times while I was near. Its only avian associate was the Rufous-sided Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) which was common in the area.

In addition to these records, Bruce Davenport, of Charlottesville, and I heard a Nashville sing a number of times in oak-maple-laurel scrub on the steep rocky north face of Old Rag Mountain, Madison County, at 3100 feet elevation on 28 May 1967.

Having a northern breeding distribution, the Nashville is known to occur as far south in our part of the country as Garrett County in the Alleghenies

of western Maryland, and along Allegheny Front and some of the high plateau to the west of it in northern West Virginia. Its habitat preference is shrubby openings, wooded edges, and second-growth with clearings. These locations may be either boggy or dry.

Whether the occurrences in Virginia cited above point to any recent range extension southward or merely represent summer vagrancy is not known at this time, although the second possibility would seem less likely. Since there is a considerable amount of habitat similar to that of the Massanutten locations to be found in the Virginia mountains, there is almost no end of places to look for Nashvilles. The Virginia locations given above are certainly deserving of further study.

615 Preston Place, Charlottesville, Va. 22903

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE AT CHINCOTEAGUE REFUGE

CARL W. CARLSON

On 25 February 1967, while on an exploring trip, our party (Mr. and Mrs. R. N. Moore, Miss Jo Walker, and the writer) visited Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge in the hope of finding some birds there in spite of the excessive wind and low temperature. At the western edge of Impoundment A we found a flock of Snow Geese feeding in the tall grass some 200 yards from the road. The flock was strung out and "feeding west" into the wind.

While we searched the flock for Blue Geese, the dozen birds at the eastern end of the line took wing to fly to the head of the procession. To do this they had to fight the heavy wind (well over 30 m.p.h., I am sure) and thus flew slowly, giving us a good chance to examine them.

I focused on the one dark bird and found myself looking at the black belly slashes of an adult White-fronted Goose, *Anser albifrons* (Scopoli), and pointed it out to the others who had time to focus on it. I had a good view of the white facemark and thought the bill looked more yellow than pink. As the bird alighted, its spread tail showed the black-white banding so like the Canada's pattern. We stayed nearly 30 minutes trying for another view, but the bird remained hidden in the deep grass.

(Editor's note: This bird remained at Chincoteague Refuge through March and April and was seen repeatedly and photographed by the Refuge staff, according to Edward F. Folsom, Assistant Refuge Manager. The last reported sighting was by Bruce D. Carrick on 29 April 1967.)

5706 Lone Oak Drive, Bethesda, Maryland 20014

THE 1967 SKYLAND FIELD TRIP

JAMES W. EIKE

Twenty-eight VSO members participated in the field trip to Skyline Drive on 24 and 25 June 1967.

The pre-breakfast walks rewarded a small group with a wide variety of bird songs, and such pleasures as Cedar Waxwings at their nest, a family of Black-throated Green Warblers feeding near the cabins, and a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak flying low overhead in the morning sunlight.

On Saturday the group went down White Oak Canyon, lunching at the foot of the second falls, always a spot of great beauty. We were treated to the sight of several deer at very close range, and an abundance of Veery song. We observed several instances of warblers parasitized by Cowbirds, but saw

few nesting birds. There was one Red-breasted Nuthatch. In the afternoon we visited Big Meadows for the lovely song of the Vesper Sparrow, the antics of a Yellow-breasted Chat, and the wild strawberries.

The evening chorus of the Veeries made us regret the time spent on dinner at the peak of their song.

On Sunday we climbed Mary's Rock, high above Thornton Gap. The wind at the summit was blowing about 40 miles per hour, and birds were quiet, but the crystal clear air was excellent for color photography and the view on all sides. While bemoaning the lack of Ravens, we spotted one drinking from a small pool in a crevice nearby. A Junco nest with four eggs beside the trail was of interest. The group dispersed about 1:00 p.m.

We were pleased to note that the Least Flycatcher sang constantly near the Skyland office, as it has for the past several years. Pine Warblers about the cabins and the ever-present song of the Indigo Buntings along the Drive were other highlights. A total of 56 species were seen.

