

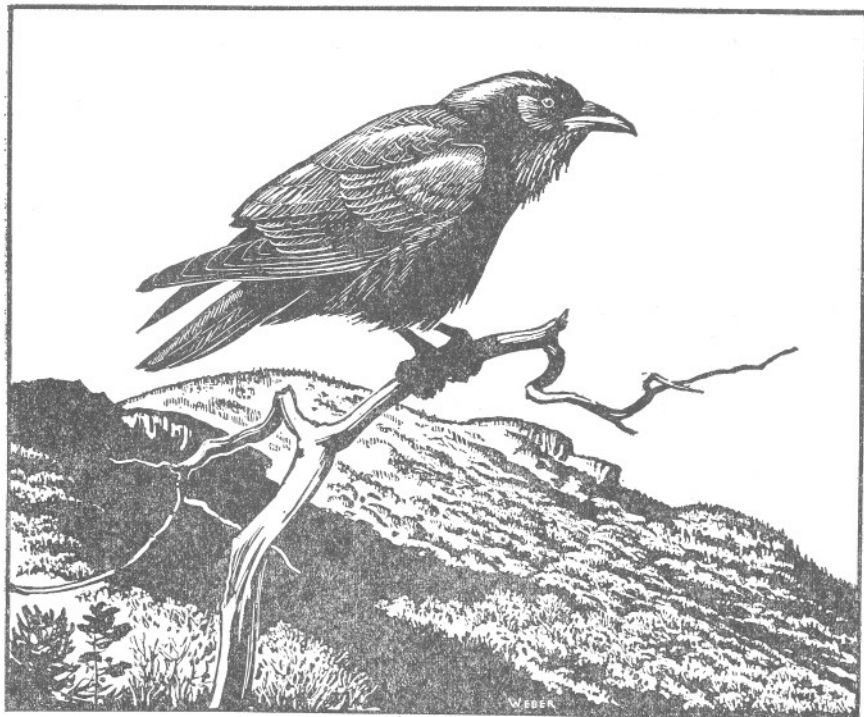
# The Raven

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Courtesy of Walter Weber

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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—1967-68 SEASON

F. R. SCOTT

It seems difficult for a Christmas bird count season to go by without some sort of record being set. This year a record number of species was reported, 189, versus 186 in the previous season. But just to show how fragile these records can be, 12 of these species were seen on one count alone, the Cape Charles one. Over the years interest in the Christmas counts has shown a slow and steady, if somewhat irregular, increase. Fortunately, the increase has not been necessarily in the number of counts submitted but rather in the coverage of existing counts.

This year 25 counts were submitted, one less than the record 26 in the 1954-55 and 1965-66 seasons. Some 240 different observers participated and put in a total of 1046 party-hours of effort, both of these figures being second only to those of two years ago. Back in 1954 John Grey (*Raven*, 25: 5-8) reviewed all the Virginia Christmas counts up to that time and determined that some 184 species had been recorded in all. Since then Virginia field observers have added 60 more, and the cumulative Christmas count list now stands at 244. Of these, 5 appear to be new this year: Common Eider, Yellow Rail, American Avocet, Black-legged Kittiwake, and Oregon Junco. All of the normal birds were recorded, and among the most interesting of the "irregulars" that were missed were the Green Heron, Semipalmated Plover, and Black Skimmer. Five counts surpassed 100 species each, and Cape Charles equaled its last year's record count of 155. The weather over-all was probably better than normal. Although 13 counts reported at least some snow on the ground, this is normally not a hindrance unless it is deep enough to reduce coverage by the observers. Only three counts reported precipitation heavy enough to hinder field work.

The count tabulation in Table 1 is more or less in order of distance inland from the coast. Counts 1-10 were all on the Coastal Plain, 11-15 were on the Piedmont, and the rest were from the Blue Ridge westward (see Figure 1). Supporting details for each count are given farther along in this summary.

Over-all, it was a fairly uneventful count season in spite of the records noted above. There were no real "flights" of any consequence, and few birds were in abnormal numbers. The most notable waterfowl reports were the 30 Blue-winged Teal at Newport News and, of course, the Common Eider at Little Creek. The proportion of wintering Red-tailed Hawks to wintering Red-shouldered Hawks appears to be continuing its increase. This year 93 Red-tails were reported on 19 of the counts versus 35 Red-shoulders on 11 counts. The Red-tail count was markedly helped by the 23 seen at Cape Charles, perhaps a Virginia winter record, but the comparison is still significant. The Golden Eagle at Cape Charles appears to be a third count record. Bald Eagles away from the Coastal Plain are always unusual, and so the one at Roanoke was quite noteworthy. They might be expected at any of the large inland lakes. (Several have been reported at Bristol in recent winters.) While a number of Ospreys have been reported on Christmas counts over the years, the 6 at Hopewell were undoubtedly a record winter count. The Yellow Rail at Cape Charles was a first for a Virginia Christmas count.

Shorebirds were in good numbers, especially along the coast, with Cape Charles reporting record counts of 210 American Oystercatchers and 42 Marbled Godwits, the latter only the fourth Virginia count record. Common Snipe have been increasing recently in inland Virginia, and the 22 in Rockingham County were notable. The American Avocet at Cape Charles appears to be a first for a state count, although in recent years a number have been recorded in the fall into November. In spite of a rash of Glaucous Gull reports recently, the one at Cape Charles is only the second count record, and the Black-legged Kittiwake at Chincoteague was a first.

Some 70 Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported on 12 counts, the highest number in 5 years. The Western Kingbird at Chesapeake was a third count record, the others being seen in 1959 and 1962, both at Back Bay. It was a poor year for Red-breasted Nuthatches with only 6 birds reported on 4 counts. A Brown-headed Nuthatch at Roanoke was perhaps a first record for Virginia right at the Blue Ridge. A Wood Thrush at Hopewell and 2 at Roanoke were only the second and third Virginia count records, and the Gray-cheeked Thrush at Chesapeake was the fifth Christmas count record for the state. The Eastern Bluebird count this year was 155 reported on 18 counts, or 15 per 100 party-hours, an encouraging doubling of last year's count but still the second lowest figure at least since 1955. Brooke had the privilege of reporting the third Virginia count record of the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Curiously, the last one, in 1955, was also seen at Brooke. A House Finch at Newport News was a second Virginia count record, and an Oregon Junco at Cape Charles a first.

Since the winter of 1955-56 the Evening Grosbeak has been following a distinct 2-year cycle of abundance in Virginia, so it was confidently predicted that there would be another flight this year. But only 22 birds were reported on 3 counts. What happened? Is this cycle now broken? A few more years should tell us whether this was the "worst of the flight years" or the "best of the non-flight years." Certainly the Purple Finch, another of the erratic "northern finches," was in quite good numbers.

**1. Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center 2 miles north of center of Chincoteague as in previous 13 years; open farmland 9%, insular pine woodland 12%, mainland woodland 13%, scrub pine and myrtle thickets 10%, fresh-water marshes and impoundments 10%, salt marshes 22%, sheltered bays 19%, dunes 2%, sand flats and beaches 3%).—Dec. 28; 6:20 a.m. to 5 p.m. Heavily overcast with intermittent heavy rain; temp. 33° to 48°; wind ENE, 5-25 m.p.h.; ground bare, water open. Twenty-five observers in 8 parties. Total party-hours, 87 (56 on foot, 28 by car, 3 by motorboat); total party-miles, 249 (54 on foot, 180 by car, 15 by boat). Observers: J. M. Abbott, Harry Armistead, Danny Bystrak, Paul Bystrak, Paul G. DuMont, Philip A. DuMont, Edward F. Folsom, J. Kenneth Gabler, O. D. Justice, E. T. McKnight, G. M. Meade, M. C. Newlon, Harold Olson, Chandler S. Robbins, George Robbins, William Russell, F. R. Scott (compiler), N. Shelton, D. R. Simonson, R. L. Smith, C. B. Swift, John Terborgh, John S. Weske, John A. Willoughby, John E. Willoughby. This count included parts of extreme southeastern Worcester Co., Md. Seven of the species reported were seen only in Maryland: Eastern Bluebird, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, Rusty Blackbird, Purple Finch, Vesper Sparrow, and Chipping Sparrow. The Blue-winged Teals were seen by Abbott and Meade, and the Black-legged Kittiwake, a first record for a Virginia Christmas count, by Abbott, who submitted an excellent field sketch made of the bird. The Yellow-breasted Chat was reported by Russell.

**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. 29; 5 a.m. to 6 p.m. Cloudy a.m., clear p.m.; temp. 35° to 48°; wind NW, 15-25 m.p.h.; ground clear, water open. Twenty-three observers in 9 parties. Total party-hours, 123 (102 on foot, 17 by car, 4 by boat); total party-miles, 379 (112 on foot, 252 by car, 15 by boat). Seen in area count period, but not on count day: Glossy Ibis. Observers: Jackson M. Abbott, Henry T. Armistead, Sara Baker, Mike Browne, Mitchell Byrd, Paul G. DuMont, Philip A. DuMont, Luther Goldman, David Green, Gus Hall, H. Lee Jones, Dale Lewis, Mike Newlon, William Russell (compiler), F. R. Scott, Napier Shelton, Don Simonson, Byron Swift, Paul Sykes, Mr. & Mrs. Ray Teele, John W.



Terborgh, John S. Weske. The Golden Eagle, an immature, was clearly seen by Paul DuMont, and the Yellow Rail was flushed from the edge of the salt marsh by Russell. The Whimbrels, Marbled Godwits, and American Avocets were all reported by Armistead and Terborgh and the Glaucous Gull by the DuMont party. The Pileated Woodpecker and White-breasted Nuthatches are both unusual at the south end of the Eastern Shore. The former was seen by Simonson and Swift and the latter by Paul DuMont. Weske submitted detailed notes on his Oregon Junco, and the Lincoln's Sparrows were seen by Abbott.

**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, Stumpy Lake; farmland 8%, pine woodland 10%, deciduous woodland 16%, salt marsh, beach, rivers, bay, ocean 21%, suburbs 45%).—Dec. 27; 4:15 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Clear; temp. 33° to 41°; wind NE, 0-12 m.p.h.; ground bare, water open. Fifteen observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours, 61 (45 on foot, 16 by car); total party-miles, 430 (27 on foot, 403 by car). Seen in area count period, but not on count day: **Dovekie**. Observers: R. L. Anderson, M. M. Browne, Mrs. F. C. Burford, Mrs. D. P. Curtis, Mrs. C. W. Darden, Jr., Mrs. M. H. Dulaney, Mrs. L. Forrest, D. D. Green, Miss G. A. Grimm, H. L. Jones, D. M. Lewis, F. C. Richardson, W. F. Rountrey, Miss M. E. Stephens, P. W. Sykes, Jr. (compiler) (Cape Henry Bird Club and guests). The female Common Eider was watched in direct sunlight with several Common Scoters by Anderson and Sykes, and the light-phase Rough-legged Hawk was studied by Richardson and Rountrey while it was being harassed by two Red-shouldered Hawks. The flock of 95 Western Sandpipers, an unusual winter number for this area, was noted by Jones and Lewis with a few Semipalmated Sandpipers. The Baltimore Oriole, in very dull immature or female plumage, was seen by Richardson and Rountrey.

**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. 30; 4:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. Clear; temp. 30° to 37°; wind NE, 0-8 m.p.h.; ground bare, water open. Seventeen observers in 7 parties. Total party-hours, 76 (52½ on foot, 19 by car, 2 by airplane, 2½ by boat); total party-miles, 534 (59 on foot, 283 by car, 180 by airplane, 12 by boat). Seen in area count period, but not on count day: **Glossy Ibis**, Blue-winged Teal, **Dovekie**. Observers: R. L. Anderson, M. M. Browne, Mrs. F. C. Burford, Mrs. D. P. Curtis, P. D. Daly, A. P. Domalas, G. C. Fentress, Miss G. A. Grimm, Miss V. W. Hank, H. L. Jones, D. M. Lewis, F. C. Richardson, W. F. Rountrey, P. W. Sykes, Jr. (compiler), P. H. Warren, R. L. Waterfield, J. R. Withrow (Cape Henry Bird Club and guests). The adult Yellow-crowned Night Heron and the dark-phase Rough-legged Hawk were both seen by Richardson and Rountrey.

**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, Fentress, Deep Creek, Butts Station; open farmland 25%, river bottom swamp 24%, mixed woodland 25%, deciduous woodland 5%, pine woodland 10%, marsh 1%, suburbs 10%).—Dec. 26; 5:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Clear; temp. 39° to 43°; wind SW-NE, 8-12 m.p.h.; ground bare, water open. Five observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours, 21 (14 on foot, 7 by car); total party-miles, 169 (6 on foot, 163 by car). Observers: Mrs. F. C. Burford, D. D. Green, Miss G. A. Grimm, F. S. Hespenheide, P. W. Sykes, Jr. (compiler) (Cape Henry Bird Club). The Western Kingbird was observed by Burford and Grimm and the Gray-cheeked Thrush by Hespenheide, who noted all the principal field marks and compared it with a Hermit Thrush.

**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. 23; 7 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Snow until 8:15 a.m., then clearing and partly cloudy; temp. 28° to 32°; wind NW, 20-40 m.p.h.; snow cover up to 3 inches in places, water open. Six observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours, 17 (6 on foot, 11 by car); total party-miles, 152 (4 on foot, 148 by car). Seen in area count period, but not on count day: **Eared Grebe**. Observers: Mrs. F. C. Burford, Mr. & Mrs. J. C. Parker, P. W. Sykes, Jr. (compiler), Mr. & Mrs. R. P. Teulings (Cape Henry Bird Club and guests). The Lapland Longspur was carefully noted in a flock of Snow Buntings 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. 30; 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Clear; temp. 25° to 40°; wind NW, 5-15 m.p.h.; ground clear, water open. Twenty observers in 8 parties. Total party-hours, 64 (45 on foot, 19 by car); total party-miles, 391 (37 on foot, 354 by car). Seen in area count period, but not on count day: **Dickcissel**. Observers: Ramsay Al-Salam, Ray Beasley, Viola Beasley, Thula Bieri, Paul Burbank, Mitchell Byrd, Molly Cumming, Scott Downs, Charles Hacker, Gus Hall, Roy Hawkins, Kathy Judkins, Dorothy Mitchell, Mike Mitchell, Ash Rawls, Mildred Rawls, Dot Silsby, Doris Smith, Walter Smith (compiler), Mary Warrington. The Blue-winged Teal and Yellow-breast Chat were reported by Ray Beasley. The Peregrine Falcon and the Pigeon Hawk were both females and were seen together by the Smiths. The Barn Owl (Cumming), House Finch (D. Mitchell), and White-crowned Sparrows (D. Mitchell) were all first count records, though not first records for the area.

**8. Hopewell** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center in Curles Neck as in last 13 years; includes Presquile National Wildlife Refuge, Fort Harrison, Curles Neck, Harrison Lake, Hopewell; open farmland 27%, brushy fields 8%, marshes and river shore 16%, deciduous wooded swamp 11%, woodland 38%).—Dec. 26; 6:40 a.m. to 5 p.m. Partly cloudy to 11 a.m., then clear; temp. 35° to 49°; wind NE, 0-15 m.p.h.; scattered patches of snow in woods, most water open. Eight observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours, 37 (24 on foot, 7 by car, 6 by motorboat); total party-miles, 178 (18 on foot, 145 by car, 15 by boat). Observers: John C. Fields, Mr. & Mrs. David Roszell, F. R. Scott (compiler), Mrs. Warren M. Smith, C. E. Stevens, Miss Mary Tompkins, Miss Henrietta Weidenfeld. The Ospreys, which were feeding over the river, were compared to nearby Herring and Ring-billed Gulls by Smith, Tompkins, and Weidenfeld. This count of 6 may be unprecedented in Virginia in winter. The Wood Thrush was seen in full sunlight by the same observers and compared with an accompanying Hermit Thrush. The count of Great Black-backed Gulls was by far the highest ever for this area.

**9. Brooke** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center on road 3 miles ESE of Brooke, to include Potomac River from Widewater to Maryland Point Lighthouse and Virginia upland nearly to Fredericksburg; tidal water 13%, marsh 10%, deciduous wooded swamp 14%, fields 14%, hedgerows 5%, mixed forest edge 17%, deciduous woods 20%, pine woods 5%, slash 2%).—Dec. 20; 5:50 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Clear, some haze after 3 p.m.; temp. 32° to 56°; wind NW, 0-15 m.p.h.; ground bare, water open. Twelve observers in 9 parties. Total party-hours, 72 (64 on foot, 8 by car); total party-miles, 132 (43 on foot, 89 by car). Observers: Roy Bailey, Henry Bell, III, J. H. Eric, Luna Leopold, R. G. Luedke, E. T. McKnight (compiler), T. B. Nolan, J. C. Reed, Jr., R. L. Smith, D. B. Stewart, A. M. White, D. R. Wones. The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was studied in good detail by McKnight.

**10. Fort Belvoir** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center on Pohick Church; tidal water 30%, town suburbs 28%, deciduous woods 20%, fields 8%, pasture 8%, pine woods 5%, cattail marsh 1%).—Dec. 31; 6:15 a.m. to 4 p.m. Overcast with snow beginning at 11:30 and continuing all day; temp. 28° to 35°; wind S, 0-9 m.p.h.; ground bare in a.m., up to 3 in. snow in p.m.; skim ice in bays and creeks. Thirty-two observers in 11 parties. Total party-hours, 67 (51 on foot, 16 by car); total party-miles, 187 (53 on foot, 134 by car). Seen in area count period, but not on count day: Canada Goose, Turkey Vulture, Eastern Phoebe, House Finch. Observers: J. M. Abbott (compiler), David & Robert Abbott, Eleanor Beal, Larry Banvard, Ed Bierly, Bill DelGrande, Paul DuMont, Phil DuMont, Dan Feaser, Harriet Gilbert, May Hardy, Mr. & Mrs. I. C. Hoover, Col. & Mrs. W. A. Houston, Dan Keeney, Mr. & Mrs. E. A. Klussman, Hustin Lawrence, Dirk Mathieson, Will McConnell, Gale Monson, Jean Morse, H. J. Myers, George Sigel, Ruth Strosnider, Mr. & Mrs. Ray P. Teele, Mr. & Mrs. Ben Warfield, G. D. Weickhardt. The House Wrens were reported by Keeney and the Chipping Sparrows by Ray Teele and others.

**11. Charlottesville** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center near Ivy as in previous years). — Dec. 30; 7 a.m. to 6:15 p.m. Clear; temp. 14° to 33°; no wind; thin snow cover, ponds mostly frozen. Five observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours, 49 (45 on foot, 2 by car, 2 by boat); total party-miles, 154 (59 on foot, 93 by car, 2 by boat). Seen in area count period, but not on count day: House Finch. Observers: Allan Hall, Kenneth Lawless, Robert Merkel, C. E. Stevens (compiler), Tom Wieboldt. The Western Palm Warbler was seen by Lawless.

**12. Warren** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center near Keene as in previous years).—Dec. 31; 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cloudy, snowing part of day; temp. 26° to 31°; no wind; 2-4 in. snow cover, ponds mostly frozen, James River open. Five observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours, 31 (27 on foot, 4 by car); total party-miles, 128 (35 on foot, 93 by car). Observers: Allen Hale, Kenneth Lawless, Robert Merkel, C. E. Stevens (compiler), Tom Wieboldt. Snowfall reduced coverage.

**13. Darlington Heights** (all points within a 6-mile diameter circle, center at Darlington Heights Post Office; open fields 40%, hedgerows 10%, mixed woodland 10%, pine woodland 20%, woodland edge 18%, lakes 2%).—Jan. 1; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Clear in early a.m., becoming overcast by 10 a.m.; temp. 27° to 34°; no wind; ground partially snow covered, lakes 50% frozen. Six observers in 1 party. Total party-hours, 9 (5 on foot, 4 by car); total party-miles, 46 (6 on foot, 40 by car). Observers: Vera Copple (compiler), Bill Dickenson, Louise Dillon, Edith Driskill, Hall Driskill, Margaret Watson.