2231 North Tuckahoe Street, Falls Church, Virginia 22043

THE 1967 WACHAPREAGUE FIELD TRIP

JAMES W. EIKE

The maximum quota of 30 members were booked into the Wachapreague Hotel for the nights of 18 and 19 August 1967. There were two last-minute cancellations. However, the third floor balcony was well-filled on both evenings for pleasant visiting, enjoyment of the late sunlight across the great marshes and observation of the day's fishing catch. It was decided that the quality and quantity of food was up to par, and there was much discussion of the refurbishing of the beloved old hotel.

After an enormous breakfast the VSO fleet of the Miss Barbara, Timmy Kay, Sea Robin, I Wonder, and Silver Spray left the dock about 8:00 a.m. The first stop was Club House Point. This was, as always, a joy to all. We marvelled at the continual increase in Louisiana Herons here. There were eight species of herons and egrets, and nesting in every phase from unpipped eggs to immature birds capable of fairly good flight. The shrubs on the point appeared to be covered with bloom when the birds were at rest, and when flushed, there was a cloud of them circling about us. The presence of a few Glossy Ibis added to the scene, as did the sight of immature Snowy Egrets swimming quite capably in the small channels when frightened from the bushes.

Cedar Island produced the usual great numbers of birds of many species, including one Hudsonian Godwit and one Marbled Godwit observed by one party.

Our last stop was at Dawson's Shoals. Here the highlight was the colony of breeding Royal Terns, with the almost unbelievable sight of "cowboys" Scott, Ellis, *et al.*, herding about 200 young terns out across the beach in what appeared to be a well-disciplined military column, marred only by an occasional young Black Skimmer breaking ranks to race away, then hastily running back to the company of the others. Perhaps more amusing, when we left them alone, they returned to the former nest area in the same orderly fashion. We have pictures to prove it!

On Sunday we visited Chincoteague Refuge and Assateague Island. A half-dozen Upland Plovers, and clouds of mosquitoes, greeted us at a stop at the Wallops Island installation. The Refuge was highly productive, as usual, with 70 species being seen, including a fine view of a Hudsonian Godwit near the service road. The party left for home shortly after noon.

It is certainly regrettable that problems of housing and boat accommodations

limit the number of members for field trips to this outstanding area. Appreciation is due Tripmaster Rothery for arrangements for this trip and the one to Skyland.

2231 North Tuckahoe Street, Falls Church, Virginia 22043

IN MEMORIAM: BERNARD THIELEN

Bernard Thielen was born on 16 November 1907 and died of a brain tumor on 1 October 1967. He was buried at West Point. For the last four years of his life Colonel Thielen was an active, loyal, and popular member of the VSO. His wife, Mrs. Mary Thielen, survives him.

At nine years of age in Iowa, Buck Thielen was given a book on birds. He remembered identifying over forty species in a short time. The interest then developed he never lost.

After a year in the United States Army he finished successfully in a competitive examination and entered West Point. As a second lieutenant he mourned the passing of the horse artillery. In Hawaii he fell in love with an army nurse. He and Mary were married at the Santa Barbara Mission by a young priest who was his brother. According to the bride, Buck's father remarked that since both of his boys chose "parasitical careers" he hoped they would be happy.

When World War II came Thielen was at West Point teaching English, a subject in which he was singularly talented. At once he requested release and signed up for the Armed Forces. Despite a couple of side tours at the Pentagon, he eventually got his desire for active service. That service was in the Pacific, in New Guinea and in the Leyte Gulf landing in the Philippines. He wrote home that New Guinea would be a good retirement place, with fascinating birds and flowers, even though the insects were of triple size.

Toward the end of the war he returned to the Pentagon. He and a navy colleague testified as witnesses in the Pearl Harbor investigation. Later he was selected to design the Surrender Document, to deliver it to MacArthur and the Japanese Emperor, and then present it to President Truman.