**14. Sweet Briar** (all points within a 3-mile diameter circle, center Sweet Briar College; open fields 20%, mixed deciduous forest 45%, creek bottoms 15%, around buildings and barns 15%, lakes 5%).—Jan. 1; 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Overcast; temp. 24° to 38°; wind 0-3 m.p.h.; 2 in. snow cover, lakes frozen. Nine observers in 3 parties (1 at feeder). Total party-hours, 20 (16½ on foot, ½ by car, 3 at feeder); total party-miles, 12 (9 on foot, 3 by car). Observers: Frances Applegate, Jim Applegate, Carolyn Bates, Vicky Bates, Mary H. Blackwell, Ernest Edwards, Mabel Edwards, Gertrude Prior (compiler), Harriet Rogers.

**15. Lynchburg** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Lynchburg College, to include James River, College Lake, Timber Lake, Tomahawk, Blackwater, and Judith Creeks, Wooldridge, Capron and Burnbrae Farms, Blue Ridge Farms subdivision, Rivermont and Riverside Parks; mixed woods 32%, pine woods 1%, wooded residential areas 4%, creek and river bottoms 30%, lakes 5%, fields and pastures 20%, parks 8%).—Dec. 30; 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Overcast, temp. 22° to 37°; wind NW, 5 m.p.h.; light snow cover, streams

open. Seventeen observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours, 45 (39 on foot, 6 by car); total party-miles, 180 (31 on foot, 149 by car). Observers: Frances Applegate, James Applegate, John Cacciapaglia, John Cousins, Ruskin S. Freer, Roger Hill, William S. Hooks (compiler), Robin Jordan, William Lee, Kay MacDonald, Gene Moore, Myriam Moore, Bethea Owen, Gertrude Prior, Sarah Robertson, M. B. Tillotson, Grace Wiltshire. The blackbird and starling estimates were made in the late afternoon as the birds returned to roost in Madison Heights.

**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).—Jan. 1; 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cloudy; temp. 10° to 20°; wind SW, 2-3 m.p.h.; ground covered with 10-12 in. snow, rivers open. Eleven observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours, 36 (12 on foot, 24 by car); total party-miles, 212 (12 on foot, 200 by car). Seen in area count period, but not on count day: Marsh Hawk, Screech Owl, Fox Sparrow. Observers: Max Carpenter (compiler), Donald Carpenter, Lawrence Carpenter, John Derby, Hollen Helbert, John Hicks, Robert Houff, Harry Jopson, J. E. Thornton, Herbert Whitmer, Jr., Charles Wright. A Black-Mallard hybrid was also reported.

**17. Big Flat Mountain** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center on Pasture Fence Mountain as in previous years, mostly in southern Shenandoah National Park).—Dec. 27; 6:40 a.m. to 5:40 p.m. Cloudy; temp. 10° to 31°; wind SE, 0-12 m.p.h.; ground bare. Two observers in 1 to 2 parties. Total party-hours, 16 (15 on foot, 1 by car); total party-miles, 42 (22 on foot, 20 by car). Observers: Robert Merkel, C. E. Stevens (compiler).

**18. Augusta County** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center 3 miles SW of Staunton on Route 252, to include Bethel Green, Mint Spring, Middlebrook, Wilda, Staunton, Frank's Mill; deciduous woods 15%, open fields 55%, orchards and farmyards 15%, towns 15%).—Dec. 21; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cloudy; temp. 41° to 62°; wind SE, 1-15 m.p.h.; ground bare, water open. Eight observers in 1 party. Total party-hours, 9 (4 on foot, 5 by car); total party-miles, 84 (4 on foot, 80 by car). Seen in area count period, but not on count day: Belted Kingfisher, Pileated Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Fish Crow, White-throated Sparrow. Observers: Wellford Hobbie, Kurt Kehr, John Mehner (compiler), Isabel Obenschain, James Sprunt, Betty Timberlake, Vickie Timberlake, Isabel Willson.

**19. 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 a portion of Big Levels Game Refuge).—Dec. 21; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mostly cloudy; temp. 48° to 54°; wind S, 0-10 m.p.h.; ground bare. Two observers in 1 party. Total party-hours, 8 (6 on foot, 2 by car); total party-miles, 50 (3 on foot, 47 by car). Seen in area count period, but not on count day: Sparrow Hawk, Bobwhite, Killdeer, Mourning Dove, Palm Warbler, Eastern Meadowlark. Observers: Mozelle Henkel, Ruth Snyder (compiler).

**20. Lexington** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at Washington and Lee University; open farmland 30%, deciduous woodland 20%, cedar and pine woodland 25%, scrub 25%).—Dec. 26; 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Clear; temp. 36° to 27°; no wind; ground bare, water open. Eight observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours, 36 (33 on foot, 3 by car); total party-miles, 83 (27 on foot, 56 by car). Observers: R. P. Carroll, Mrs. Ellene B. McKendree, J. J. Murray, Sr. (compiler), J. J. Murray, Jr., Mr. & Mrs. M. W. Paxton, Sr., R. O. Paxton, Mrs. Ann S. Vaughn.

**21. Peaks of Otter** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at junction of Route 43 and Blue Ridge Parkway near Peaks of Otter, to include Peaks and nearby pond and Parkway north to Apple Orchard Mountain; mixed

deciduous forest 89%, open fields 10%, artificial lake 1%; elevation 2500 to 3950 feet).—Dec. 29; 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Clear; temp. 23° to 28°; wind SW, 0-8 m.p.h.; ground covered with snow and sleet, lake partly frozen. Four observers in 1 party. Total party-hours, 8 (4 on foot, 4 by car); total party-miles, 30 (6 on foot, 24 by car). Observers: Almond O. English, Ruskin S. Freer, Hugh Bell Muller (compiler), John J. Palmer.

**22. Roanoke** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Wasena Bridge; mixed deciduous and coniferous woods 55.5%, open fields 30%, suburbs 6%, streams and ponds 8.5%).—Dec. 30; 7:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. Clear; temp. 18° to 34°; no wind; 3 in. snow cover, small ponds frozen. Twenty-three observers in 7 parties. Total party-hours, 51 (38 on foot, 13 by car); total party-miles, 187 (25 on foot, 162 by car). Seen in area count period, but not on count day: Fox Sparrow. Observers: Mr. & Mrs. Gary Davis, Mr. & Mrs. Almond English, Mrs. Roy Epling, Nay Hankins, Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Harper, Mrs. Betty Hiler, Debbie Ingram, Perry Kendig, Mrs. Carole Massart (compiler), Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Moore, Hugh Muller, Mrs. Sally Nelson, Mrs. Ruth Painter, Mrs. Norton Stone, Mrs. James Taney, Mr. & Mrs. W. H. Thomas, Mrs. Ruth Venn, Jerry Via. The Bald Eagle, an adult, was seen by Davis and English, and the Brown-headed Nuthatch and the Wood Thrushes were observed by Massart, Ingram, and Via, the latter in bright sunlight. The House Wrens were reported by Thomas, the Brown Thrasher by Kendig, the Baltimore Oriole by the Moores, and the Vesper Sparrow by Muller. A Gray-cheeked Thrush and a Parula Warbler were deleted from the list for a lack of substantiating details.

**23. Blacksburg** (all point within a 15-mile diameter circle, center near Linkous Store as in past 32 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; 6:30 a.m. to 5:20 p.m. Overcast; ground bare, water partly frozen. Twenty-two observers in 9 parties (1 at feeder). Total party-hours, 68 (53 on foot, 15 by car); total party-miles, 244 (60 on foot, 184 by car). See in area count period, but not on count day: Pintail, American Woodcock, Barn Owl, Horned Lark, Bewick's Wren, Cedar Waxwing, Baltimore Oriole. Observers: Bob Abraham, Billy Akers, Don Cochran, Vickie Cochran, Clara Dickinson, Dick Dietrich, Rick Dietrich, Bob Giles, Arthur Hale, Maynard Hale, Charles Handley, Sr., Charles Handley, Jr., Henry Mosby, John Murray (compiler), Dick Pratt, Curt Roane, Myron Shear, Ronald Shear, Mary Linda Smyth, Connie Stone, Jack Unbehaun, Thayis Weibel. The House Wren was found by D. Dietrich.

**24. Mt. Rogers-Whitetop** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at junction of Routes 600 and 603, to include peaks of Mt. Rogers and Whitetop and the saddle between them; deciduous woods 50%, grassy fields 30%, spruce-fir forest 20%).—Dec. 23; 7:50 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Snow flurries; temp. 5° to 8°; wind W-SW, 4-25 m.p.h.; ½ to 2 in. snow cover. Five observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours, 5½ (4½ on foot, 1 by truck); total party-miles, 18½ (6½ on foot, 12 by truck). Observers: Wallace Coffey, A. M. Decker, Gerry Delantonas (compiler), David McPeak, Henry Woodward.

**25. Bristol** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at junction of U. S. Route 11 and Route 625, to include Bristol, South Holston Lake and River; fields and farmland 40%, mixed deciduous forest 25%, lakes and rivers 15%, towns 10%, miscellaneous 10%).—Dec. 30; 7:05 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Clear; temp. 16° to 40°; wind NE, 0-7 m.p.h.; trace of snow cover, waters mostly open. Nine observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours, 29½ (16 on foot, 11½ by car, 2 by boat); total party-miles, 241 (16 on foot, 208 by car, 17 by boat). Observers: Judith Abbott, Fletcher Bingham, Wallace Coffey, Gerry Delantonas (compiler), David McPeak, Bob Quillen, William R. Senter, Enno van Gelder, Roger van Gelder.

Table 1. The 1967-68 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—12/28 | 2. Cape Charles—12/29 | 3. Little Creek—12/27 | 4. Back Bay—12/30 | 5. Chesapeake—12/26 | 6. Nansemond River—12/23 | 7. Newport News—12/30 | 8. Hopewell—12/26 | 9. Brooke—12/20 | 10. Fort Belvoir—12/31 | 11. Charlottesville—12/30 | 12. Warren—12/31 | 13. Darlington Heights—1/1 | 14. Sweet Briar—1/1 | 15. Lynchburg—12/30 | 16. Rockingham County—1/1 | 17. Big Flat Mt.—12/27 | 18. Augusta County—12/21 | 19. Waynesboro—12/21 | 20. Lexington—12/26 | 21. Peaks of Otter—12/29 | 22. Roanoke—12/30 | 23. Blacksburg—12/27 | 24. Mt. Rogers-Whitop—12/23 | 25. Bristol—12/30 |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Common Loon                | 133                   | 61                    | 9                     | 4                 | ....                | ....                     | 15                    | ....              | 3               | ....                   | ....                      | ....             | ....                       | ....                | ....                | ....                      | ....                   | ....                     | ....                 | ....                | ....                     | ....              | ....                 | ....                        | 10                |
| Red-throated Loon          | 60                    | 65                    | 133                   | 248               | ....                | ....                     | 2                     | ....              | ....            | ....                   | ....                      | ....             | ....                       | ....                | ....                | ....                      | ....                   | ....                     | ....                 | ....                | ....                     | ....              | ....                 | ....                        | ....              |
| Red-necked Grebe           | 1                     | ....                  | ....                  | ....              | ....                | ....                     | ....                  | ....              | ....            | <b>1*</b>              | ....                      | ....             | ....                       | ....                | ....                | ....                      | ....                   | ....                     | ....                 | ....                | ....                     | ....              | ....                 | ....                        | ....              |
| Horned Grebe               | 341                   | 113                   | 22                    | 110               | ....                | 169                      | 122                   | ....              | 7               | ....                   | ....                      | 1                | ....                       | ....                | ....                | ....                      | ....                   | ....                     | ....                 | ....                | ....                     | ....              | ....                 | ....                        | 12                |
| Pied-billed Grebe          | 47                    | 39                    | 48                    | 7                 | 4                   | 11                       | 17                    | 3                 | 1               | ....                   | 2                         | ....             | 1                          | ....                | ....                | 4                         | 1                      | ....                     | ....                 | ....                | ....                     | 1                 | 1                    | ....                        | 7                 |
| Gannet                     | ....                  | 3                     | 51                    | 11                | ....                | ....                     | ....                  | ....              | ....            | ....                   | ....                      | ....             | ....                       | ....                | ....                | ....                      | ....                   | ....                     | ....                 | ....                | ....                     | ....              | ....                 | ....                        | ....              |
| Double-crested Cormorant   | 1                     | ....                  | 10                    | ....              | ....                | 2                        | 7                     | ....              | ....            | ....                   | ....                      | ....             | ....                       | ....                | ....                | ....                      | ....                   | ....                     | ....                 | ....                | ....                     | ....              | ....                 | ....                        | ....              |
| Great Blue Heron           | 102                   | 73                    | 30                    | 22                | 2                   | 10                       | 12                    | 16                | 20              | 14                     | 3                         | 2                | 1                          | ....                | ....                | 4                         | ....                   | 1                        | ....                 | ....                | ....                     | ....              | ....                 | ....                        | 7                 |
| Little Blue Heron          | 4                     | 10                    | 9                     | ....              | ....                | ....                     | ....                  | ....              | ....            | ....                   | ....                      | ....             | ....                       | ....                | ....                | ....                      | ....                   | ....                     | ....                 | ....                | ....                     | ....              | ....                 | ....                        | ....              |
| Common Egret               | 41                    | 3                     | ....                  | 49                | ....                | ....                     | ....                  | ....              | ....            | ....                   | ....                      | ....             | ....                       | ....                | ....                | ....                      | ....                   | ....                     | ....                 | ....                | ....                     | ....              | ....                 | ....                        | ....              |
| Snowy Egret                | <b>11</b>             | <b>17</b>             | ....                  | ....              | ....                | ....                     | ....                  | ....              | ....            | ....                   | ....                      | ....             | ....                       | ....                | ....                | ....                      | ....                   | ....                     | ....                 | ....                | ....                     | ....              | ....                 | ....                        | ....              |
| Louisiana Heron            | <b>9</b>              | 18                    | ....                  | ....              | ....                | ....                     | ....                  | ....              | ....            | ....                   | ....                      | ....             | ....                       | ....                | ....                | ....                      | ....                   | ....                     | ....                 | ....                | ....                     | ....              | ....                 | ....                        | ....              |
| Black-crowned Night Heron  | 14                    | 5                     | 2                     | 1                 | ....                | ....                     | 6                     | ....              | ....            | ....                   | ....                      | ....             | ....                       | ....                | ....                | ....                      | ....                   | ....                     | ....                 | ....                | ....                     | ....              | ....                 | ....                        | ....              |
| Yellow-crowned Night Heron | ....                  | ....                  | ....                  | <b>1*</b>         | ....                | ....                     | ....                  | ....              | ....            | ....                   | ....                      | ....             | ....                       | ....                | ....                | ....                      | ....                   | ....                     | ....                 | ....                | ....                     | ....              | ....                 | ....                        | ....              |
| American Bittern           | 7                     | 2                     | 1                     | 9                 | ....                | ....                     | ....                  | ....              | ....            | ....                   | ....                      | ....             | ....                       | ....                | ....                | ....                      | ....                   | ....                     | ....                 | ....                | ....                     | ....              | ....                 | ....                        | ....              |
| Whistling Swan             | 386                   | 24                    | ....                  | 2000              | ....                | ....                     | ....                  | ....              | ....            | ....                   | ....                      | ....             | ....                       | ....                | ....                | ....                      | ....                   | ....                     | ....                 | ....                | ....                     | ....              | ....                 | ....                        | ....              |
| Canada Goose               | 1716                  | 2594                  | ....                  | 4400              | ....                | 5                        | 9500                  | 300               | ....            | ....                   | 117                       | ....             | ....                       | ....                | ....                | ....                      | ....                   | ....                     | ....                 | ....                | ....                     | ....              | ....                 | ....                        | ....              |
| Brant                      | 6500                  | 260                   | 59                    | ....              | ....                | ....                     | ....                  | ....              | ....            | ....                   | ....                      | ....             | ....                       | ....                | ....                | ....                      | ....                   | ....                     | ....                 | ....                | ....                     | ....              | ....                 | ....                        | ....              |
| Snow Goose                 | 3813                  | 180                   | ....                  | 42,000            | ....                | ....                     | ....                  | 16                | ....            | ....                   | ....                      | ....             | ....                       | ....                | ....                | ....                      | ....                   | ....                     | ....                 | ....                | ....                     | ....              | ....                 | ....                        | ....              |
| Blue Goose                 | 23                    | ....                  | ....                  | 3                 | ....                | ....                     | ....                  | 125               | ....            | ....                   | ....                      | ....             | ....                       | ....                | ....                | ....                      | ....                   | ....                     | ....                 | ....                | ....                     | ....              | ....                 | ....                        | ....              |
| Mallard                    | 1400                  | 171                   | 104                   | 1700              | 2                   | 8                        | 57                    | 1030              | 140             | 17                     | 39                        | 90               | ....                       | ....                | ....                | 63*                       | 61                     | ....                     | 1                    | 8                   | ....                     | 26                | 80                   | ....                        | 93                |
| Black Duck                 | 4828                  | 691                   | 116                   | 2350              | ....                | 24                       | 15                    | 860               | 190             | 65                     | 97                        | 40               | ....                       | ....                | 1                   | 11                        | ....                   | ....                     | 7                    | ....                | ....                     | 10                | ....                 | ....                        | 139               |
| Gadwall                    | 629                   | 74                    | ....                  | 31                | ....                | 115                      | 49                    | ....              | ....            | ....                   | ....                      | 3                | ....                       | ....                | ....                | 13                        | ....                   | ....                     | ....                 | ....                | ....                     | ....              | <b>23</b>            | ....                        | 1                 |
| Pintail                    | 1400                  | 21                    | 1                     | 4350              | 60                  | 33                       | 4                     | 175               | 5               | ....                   | ....                      | 1                | ....                       | ....                | ....                | 3                         | ....                   | ....                     | ....                 | ....                | ....                     | ....              | ....                 | ....                        | ....              |
| Green-winged Teal          | 586                   | 57                    | 25                    | 465               | ....                | 135                      | 20                    | 4                 | ....            | ....                   | 3                         | 20               | ....                       | ....                | ....                | 2                         | ....                   | ....                     | 1                    | ....                | ....                     | ....              | ....                 | ....                        | ....              |

[illegible]



[illegible]