In 1947, when the Services decided to send one officer each to the Joint Staff College in England, the Thielens sailed on the *America* on a cold day in January. Buck liked the English and their expressions became his with ease. At the end of this course the Thielens were flown to Budapest, where he was to report on the way in which the Russians observed the Peace Treaty, or failed to. The Thielens were delighted with Hungary, its food and its people. After two years came another hitch at the Pentagon. Later came more service in Europe, and to NATO on Eisenhower's staff in Paris.

When he retired he and Mary built a home in New Hampshire. After eight years of struggle with high taxes, they came to the mountains of Virginia, getting a home near Floyd, just off the Blue Ridge Parkway. At this time Colonel Thielen joined the VSO. In 1965 he was elected a member of the Executive Committee, serving faithfully until his last illness. When he was called to be the head of the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, he continued his interest in our group, giving a special welcome to VSO members who visited the sanctuary.

Colonel Thielen published the following articles in *The Raven*: "Blue Ridge Foray," September 1965; "Peregrine Falcon in Mt. Rogers—White Top Saddle," December 1965; "Back Bay Field Trip," March 1966. (This sketch was prepared from notes furnished by Mrs. Thielen.)

J. J. Murray

IN MEMORIAM: BEN B. DULANEY

Ben Bane Dulaney, a former sports editor and day city editor of The Washington Post, died of cancer on 2 November 1967 in Roanoke, Virginia.

Mr. Dulaney, 56, had been manager of news and community services for the Norfolk and Western Railroad since 1947.

A native of Washington, he attended schools here and graduated from the University of Virginia, where he was a member of the Raven Society and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Mr. Dulaney later earned a master's degree at the University.

After working as a reporter and editorial writer for the Richmond News Leader, Mr. Dulaney joined The Washington Post in 1935, where he was day city editor from 1937 to 1939 and sports editor from 1939 to 1943.

"He could always get the most out of you in a nice way," recalled a reporter who had worked under the friendly, outgoing editor.

During World War II, Mr. Dulaney was employed by the Office of War Information here and also worked in the Washington bureau of Time magazine. In 1946-47 he served as acting public information director for the Justice Department.

In Roanoke he was a charter member of that city's Historical Society and editor of the group's journal. He also belonged to the Virginia Society of Ornithology and the Railway Historical Society.

Mr. Dulaney had an intense interest in railroading long before joining Norfolk and Western. He often could be found with a supply of railroad timetables in his pocket, part of his large collection of railroad memorabilia.

Mr. Dulaney is survived by his mother, Mrs. Paul Dulaney, and a sister, Jane Dulaney White, of Glade Spring, Va.; a brother, Paul S., of Charlottesville; a daughter, Mrs. Ian R. Gilbert, of New York, and two stepdaughters, Mrs. Lawrence L. Koontz Jr. and Mrs. J. Robert Thomas Jr., of Roanoke. His wife, the former Mary Herbert, died last year.

[From *The Washington Post*, with one small change]

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J. W. Eike, 2231 N. Tuckahoe St., Falls Church, Va. 22043

NEWS OF THE LOCAL CHAPTERS

Northern Virginia Chapter

The Northern Virginia Chapter had a full schedule of field trips and meetings during the 1966-67 season. Among the most interesting of these were two "ladies' day" trips (girls only) to Great Falls on September 29 and May 18. Others included trips to Gunston Hall on October 8, Burke Lake on March 25, and Lebanon on April 15.

The annual meeting and outing was held on April 1 at Arthur Fast's home and banding station, where the members enjoyed an illustrated talk on Antarctica by Mr. Harry K. Bourne of the British Embassy. New Officers elected at this meeting were President, J. Enoch Johnson; Vice President, Robert E. Furcolow; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Robert Beal. On behalf of the entire Chapter, Miss Helen Goldstick presented a token of appreciation to the outgoing President, James W. Eike, who had been instrumental in starting the Chapter in 1954 and had served as its president since that time.

A hawk watch was planned for September 23-24 at Loft Mountain as the first activity of the 1967-68 season.—Robert J. Watson

New VSO Chapter

Miss Camilla Louise Wills and Mrs. George Paschal have organized a new bird club in the Charlottesville area. Affiliation as a chapter of the VSO was approved on October 28, 1967, under the name of The Bird Club of Charlottesville and Albemarle.

At the time of the request for affiliation the club had 42 members, with promise of perhaps 20 more in the near future. The club has held a number of excellent programs including field trips, and has been active in projects to attract birds.

The officers are:

President—Miss Camilla Louise Wills

First Vice President—Mr. Jerome St. Paul

Second Vice President and Program Chairman—Mrs. George Paschal

Secretary—Mrs. Earl Andrews

Treasurer—Mrs. John Myers

Co-Chairmen of the Grounds Committee—Mr. Earl Anderson and Mr. J. M. St. Paul

Program Committee—Mrs. George Paschal and Mr. Frazier

The Society welcomes this club, and extends its appreciation for the work of Miss Wills and Mrs. Paschal. We are also most grateful to the club for agreeing to serve as hosts to the Society for the 1968 annual meeting.—James W. Eike

Lynchburg Bird Club

Quality programs of the Lynchburg Bird Club bring such good attendance that our 75-seat meeting hall frequently overflows and extra chairs are needed. The program committee headed by Mrs. S. A. Bailey brought a series of these hall-fillers last season.

Something new and different was the club's April visit to the Lynchburg Public Library for an information-packed evening on Books and Birds. This event was planned and beautifully carried out by Mary Walker.

Mrs. Nancy Watkins of the library staff introduced the club members to the facilities most valuable to bird students and distributed book lists of the library's ornithological volumes. Miss Walker introduced various club members who told briefly about the material each had brought to add to the extensive exhibits of bird books, pictures, art works, antiques and curios that occupied the long library tables. William S. Hooks, club president, shared his manuscript diaries and notes of Robert Ridgway. A rising sixth-grader, Robert Tillotson, showed his 4-H bird project. A photo-engraver explained an exhibit about the processing of color plates; Joe Mathias showed how to operate the library listening equipment for recorded material.

Attractive bird insignia perched on every shelf and area where ornithological material is to be found in the library and guided members as they browsed among the books and exhibits, or drifted toward a sumptuous refreshment table. A brief business session of the club was convened to vote that the club donate annually to the library a subscription to *The Raven*.

Birders leaving the meeting were treated to an unexpected bit of birding, a display of nighthawks swooping and calling around the lighted parking lot adjacent to the library.—Myriam P. Moore

CONSERVATION CORNER

THE SALEM CHURCH SITUATION

Carter (Dams and wild rivers: Looking beyond the pork barrel *Science* 158 (3798):233-242) discusses, among other things, the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers' proposal for the construction of a \$79.5 million dam on the Rappahannock River at the Salem Church site some five miles upriver from Fredericksburg. This structure would create a 21,300-acre reservoir; it has the support of the Corps' Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors, the Secretary of the Army, the Bureau of the Budget and, of course, the rural electric cooperatives as well as the politicians and business interests in the Fredericksburg area. In addition, the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, which conducted a recreational study of this proposal at the invitation and expense of the Corps, makes much of the "flat-water" recreational opportunities which the dam would make possible despite the proximity of the Rappahannock estuaries and the Chesapeake Bay. This project, originally conceived in 1946 as a flood control venture, now

claims only 2% of the total annual benefits as flood control and 64% for recreation and hydropower benefits. The 71,000 kilowatts of "dependable capacity" planned would constitute less than 2% of the peak capacity of the Virginia Electric Power Company's expected capacity by 1970. Therefore, the "flat-water" recreational benefits loom large in the claimed benefits of this proposal. It should be noted further that the Salem Church proposal is a "project-by-project approach", not an integral part of a well thought-out river basin development plan.

Individuals interested in outdoor recreation question the greater recreational merits claimed for the "flat-water" opportunities as compared with the current "wild river" recreational opportunities. Carter concludes ". . . it is clear that, with the Corps of Engineers and the other water-project construction agencies scouting every river and creek bottom for dam sites, sharp eyes had best be watching." An aroused general public, far enough removed from the barrel to be unconcerned with the pork, is the only recourse for inhibiting locally-pushed, project-by-project proposals, many of which are being "sold" because of claimed recreational benefits.—Henry S. Mosby, Department of Forestry and Wildlife, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, Virginia 24061.