|                          |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |    |     |     |      |     |     |      |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|------|
| Royal Tern               | 329 | 33  | 10  | 111 | 46  | 6   | 88  | 94  | 85  | 116 | 805 | 374 | 574 | 39 | 58  | 172 | 112  | 134 | 318 | 78   |
| Mourning Dove            | 2   | 5   | 3   | 19  | 4   | 3*  | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1  | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1    |
| Barn Owl                 | 2   | 8   | 3   | 19  | 4   | 3*  | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1  | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1    |
| Screech Owl              | 3   | 13  | 1   | 6   | 4   | 3*  | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1  | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1    |
| Great Horned Owl         | 7   | 4   | 3   | 5   | 2   | 3*  | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1  | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1    |
| Barred Owl               | 26  | 24  | 24  | 7   | 8   | 1   | 16  | 5   | 18  | 9   | 6   | 1   | 1   | 1  | 1   | 5   | 1    | 3   | 6   | 5    |
| Short-eared Owl          | 61  | 166 | 48  | 35  | 9   | 67  | 64  | 40  | 64  | 17  | 10  | 9   | 6   | 31 | 3   | 2   | 9    | 5   | 17  | 3    |
| Belted Kingfisher        | 1   | 1*  | 4   | 11  | 6   | 6   | 6   | 7   | 12  | 16  | 16  | 3   | 3   | 13 | 6   | 2   | 15   | 15  | 9   | 6    |
| Yellow-shafted Flicker   | 7   | 19  | 23  | 26  | 30  | 4   | 35  | 52  | 70  | 81  | 59  | 24  | 11  | 17 | 34  | 7   | 3    | 2   | 5   | 14   |
| Pileated Woodpecker      | 3   | 8   | 5   | 11  | 12  | 3   | 13  | 19  | 13  | 10  | 16  | 12  | 1   | 10 | 15  | 1   | 3    | 3   | 1   | 5    |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker   | 5   | 24  | 7   | 4   | 5   | 3   | 3   | 5   | 3   | 9   | 3   | 5   | 2   | 2  | 7   | 5   | 2    | 2   | 12  | 10   |
| Red-headed Woodpecker    | 9   | 23  | 9   | 28  | 22  | 4   | 17  | 27  | 42  | 82  | 49  | 39  | 6   | 13 | 39  | 15  | 17   | 3   | 16  | 3    |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | 48  | 142 | 1   | 35  | 1   | 20  | 130 | 10  | 71  | 71  | 115 | 214 | 20  | 93 | 11  | 1   | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1    |
| Hairy Woodpecker         | 11  | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1  | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1    |
| Downy Woodpecker         | 30  | 6   | 56  | 24  | 57  | 8   | 111 | 79  | 809 | 455 | 172 | 86  | 78  | 65 | 165 | 80  | 2    | 4   | 22  | 90   |
| Red-cockaded Woodpecker  | 241 | 52  | 408 | 126 | 210 | 13  | 200 | 185 | 420 | 301 | 956 | 266 | 143 | 33 | 106 | 331 | 5    | 56  | 27  | 3824 |
| Western Kingbird         | 17  | 3   | 227 | 78  | 35  | 110 | 12  | 2   | 65  | 66  | 9   | 1   | 1   | 1  | 1   | 3   | 3    | 7   | 1   | 1    |
| Eastern Phoebe           | 66  | 203 | 97  | 89  | 95  | 6   | 115 | 91  | 180 | 366 | 170 | 132 | 37  | 33 | 111 | 26  | 64   | 10  | 17  | 38   |
| Horned Lark              | 23  | 9   | 42  | 27  | 19  | 1   | 39  | 34  | 60  | 127 | 71  | 59  | 16  | 21 | 134 | 25  | 9    | 14  | 8   | 55   |
| Tree Swallow             | 3   | 3*  | 3   | 6   | 4   | 1   | 1   | 3   | 3   | 34  | 15  | 6   | 8   | 8  | 18  | 6   | 15   | 5   | 4   | 8    |
| Blue Jay                 | 29  | 17  | 13  | 33  | 3   | 3   | 2   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1  | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1    |
| Common Raven             | 8   | 13  | 12  | 2   | 2   | 10  | 14  | 13  | 13  | 8   | 3   | 1   | 4   | 1  | 1   | 1   | 2    | 4   | 3   | 11   |
| Common Crow              | 2   | 18  | 4   | 6   | 3   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 2*  | 4   | 7   | 1   | 1   | 1  | 7   | 8   | 6    | 1   | 2   | 2*   |
| Fish Crow                | 8   | 39  | 1   | 8   | 6   | 1   | 16  | 12  | 12  | 7   | 4   | 7   | 1   | 1  | 7   | 8   | 6    | 1   | 2   | 1*   |
| Black-capped Chickadee   | 27  | 52  | 31  | 59  | 46  | 6   | 58  | 40  | 42  | 58  | 11  | 5   | 2   | 24 | 3   | 1   | 1    | 1   | 7   | 1    |
| Carolina Chickadee       | 1   | 9   | 5   | 6   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 2   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1  | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1    |
| Tufted Titmouse          | 23  | 9   | 42  | 27  | 19  | 1   | 39  | 34  | 60  | 127 | 71  | 59  | 16  | 21 | 134 | 25  | 9    | 14  | 8   | 55   |
| White-breasted Nuthatch  | 3   | 3*  | 3   | 6   | 4   | 1   | 1   | 3   | 3   | 34  | 15  | 6   | 8   | 8  | 18  | 6   | 15   | 5   | 4   | 8    |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch    | 29  | 17  | 13  | 33  | 3   | 3   | 2   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1  | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1    |
| Brown-headed Nuthatch    | 8   | 13  | 12  | 2   | 2   | 10  | 14  | 13  | 13  | 8   | 3   | 1   | 4   | 1  | 1   | 1   | 2    | 4   | 3   | 11   |
| Brown Creeper            | 2   | 18  | 4   | 6   | 3   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 2*  | 4   | 7   | 1   | 1   | 1  | 7   | 8   | 6    | 1   | 2   | 2*   |
| House Wren               | 8   | 39  | 1   | 8   | 6   | 1   | 16  | 12  | 12  | 7   | 4   | 7   | 1   | 1  | 7   | 8   | 6    | 1   | 2   | 1*   |
| Winter Wren              | 27  | 52  | 31  | 59  | 46  | 6   | 58  | 40  | 42  | 58  | 11  | 5   | 2   | 24 | 3   | 1   | 1    | 1   | 7   | 1    |
| Carolina Wren            | 1   | 9   | 5   | 6   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 2   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1  | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1    |
| Long-billed Marsh Wren   | 29  | 124 | 96  | 77  | 45  | 23  | 110 | 69  | 110 | 143 | 81  | 59  | 28  | 38 | 75  | 34  | 7    | 7   | 52  | 96   |
| Short-billed Marsh Wren  | 23  | 26  | 1   | 17  | 8   | 2   | 1   | 1   | 2   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1  | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1   | 1   | 1    |
| Mockingbird              | 10  | 8   | 9   | 9   | 12  | 5   | 8   | 3   | 4   | 3   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1  | 5   | 1   | 1    | 1   | 1*  | 1    |
| Catbird                  | 273 | 52  | 1   | 295 | 219 | 19  | 4   | 69  | 14  | 12  | 118 | 175 | 1   | 20 | 23  | 1   | 3653 | 1   | 18  | 13   |
| Brown Thrasher           | 15  | 33  | 2   | 15  | 12  | 4   | 4   | 10  | 10  | 17  | 17  | 1   | 1   | 1  | 1   | 5   | 1    | 1   | 3   | 1    |
| Robin                    | 13  | 9   | 6   | 12  | 6   | 2   | 27  | 35  | 7   | 13  | 1   | 8   | 7   | 1  | 1   | 1   | 3    | 1   | 1   | 3    |
| Wood Thrush              | 15  | 33  | 2   | 15  | 12  | 4   | 4   | 10  | 10  | 17  | 17  | 1   | 1   | 1  | 1   | 5   | 1    | 1   | 3   | 1    |
| Hermit Thrush            | 13  | 9   | 6   | 12  | 6   | 2   | 27  | 35  | 7   | 13  | 1   | 8   | 7   | 1  | 1   | 1   | 3    | 1   | 1   | 3    |
| Gray-cheeked Thrush      | 13  | 9   | 6   | 12  | 6   | 2   | 27  | 35  | 7   | 13  | 1   | 8   | 7   | 1  | 1   | 1   | 3    | 1   | 1   | 3    |
| Eastern Bluebird         | 13  | 9   | 6   | 12  | 6   | 2   | 27  | 35  | 7   | 13  | 1   | 8   | 7   | 1  | 1   | 1   | 3    | 1   | 1   | 3    |
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher    | 13  | 9   | 6   | 12  | 6   | 2   | 27  | 35  | 7   | 13  | 1   | 8   | 7   | 1  | 1   | 1   | 3    | 1   | 1   | 3    |

(Continued from preceding page)