Mrs. Mark D. Snyder, Waynesboro, Conservation Chairman of the Augusta Bird Club, suggests the quarterly magazine, *The Living Wilderness*, published by The Wilderness Society, as another excellent source of conservation news.

Ruskin S. Freer
1158 Timberlake Drive, Lynchburg, Virginia

REVIEWS

Combination List for Birds of North America, by James A. Tucker. The Academy Press, Box 157, Maitland, Florida. \$2.00 (25% off on orders of 12 or more). 1966

On 24 pages, 9x12, are listed all the birds which may reasonably be expected in North America north of the Mexican border. In between each pair of large sheets, listing the species, are half-size sheets, with columns for date and place each species was first seen, local migration records, year lists, and columns for each of the states. Subspecies are not listed. The paper is strong, the printing clear, and the binding firm and flexible, so that the book will lie flat when opened. This should be a very useful book, particularly for birders who do much travelling.

Traveler's List and Checklist for Birds of North America. By the same author as the book above. At 30¢, with 25% off on orders of 30 or more. It has the same list as the larger book, with 11 columns on each page for trip listing, and blank pages for notes and addresses. This should also be useful.

NEWS AND NOTES

ROMIE WATERFIELD RECEIVES AWARD. According to Bob Hutchinson, Outdoor Editor of the *Virginia-Pilot*, Romie Waterfield, maintenance man at Back Bay Refuge for the past 11 years, has received a merit plaque and \$100 check from the Department of the Interior for building a replica of an old-time commercial sink box for shooting wildfowl.

EBBA AWARD. The Eastern Bird Banding Association is again sponsoring an award for student research in ornithology that includes bird banding as a part of the research. Applications, with research description, properly signed

by the student's department head, must be received prior to 29 February 1968. F. R. Scott, 115 Kennondale Lane, Richmond, Virginia 23226, is chairman of the award committee. An information sheet, giving the details, may be secured from him.

NORTH AMERICAN NEST RECORD CARD PROGRAM. Those who are interested in helping in this research should apply to Miss Edith Edgerton, Nest-record Card Program, Laboratory of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, N. Y. 14850.

HOUSE FINCH REPORTS WANTED. Arthur Fast asks banders and others to keep data on House Finches this winter and send it to him by 1 July. His address is 4924 Rock Spring Rd., Arlington, Va. 22207.

BLUE GOOSE IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA. Dwight R. Chamberlain, of V. P. I., makes the following report: "On 14 November 1966 Michael Newhouse, Harold Prince, Walter Tilghman, and I were crouched in our duck blinds on the New River southwest of McCoy, Virginia. This opening day of the duck season was cold, and the river was laced with a light fog. At approximately 7:30 a.m., a Blue Goose (*Chen caerulescens*) lit near our decoys and swam within 100 feet of our blinds. A careful identification was made. According to Dr. J. W. Murray of Blacksburg, Virginia, this is the only record of a Blue Goose in Montgomery County."

NORTHERN PHALAROPE AT WAYNESBORO. Mrs. Ruth S. Snyder (1245 Chatham Road, Waynesboro, Virginia 22980), Mrs. Thomas W. Mehler, and Monroe Couper saw a Northern Phalarope in South River at Waynesboro on 12 October 1967.

FORSTER'S AND BLACK TERNS AT WAYNESBORO. Mrs. Ruth S. Snyder and Mrs. John R. Henkel saw 2 Forster's Terns in winter plumage and 11 Black Terns at the Waynesboro Airport pond on 24 August 1967.

LATE BROWN THRASHER AT WAYNESBORO. Mrs. Thomas W. Mehler had a Brown Thrasher in her yard at Waynesboro on 21 November 1967.

CERULEAN WARBLER AT WOODBERRY FOREST. Peter Mehring reported a male Cerulean Warbler on the Woodberry Forest School grounds on 29 October 1966. He noted all distinctive marks.