|                        | 1. Chincoteague—12/28 | 2. Cape Charles—12/29 | 3. Little Creek—12/27 | 4. Back Bay—12/30 | 5. Chesapeake—12/26 | 6. Nansemond River—12/23 | 7. Newport News—12/30 | 8. Hopewell—12/26 | 9. Brooke—12/20 | 10. Fort Belvoir—12/31 | 11. Charlottesville—12/30 | 12. Warren—12/31 | 13. Darlington Heights—1/1 | 14. Sweet Briar—1/1 | 15. Lynchburg—12/30 | 16. Rockingham County—1/1 | 17. Big Flat Mt.—12/27 | 18. Augusta County—12/21 | 19. Waynesboro—12/21 | 20. Lexington—12/26 | 21. Peaks of Otter—12/29 | 22. Roanoke—12/30 | 23. Blacksburg—12/27 | 24. Mt. Rogers-Whitop—12/23 | 25. Bristol—12/30 |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Golden-crowned Kinglet | 71                    | 134                   | 80                    | 73                | 11                  | 12                       | 61                    | 145               | 45              | 88                     | 121                       | 97               | 36                         | 4                   | 23                  | 15                        | 7                      | ...                      | ...                  | 4                   | ...                      | 15                | 102                  | ...                         | 23                |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet   | 18                    | 48                    | 27                    | 47                | 12                  | 11                       | 68                    | 31                | 25              | 34                     | 19                        | 9                | ...                        | 7                   | 26                  | ...                       | ...                    | ...                      | 1                    | 2                   | ...                      | 8                 | 2                    | ...                         | 5                 |
| Water Pipit            | 42                    | 690                   | 15                    | 10                | ...                 | 10                       | 3                     | ...               | ...             | ...                    | ...                       | ...              | ...                        | ...                 | ...                 | ...                       | ...                    | ...                      | ...                  | ...                 | ...                      | ...               | ...                  | ...                         | ...               |
| Cedar Waxwing          | 1                     | 19                    | 117                   | 11                | 5                   | 17                       | 11                    | 74                | 230             | 436                    | 79                        | 247              | 9                          | ...                 | 20                  | ...                       | 12                     | ...                      | ...                  | 85                  | ...                      | 30                | ...                  | ...                         | 44                |
| Loggerhead Shrike      | 3                     | 5                     | ...                   | 3                 | ...                 | ...                      | 3                     | 17                | 10              | ...                    | 5                         | 5                | 15                         | ...                 | 2                   | 2                         | ...                    | 1                        | 1                    | 6                   | ...                      | 6                 | 10                   | ...                         | 12                |
| Starling               | 1111                  | 5454                  | 7842                  | 7300              | 1425                | 1620                     | 3856                  | 479               | 6600            | 1613                   | 13,710                    | 662              | 1208                       | 2500                | 1,134,250           | 1727                      | 8                      | 596                      | 199                  | 2699                | ...                      | 3317              | 3594                 | 1                           | 2313              |
| Orange-crowned Warbler | ...                   | 1                     | 1                     | 1                 | ...                 | ...                      | ...                   | ...               | ...             | ...                    | ...                       | ...              | ...                        | ...                 | ...                 | ...                       | ...                    | ...                      | ...                  | ...                 | ...                      | ...               | ...                  | ...                         | ...               |
| Myrtle Warbler         | 1772                  | 2377                  | 236                   | 1348              | 96                  | 178                      | 753                   | 34                | 100             | 172                    | 19                        | 14               | ...                        | 11                  | ...                 | ...                       | ...                    | ...                      | ...                  | 1                   | ...                      | ...               | 2                    | ...                         | 12                |
| Pine Warbler           | 1                     | 12                    | 4                     | 8                 | 3                   | 3                        | 5                     | ...               | ...             | ...                    | 1                         | ...              | ...                        | ...                 | ...                 | ...                       | ...                    | ...                      | ...                  | ...                 | ...                      | ...               | ...                  | ...                         | ...               |
| Palm Warbler           | 11                    | 75                    | 3                     | 2                 | ...                 | ...                      | ...                   | 1                 | ...             | ...                    | 1*                        | ...              | ...                        | ...                 | ...                 | ...                       | ...                    | ...                      | ...                  | ...                 | ...                      | ...               | ...                  | ...                         | ...               |
| Yellowthroat           | 3                     | 4                     | ...                   | 6                 | 3                   | ...                      | ...                   | ...               | ...             | ...                    | ...                       | ...              | ...                        | ...                 | ...                 | ...                       | ...                    | ...                      | ...                  | ...                 | ...                      | ...               | ...                  | ...                         | ...               |
| Yellow-breasted Chat   | 1*                    | 6                     | ...                   | ...               | 1                   | ...                      | 1*                    | ...               | ...             | ...                    | ...                       | ...              | ...                        | ...                 | ...                 | ...                       | ...                    | ...                      | ...                  | ...                 | ...                      | ...               | ...                  | ...                         | ...               |
| House Sparrow          | 544                   | 280                   | 185                   | 369               | 102                 | 155                      | 716                   | 127               | 200             | 189                    | 55                        | 160              | 185                        | 113                 | 89                  | 418                       | ...                    | 160                      | 33                   | 209                 | ...                      | 174               | 792                  | ...                         | 109               |
| Eastern Meadowlark     | 394                   | 426                   | 348                   | 340               | 321                 | 61                       | 173                   | 45                | 30              | ...                    | 65                        | 395              | 433                        | 23                  | 56                  | 202                       | ...                    | 25                       | ...                  | 65                  | ...                      | 11                | 200                  | ...                         | 351               |
| Red-winged Blackbird   | 2612                  | 1090                  | 2539                  | 1,290,000         | 11,750              | 1118                     | 1984                  | 107               | 5500            | 679                    | 366                       | 173              | 300                        | ...                 | 122,150*            | 12                        | ...                    | ...                      | ...                  | 10                  | ...                      | 5                 | 500                  | ...                         | 20                |
| Baltimore Oriole       | ...                   | ...                   | 1*                    | ...               | ...                 | ...                      | 8                     | ...               | ...             | ...                    | ...                       | ...              | ...                        | ...                 | ...                 | ...                       | ...                    | ...                      | ...                  | ...                 | ...                      | 1*                | ...                  | ...                         | ...               |
| Rusty Blackbird        | 192                   | ...                   | 6                     | 208               | 39                  | 125                      | 15                    | ...               | 100             | 36                     | ...                       | 42               | 110                        | ...                 | 17,450*             | ...                       | ...                    | ...                      | ...                  | 126                 | ...                      | 1                 | ...                  | ...                         | 24                |
| Boat-tailed Grackle    | 981                   | 205                   | ...                   | 145               | ...                 | ...                      | 19                    | ...               | ...             | ...                    | ...                       | ...              | ...                        | ...                 | ...                 | ...                       | ...                    | ...                      | ...                  | ...                 | ...                      | ...               | ...                  | ...                         | ...               |
| Common Grackle         | 15,000                | 522                   | 2675                  | 760,000           | 1175                | 1                        | 406                   | ...               | 18,000          | 27                     | ...                       | ...              | 28                         | 8                   | 349,000*            | ...                       | ...                    | ...                      | ...                  | 3                   | ...                      | 11                | 458                  | ...                         | 9                 |
| Brown-headed Cowbird   | 3678                  | 36                    | 267                   | 500,000           | 133                 | 35                       | 602                   | 3                 | 750             | 1                      | 3                         | ...              | 300                        | 25                  | 122,150*            | ...                       | ...                    | ...                      | ...                  | 25                  | ...                      | 1                 | 200                  | ...                         | 36                |
| Cardinal               | 225                   | 396                   | 138                   | 108               | 66                  | 97                       | 136                   | 139               | 180             | 344                    | 173                       | 143              | 94                         | 47                  | 145                 | 50                        | 12                     | 13                       | 8                    | 66                  | 2                        | 236               | 217                  | ...                         | 112               |
| Evening Grosbeak       | 2                     | ...                   | ...                   | ...               | ...                 | ...                      | ...                   | ...               | ...             | ...                    | ...                       | ...              | ...                        | ...                 | ...                 | ...                       | ...                    | ...                      | ...                  | ...                 | ...                      | ...               | ...                  | ...                         | ...               |
| Purple Finch           | 4                     | 17                    | 2                     | 9                 | 12                  | ...                      | 7                     | 25                | 41              | 17                     | 40                        | 85               | 23                         | 21                  | 63                  | 2                         | 36                     | ...                      | ...                  | 48                  | ...                      | 25                | 5                    | ...                         | ...               |
| House Finch            | ...                   | ...                   | ...                   | ...               | ...                 | ...                      | 1*                    | ...               | ...             | ...                    | ...                       | ...              | ...                        | ...                 | ...                 | ...                       | ...                    | ...                      | ...                  | ...                 | ...                      | ...               | ...                  | ...                         | ...               |
| Pine Siskin            | ...                   | ...                   | 1                     | 4                 | ...                 | ...                      | ...                   | ...               | ...             | 8                      | 5                         | ...              | 16                         | ...                 | 2                   | ...                       | ...                    | ...                      | ...                  | ...                 | ...                      | ...               | ...                  | 2                           | ...               |
| American Goldfinch     | 160                   | 368                   | 111                   | 66                | 190                 | 13                       | 60                    | 46                | 85              | 87                     | 57                        | 60               | 43                         | 3                   | 39                  | 74                        | 125                    | 3                        | 19                   | 35                  | 2                        | 45                | 265                  | ...                         | 78                |
| Rufous-sided Towhee    | 89                    | 112                   | 52                    | 49                | 49                  | 21                       | 33                    | 22                | 60              | 51                     | 10                        | 8                | ...                        | 14                  | 41                  | 4                         | 1                      | ...                      | 3                    | 3                   | ...                      | 19                | 13                   | ...                         | 11                |
| Ipswich Sparrow        | ...                   | 2                     | 1                     | 2                 | ...                 | ...                      | ...                   | ...               | ...             | ...                    | ...                       | ...              | ...                        | ...                 | ...                 | ...                       | ...                    | ...                      | ...                  | ...                 | ...                      | ...               | ...                  | ...                         | ...               |
| Savannah Sparrow       | 137                   | 131                   | 42                    | 184               | 50                  | 25                       | 117                   | 21                | 6               | ...                    | ...                       | 1                | ...                        | ...                 | 2                   | ...                       | ...                    | ...                      | ...                  | ...                 | ...                      | ...               | ...                  | ...                         | ...               |
| Sharp-tailed Sparrow   | 4                     | 10                    | 108                   | 1                 | ...                 | ...                      | 6                     | ...               | ...             | ...                    | ...                       | ...              | ...                        | ...                 | ...                 | ...                       | ...                    | ...                      | ...                  | ...                 | ...                      | ...               | ...                  | ...                         | ...               |

|                        |        |        |        |           |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |      |      |      |           |      |      |      |      |        |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|------------------------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------|------|------|-----------|------|------|------|------|--------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Seaside Sparrow        | 6      | 26     | 46     | 3         | ....   | ....   | 6      | ....   | ....   | ....   | ....   | .... | .... | .... | ....      | .... | .... | .... | .... | ....   | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Vesper Sparrow         | 2      | 24     | ....   | 3         | ....   | ....   | ....   | ....   | ....   | ....   | ....   | .... | .... | .... | ....      | .... | .... | .... | .... | ....   | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Slate-colored Junco    | 152    | 215    | 353    | 130       | 422    | 295    | 620    | 336    | 300    | 1087   | 539    | 428  | 263  | 129  | 768       | 275  | 192  | 76   | 2    | 2      | 114  | 42   | 820  | 130  | 12   | 121  |
| Oregon Junco           | ....   | 1*     | ....   | ....      | ....   | ....   | ....   | ....   | ....   | ....   | ....   | .... | .... | .... | ....      | .... | .... | .... | .... | ....   | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Tree Sparrow           | 11     | 30     | ....   | 3         | ....   | 6      | ....   | 16     | 30     | 50     | 204    | 73   | 15   | .... | ....      | 145  | 6    | .... | 2    | ....   | 49   | .... | .... | 2    | .... | .... |
| Chipping Sparrow       | 13     | 39     | 7      | 1         | 3      | ....   | 21     | 2      | ....   | 5*     | ....   | .... | .... | .... | 1         | .... | .... | .... | .... | ....   | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Field Sparrow          | 99     | 394    | 27     | 94        | 163    | 35     | 92     | 36     | 300    | 110    | 233    | 94   | 35   | 2    | 58        | .... | .... | .... | .... | ....   | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| White-crowned Sparrow  | ....   | 1      | ....   | 1         | ....   | ....   | 10*    | 5      | 45     | ....   | 76     | 8    | .... | .... | 6         | 10   | .... | .... | .... | ....   | .... | .... | 26   | 26   | .... | 126  |
| White-throated Sparrow | 840    | 3015   | 541    | 636       | 785    | 213    | 443    | 393    | 600    | 647    | 235    | 146  | 24   | 76   | 360       | 9    | 7    | .... | 18   | 57     | .... | 119  | 69   | .... | 39   | .... |
| Fox Sparrow            | 61     | 77     | 21     | 36        | 43     | 14     | 44     | 26     | ....   | 6      | ....   | .... | .... | .... | 2         | .... | .... | .... | .... | ....   | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2    |
| Lincoln's Sparrow      | ....   | 2*     | ....   | ....      | ....   | ....   | ....   | ....   | ....   | ....   | ....   | .... | .... | .... | ....      | .... | .... | .... | .... | ....   | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Swamp Sparrow          | 120    | 444    | 75     | 250       | 20     | 13     | 35     | 34     | 20     | 20     | 38     | 1    | .... | .... | 4         | .... | .... | .... | .... | ....   | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Song Sparrow           | 330    | 1210   | 93     | 177       | 29     | 75     | 182    | 127    | 133    | 192    | 286    | 100  | 37   | 6    | 107       | 49   | 3    | 2    | 3    | 41     | 2    | 80   | 112  | .... | 1    | 56   |
| Lapland Longspur       | ....   | ....   | ....   | ....      | ....   | 1*     | ....   | ....   | ....   | ....   | ....   | .... | .... | .... | ....      | .... | .... | .... | .... | ....   | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Snow Bunting           | 42     | 2      | 77     | 2         | ....   | 145    | 17     | ....   | ....   | ....   | ....   | .... | .... | .... | ....      | .... | .... | .... | .... | ....   | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Total Species          | 135    | 155    | 127    | 128       | 79     | 92     | 108    | 87     | 84     | 81     | 71     | 64   | 40   | 40   | 55        | 61   | 38   | 25   | 32   | 59     | 13   | 58   | 68   | 8    | 64   | .... |
| Total Individuals      | 61,165 | 46,034 | 39,158 | 2,632,244 | 18,826 | 19,872 | 21,456 | 17,843 | 39,345 | 29,425 | 19,400 | 4598 | 4216 | 3352 | 1,747,741 | 4446 | 651  | 1021 | 415  | 11,731 | 68   | 5976 | 8545 | 21   | 4821 | .... |
| Total Party-hours      | 87     | 123    | 61     | 76        | 21     | 17     | 64     | 37     | 72     | 67     | 49     | 31   | 9    | 20   | 45        | 36   | 16   | 9    | 8    | 36     | 8    | 51   | 68   | 5.5  | 29.5 | .... |
| No. of Observers       | 25     | 23     | 15     | 17        | 5      | 6      | 20     | 8      | 12     | 32     | 5      | 5    | 6    | 9    | 17        | 11   | 2    | 8    | 2    | 8      | 4    | 23   | 21   | 5    | .... | .... |



Figure 1. Location of the 1967-68 Christmas bird counts in Virginia. The count numbers are the same as those used in the text and in Table 1.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS FROM SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA

J. WALLACE COFFEY

**European Widgeon, *Mareca penelope*.** On 13 March 1967 an adult male was discovered near the intersection of Routes 669 and 664 at South Holston Lake in Washington County by J. Wallace Coffey, Carl Fleenor and Harvey Hawk. It was feeding with several American Widgeons, Mallards, Pied-billed Grebes, and Blue-winged Teals. A 30X telescope was employed within 200 yards from an elevated position. The sun was to our backs. The widgeon was seen on six occasions between 13 and 25 March 1967. Dr. Lee R. Herndon, Charles Smith and Thomas W. Finucane observed the bird during this period.

**Rough-Legged Hawk, *Buteo lagopus*.** A light phase adult was present on 5 November 1967 in Washington County, near Routes 647 and 808. It perched about 25 feet above the road. This writer made the observation with binoculars and a 30X telescope. The time was approximately 5:00 p.m., and the sun low. The hawk flew low over a plowed field and hovered. This behavior was within a hundred yards of the observer. The following morning the writer and Gerry Delantonas found the hawk at the same location. Other than records by F.M. Jones (Murray, 1952), the writer has no knowledge of additional area records.

**Great Horned Owl, *Bubo virginianus*.** Recent field work in Southwest Virginia from Lee County (Handley, 1962; Murray and Grey, 1964), Scott County (Murray and Grey, 1965), and Washington County (Scott, 1966) has not included records for the owl.

An adult was killed in Wise County on 20 October 1966. It flew against the window of a tractor-and-trailer truck (Coffey). Between 2 March and 9 March 1966, E. E. Scott and Thomas Finucane found an active nest in Russell County about one mile from Route 71, near the Scott County line.

On 12 March Dr. Lee R. Herndon, Charles R. Smith, Jim Shepherd, E. E. Scott and the writer revisited the nest. It appeared to be a Red-tailed Hawk's old nest built in a Black Oak, *Quercus velutina*, 46 feet and five inches above the ground. The diameter of the nest was 32 inches and the height 18 inches. There were two young not more than a couple of weeks old.

On 18 January 1967 this writer and Harvey Hawk found a nest along Route 75 in Washington County near South Holston Lake. One adult could be seen on the nest. On 21 January the contents were checked for the first time. A single egg was found. On 6 February there were two eggs. The nest, resembling that of a Common Crow's, was placed near the top of a White Pine, *Pinus strobus*, in predominantly hardwood surroundings. The highway passes within about 100 yards. The height above ground was 66 feet and five inches. The nest measured 17 inches in outside diameter and four and one-half inches high. This seems to be a very small nest (Bent, 1938). The interior was matted with feathers from the owl's body and several twigs of fresh pine.

This is possibly one of the earliest nesting dates for the Great Horned Owl in Virginia (conversation with J. J. Murray at Lexington, 17 March 1967).

**Short-Eared Owl, *Asio flammeus*.** One was taken on 2 November 1967 in a pine woodland near "the sinks," ten miles southeast of Pennington Gap in Scott County. The locality is one mile north of Fairview, near the North Fork of Clinch River.

This bird was shot by Roger Phipps and Otis Rhoton, students at East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, Tennessee. The study skin is on deposit with the university collection. J. Wallace Coffey, Dr. Milo Richmond and Charles R. Smith determined the identification. This is the only recent record for extreme Southwest Virginia. This owl has been reported at Blacksburg (Murray, 1952).

**Common Raven, *Corvus corax*.** A nest was found on 2 April 1967 at Pigeon Rock, on Beartown Mountain near Corn Valley in Russell County by E. E. Scott, Charles R. Smith and J. Wallace Coffey. The nest was located on a ledge under an overhanging rock of a nearly vertical cliff. The ledge was 32 feet and six inches high. The nest contained five eggs.

The nest measured 36 inches outside diameter, 13 inches inside diameter and had an inside depth of five inches. It was nine and one-half inches high. The largest sticks were about  $\frac{5}{8}$  inch diameter and two feet long. It contained many small pieces of bark. The inside was well lined with wool.

During the Abingdon Foray, June 1966, Stevens and Watson reported a raven from Beartown Mountain (Scott, 1966).

**Loggerhead Shrike, *Lanius ludovicianus*.** On 16 April 1966 E. E. Scott and the writer observed three birds in Scott County. A nest was located in Nickelsville. It contained a single egg. A few days later Scott checked the nest and found three eggs. The nest was in a Red Cedar, *Juniperus virginiana*, along a fence which was overgrown with honeysuckle (genus: *Lonicera*).

This is possibly the first breeding evidence from extreme Southwest Virginia. The shrike has evidently invaded the Upper Holston River drainage within the past eighteen years. Upper East Tennessee and Southwest Virginia comprise the major portion of the area. The species was not considered as a summer resident in Upper East Tennessee prior to 1950 (Behrend, 1949) (Herndon, 1950).

The first breeding record in Sullivan County, Tennessee (adjacent to Washington County, Virginia) occurred near Bristol, on 26 April 1965 (Coffey, 1965). Prior to the 1950s, Bob Lyle and Bruce Tyler collected eggs extensively within this region. Mr. Lyle told this writer that during that period he had never known of a nesting record for the Loggerhead Shrike in the area.

A recent list of species from Lee County (Handley, 1962) did not include the shrike as a summer bird. Other observers, making a survey in Lee County (Murray and Grey, 1964), reported seven birds in four days. They were scarce in Scott County (Murray and Grey, 1965) during late May 1965. Three individuals were seen in four days. Recent investigation by foray participants in Washington County (Scott, 1966) reported four shrikes out of nineteen field list submitted. This foray was conducted from 9 to 12 June 1966.

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## VSO WINTER FIELD TRIP TO BACK BAY

DAVID ROSZELL

Following breakfast at the Thunderbird Motel in Virginia Beach on 2 December 1967, 40 VSOers from the three corners of Virginia plus a Tarheel contingent met at the parking lot in Sandbridge for the truck ride down the beach to Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge. On arrival at the refuge, it was noted that all present were awake. Next best thing to an early walk on a brisk morning to awaken one is a breezy ride in an open truck on a brisk morning.

The pond near the refuge buildings yielded Canada Geese, a few Whistling Swans, and most interesting among the ducks, a few European Widgeons.

More unusual birds seen along the dikes in the morning were several American Bitterns and a pair of Common Gallinules. In addition to these, approximately 3000 Whistling Swans, 10,000 Canada Geese, 5000 Snow Geese, numerous Pintails, American Widgeon, Myrtle Warblers, and a few reported Blue Geese resulted in a most rewarding morning. The truck ride back to the refuge headquarters was quite welcome to most feet present.

Shortly after lunch a majority of the participants were able to add a new bird to their life list when a report came from the beach that a Dovekie was in the surf. The rest of the afternoon was spent watching this and a few other Dovekies that put in an appearance. Also on hand was a raft of Common, White-winged, and Surf Scoters. The Gannets did their part diving for fish well offshore but were easily watched with spotting scopes. An Ipswich Sparrow and a Sharp-shinned Hawk rounded off the day. The tally for the day was 90 varieties.

Next morning the Carolina contingent reported that they had watched Bonaparte's Gulls flying past the motel the previous evening and had calculated that many thousands had flown past.

Sunday's outing to Craney Island was a fine day for those wanting to give their foul-weather gear a maximum performance test. It appeared that about 30 inches of rain fell in as many minutes except that it did not fall—it came horizontally. Still, 29 varieties of birds were reported in all, the most interesting being 2 female King Eiders, Purple Sandpipers, a pair of Hooded Mergansers, and a Water Pipit heard high overhead. Nineteen participants were on hand despite the unfavorable weather conditions.