LATE SCARLET TANAGER AT WAYNESBORO. Mrs. Ruth S. Snyder saw a dead Scarlet Tanager that had been picked up at Waynesboro about 10 November 1967, a very late date.

SNOW BUNTINGS IN ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY. The J. J. Murrays, on a visit on 20 November 1967 to the Boy Scout Camp Lake between Goshen Pass and Goshen, discovered a flock of some 25 Snow Buntings. They were, of course, in winter plumage. We watched them for some time on the dam at the lake. With this bird the Rockbridge County list reaches 275 species and subspecies, which, apart from the Washington area and coastal section, seems to be the largest Virginia local list.

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[Number of Members: 1965, 520; 1966, 540; 1967, 559]

CORRIGENDA. A. In the 1966-67 Christmas Bird Count report (*Raven*, Vol. 38, No. 1, March) an error got into the first page of Table 1 on page 10. The tabulations for the first five birds were inverted and garbled for the counts numbered 17 to 23. The correct figures are as follows: Common Loon, 6 at Roanoke, 5 at Bristol; Horned Grebe, 1 at Waynesboro, 6 at Bristol. All other spaces in this part of the table should be blank.

B. William C. Russell (Fish and Wildlife Service, Laurel, Maryland 20810) writes that the three Whimbrels credited by the Buckleys to the airplane records (*Raven*, 38, 3, 41) on the Cape Charles Christmas Count were made instead by the Terborgh-Armistead boat party. The birds were, as the Buckleys pointed out, in the marshes north of Smith Island.

INDEX TO VOLUME 38—1967

- Avocets at Lexington, 36
 Bluebird, lower Shenandoah, 54
 Bond, Gorman M., Bohemian Waxwing at Alexandria, Virginia, 18
 Buckley, P. A. and F. G., The Current Status of Certain Birds in the Virginia Capes Area. I. Fall and Winter, 1966-1967, 39
 Bunting, Lark, Back Bay, 48
 Burford, Mrs. Floy C., 48
 Carlson, Carl W., White-fronted Goose at Chincoteague, 65
 Chamberlain, Dwight R., 23 (one-legged Crow); Review of "The Vocalization and Syringeal Anatomy of the Common Crow," 46

- Chickadee, Black-capped, lower Shenandoah, 54
Christmas Counts, 3
Clapp, Roger B., A Third Harris' Sparrow Record for Virginia, 19
Conservation, 35, 70
Corrigenda, 82
Creepers, Brown, in summer in Montgomery County, 47
Crossbill, Red, 36
Crow, another one-legged, 23; roost in Augusta County, 24
Crow, Fish, in lower Shenandoah, 53
Dickcissel, Lexington, 24, 36; Montgomery County, 45; Warren County, 56
Dismal Swamp, Swainson's Warbler nest, 36
Dowitcher, 42
Drudge, Henry, The Breeding Habits of the Ovenbird, 28
Duck, Black, in summer, 52
Duck, Wood, nesting, 52
Eagle in Distress, 23
Edwards, Ernest P., Katherine Macdonald, and Emmy Savage, Junco with White Wing-bars at Sweet Briar, Virginia, 22; American Golden Plover at Sweet Briar, Virginia, in November, 31
Ernest P. Edwards, Glossy Ibis at Sweet Briar, Virginia, 32
Eike, James W., Another VSO Chapter, 34, News of Local Chapters, 22, 69; The 1967 Skyland Field Trip, 65; Wachapreague Field Trip, 66
Egret, Snowy, at Lynchburg, 36
Eider, Common, 49
Eider, King, 49
Flycatcher, Least, 53
Freer, Ruskin S., Conservation Corner, 35, 70; on Kentucky Warbler in the Blue Ridge, 36
Grebe, Eared, 40
Grebe, Pied-billed, in summer, Winchester, 52
Grebe, Red-necked, 40
Goose, White-fronted, 65
Grosbeak, Blue, 56
Grosbeak, Rose-breasted, lower Shenandoah, 56
Gull, Black-headed, 44
Gull, Glaucous, 43
Gull, Little, 44
Hampton—Newport News, new birds listed, 35
Heron, Little Blue, Albemarle County, in spring, 32
Ibis, Glossy, at Sweet Briar, 32
Junco, Hybrid, 20; with white wing-bars at Sweet Briar, 22; Oregon Junco types, 44
Kingbird, Western, Virginia coast, 44
Kiptopeke Beach, 1966 Banding Results, 57
Macdonald, Katherine, 31
Massart, Mrs. W. J., Mattamuskeet Field Trip, 21
Mitchells, Sydney, 35, 47
Murray, J. J., William Cabell Rives: Distinguished Virginia Ornithologist, 27; Forster's Terns at Lexington, 47
News and Notes, 35, 46, 71
Obituary: Ben B. Dulaney, 68
Obituary: Bernard Thielen, 67
Ospreys in Tidewater, 47
Osprey, in summer in Clarke County, 52
Ovenbird, breeding habits, 28
Plover, American Golden, 31
Raven, in lower Shenandoah, 53

- Redstart, 55
Reichardt, Jack, 32
Richards, Keith C., Adult Little Blue Heron in Albemarle County, Virginia, 32
Reviews, 46, 71
Rives, William Cabell, 27
Roane, C. W., Dickcissels in Montgomery County, 45
Rothery, W. A., The 1966 Back Bay Field Trip, 21
Ruff, 43
Sandpiper, Least, 42
Sandpiper, Purple, 41
Sandpiper, Semipalmated, 41
Sandpiper, Western, 41
Savage, Emmy, 31
Scott, F. R., Virginia Christmas Bird Counts, 1966-67 Season, 3; The VSO Foray to the Lower Valley, 51; Banding Results at Kiptopeke Beach—1966, 57
Shear, Myron and Douglas, Loggerhead Shrike Feeding on a Cardinal, 24
Snyder, Mrs. Mark D., Hybrid Slate-colored Junco x White-throated Sparrow in Waynesboro, 20
Sparrow, Harris', 19
Sparrow, Vesper, lower Shenandoah, 56
Sparrow, White-throated, hybrid, 20
Steirly, C. C., The Hairy Woodpecker As a Destroyer of Elm Bark Beetles, 19; An Eagle in Distress, 23; A Note on the Feeding of the Tufted Titmouse, 24.
Stevens, Charles E., Exploring the Beartowns, 16; Several Nashville Warbler Occurrences in Virginia during 1967 Breeding Season, 64
Swallow, Cliff, at Middletown, 53
Tanager, Summer, lower Shenandoah, 56
Tern, Forster's, Lexington, 47
Thielen, Bernard, In Memoriam, 67
Trott, John, VSO speaker, 33
Vireo, Solitary, lower Shenandoah, 54
Vireo, White-eyed, lower Shenandoah, 54
VSO, Christmas Counts, 3; 1966 Back Bay Field Trip, 21; Mattamuskeet Field Trip, 21; News of the Local Chapters, 22, 69; 1967 Annual Meeting, Richmond, 32; VSO Emblem, 33; Spring Creek Bird Club, 33; VSO Officers and Committees, 33, 68; Amendments to Constitution, 33; Actions by Executive Committee, 34; Spring Creek Bird Club, 34; Membership List, 1967, 73; Skyland Field Trip, 65; Wachapreague Field Trip, 66; VSO Foray to the Lower Valley, 51
Warbler, Cerulean, 55
Warbler, Golden-winged, lower Shenandoah, 54
Warbler, Kentucky, Blue Ridge, 36; lower Shenandoah, 55
Warbler, Nashville, 55, 64
Warbler, Prothonotary, Montgomery County, 47; lower Shenandoah, 54
Warbler, Swainson's, nest, 36
Watson, Robert J., 1967 VSO meeting, 32; Local chapters, 69
Waxwing, Bohemian, Alexandria, 18
Whimbrel, 41
Woodpecker, Red-headed, 53
Womeldorf, Joshua, 36, 47
Wren, Bewick's, Newport News, 47; lower Shenandoah, 54