3000 Springhill Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23225

## GLAUCOUS GULL AT LYNNHAVEN INLET

JOHN R. WITHROW

On the cloudy morning of 2 February 1968 at approximately 7:15 a.m. this observer, using 7 x 50 binoculars, saw what appeared to be a Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) resting amid a raft of 50 to 60 other gulls in the middle of Lynnhaven Bay. Its back was facing this observer, who was on the west bank of the inlet about 75 yards away, and its pale buffy-colored body was quite distinct from the other gulls. It was evident that it was probably an Iceland or Glaucous Gull. It was too far away and in the wrong position to make identification on the basis of bill size, eye-ring color, or whether the tail extended beyond the wings when resting, so this observer waited for it to fly. After approximately 15 minutes it took wing and flew south with a Herring Gull that had previously been identified as such while it rested with other Herring Gulls on the sand bar. Momentarily, both gulls approached a

flying adult Great Black-backed Gull, which provided further size comparison. The gull under question was noticeably larger than the Herring Gull but slightly smaller than the Great Black-backed Gull. Its wing tips and primaries were only slightly lighter than the rest of the wing. Its general color was a pale buff which indicated a first or second-winter immature. In comparison with the accompanying Herring Gull, its flight was more direct, steadier, and slower. Its body appeared stouter and its wings broader, heavier, and stiffer. Its flight looked similar to a flapping Buteo. This flight appearance in addition to its noticeably bulkier size indicated to me that it was a Glaucous Gull. The Iceland Gull, according to Peterson, though often the size of the Herring Gull, is seldom if ever larger. Rather, it tends to be smaller and its wings longer and slenderer, which was definitely not the case here.

According to P. A. and F. G. Buckley (*The Raven*, 38: 43, 1967), the Glaucous Gull has been "reported almost every year in recent winters, particularly from the Cape Henry-Back Bay area." This may indicate that this rare winter gull is a more regular winter visitor than previously realized.

105 Shamrock Road, Charlottesville, Virginia

## CONSERVATION CORNER

ROBERT J. WATSON

The peninsula known as "Masons Neck," located in Fairfax County, juts out into the Potomac River a few miles south of Mount Vernon. It is bounded on the east by the Potomac and on the west by the mouth of Occoquan Creek. Despite its proximity to Washington, it remains largely unsettled. For ornithologists, special interest attaches to it as one of the remaining sites along the Potomac where Bald Eagles have been known to breed recently.

The potential recreational value of this unspoiled area within easy reach of the Washington metropolitan area was recognized by the Virginia Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Committee, which, in its report, recommended Masons Neck for a state park. Real estate developers, however, understandably eyed this choice tract of waterfront property as the site for a large, high-density development to be known as "King's Landing." It was a question whether the land could be acquired for a park before the bulldozers swung into action. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors several times postponed action on the developers' request in order to allow consideration of park plans. Finally the State of Virginia approved a plan for a park on the western side of the peninsula. Money was duly allotted and the state park is now in process of establishment. At the same time, the Northern Virginia Park Authority developed a complementary plan for an adjoining park on the Potomac side. In 1966 the voters of Fairfax County approved a bond issue to acquire land for this purpose.

Early in 1967 came startling news that the Regional Park Authority was considering the abandonment of its original plan. It voted tentatively to accept a gift from the landowners of a very small tract for a park and a "scenic easement" along the Potomac shore. In return, the owners would be allowed to proceed with their proposal for the King's Landing development. A particularly objectionable feature of this proposal was the construction of a sewage disposal plant on the edge of an area known as "Great Marsh," an ideal spot for a wildlife refuge. The effect of dumping sewage effluent into this marsh was not difficult to imagine.

This breach of faith by the Regional Park Authority aroused widespread public protest. Fortunately it was eventually rescinded. The Park Authority is now proceeding to carry out its original plan in a somewhat modified form.

The combined state and regional parks, even when completed, will not include the entire peninsula. Most importantly, neither includes Great Marsh. The Fish and Wildlife Service has been considering purchase of the latter area for a wildlife refuge. A breathing spell for the development of this refuge proposal was provided by the Nature Conservancy, which stepped in and purchased Great Marsh together with some additional areas.

At present the Conservancy is in process of selling off some of its holdings to the State and the Regional Park Authority. It will hold the rest, including Great Marsh, for eventual purchase by the Fish and Wildlife Service. Action by the latter, of course, depends entirely on Congressional appropriation of the necessary funds. It is earnestly hoped that this approval will be forthcoming at the current session of Congress. The Nature Conservancy cannot hold the area indefinitely; it is financially unable to keep large amounts of capital tied up in landholdings over a long period of time.

### ADDITIONAL NEW VSO MEMBERS, 1968

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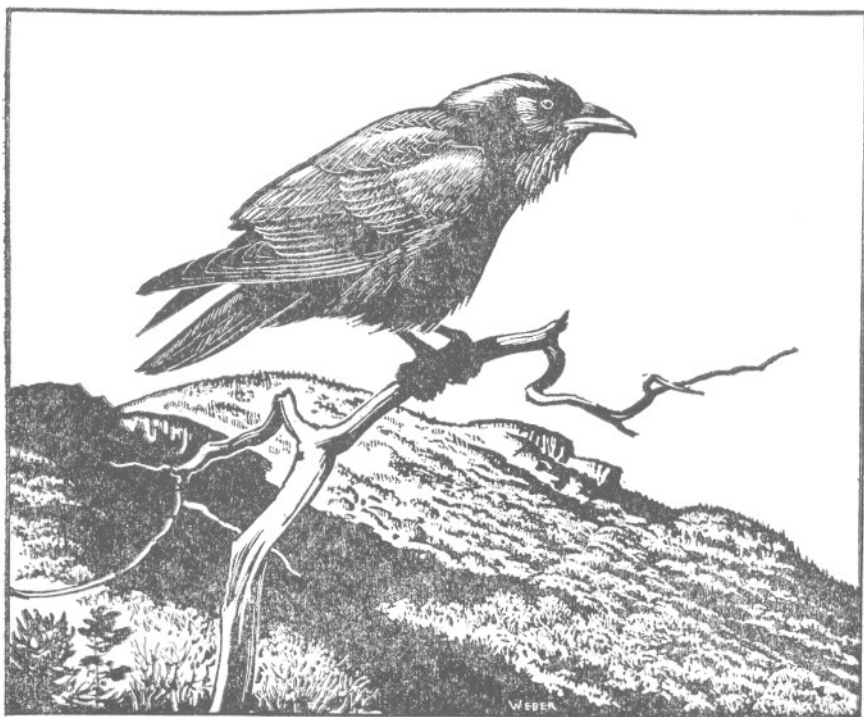
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# THE CURRENT STATUS OF CERTAIN BIRDS IN THE VIRGINIA CAPES AREA. II. APRIL 1967—JULY 1968 OBSERVATIONS

P.A. AND F.G. BUCKLEY

## INTRODUCTION

Part I of this series covered the period from September 1966 to March 1967 (Buckley and Buckley, 1967). This concluding part treats observations made during the remainder of our residence in the Virginia Capes area, and is to be read in conjunction with Part I. Some of the same species are treated in both parts where additional data made this necessary. Most of the commoner species have been omitted for space considerations. These should properly be discussed in a more extensive, new faunal list of the birds of the Virginia Capes.

It should be stressed that two years' field work by only a few observers can hardly establish a definitive picture of migration and distribution in so large an area. Nonetheless ours are the only recent data from southeastern Virginia, and their similarity to data from better covered coastal areas to the north makes it unlikely that we grossly err in estimating present or predicting future statuses of species we discuss. We hope others will continue regular observations there, especially in light of the comparative possibilities with Sykes' recent (unpublished) studies of fall migration and distribution of birds on the Outer Banks of North Carolina, and for the 6th edition of the A.O.U. Check-list, now in preparation.

Any uncited reports discussed herein are the writers', and/or are taken from Audubon Field Notes, abbreviated AFN. The following observers' names are initialed in the text: Robert L. Anderson (RLA); Floy C. Burford (FCB); Francine G. Buckley (FGB); Mitchell Byrd (MAB); Paul A. Buckley (PAB); Robert G. Fisher (RGF); Robert L. Scully (RLS); Timothy Zorach (TZ). National Wildlife Refuges are abbreviated as NWR, and the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel as CBBT.

For their generous help in this and other projects, we wish to especially acknowledge the Back Bay NWR personnel: Don Ambrosen, Tom Bond, Paul Daly and Romie Waterfield. Partial financial support was gratefully received from the Virginia Academy of Science and the Old Dominion College Educational Foundation. Finally, we wish to thank the following persons who contributed information, or who referred us to contributors: Floy C. Burford; Mitchell A. Byrd; Marjorie Curtis; Joy Dulaney; Emily Moore; Frederic R. Scott; and Romie Waterfield.

## ANNOTATED LIST

Eared Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*): None was seen after the Craney Island bird departed on 18 April 1967 (Buckley & Buckley, 1967), until an adult, still retaining nuptial ear coverts, appeared at Craney Island on 6 November 1967 (PAB, FGB). It was seen there continually until about 9 January 1968. It was not seen after that date, but on 30 January 1968 apparently the same individual was at Cape Henry (PAB, FGB). It is probable that the January-April 1967 and November 1967-January 1968 birds were the same individual. (See Buckley [1968, a] for a review of the species' present Great Lakes and Atlantic coast status, and Buckley [1968, b] for details on the 1966 Craney Island specimen.)

Cory's Shearwater (*Puffinus diomedea*): Murray (1955) listed only two records, both from well offshore and we know of no sight records from shore. In 1968 one was picked up dead at Back Bay NWR, Princess Anne Co., on

14 July and estimated by the finder, Romie Waterfield, to have been dead about three days. The writers confirmed the specific identification on 17 July, but loss of feathers and rhamphotheca obviated racial determination; it was too decomposed to preserve. Repeated observations from shore by the writers have failed to detect this species. While regular from coastal Long Island north, it is uncommon from the New Jersey shore, and decidedly rare south of New Jersey. It may occur regularly off the Virginia coast in mid to late summer, but if so probably quite far offshore. Only regular sea trips will clarify its status in Virginia.

Sooty Shearwater (*Puffinus griseus*): Murray (1952) listed only two Virginia records, both specimens. This species is almost certainly a regular late spring migrant off the Virginia coast, since it usually appears off coastal New Jersey and Long Island, N.Y. in late May or early June before moving to the Grand Banks area to summer. In 1967, strong onshore gales in late May resulted in a number of observations of Sooty Shearwater from shore in Virginia and adjacent Maryland (see AFN for details). In the Virginia Capes area, 8 were seen from Cape Henry on 22 May and at least one the following day (PAB, FGB *et al.*). One was found dead on Fisherman's Island on 16 June, but the specimen could not be preserved. In 1968, single Sooty Shearwaters were seen twice from shore: at Fisherman's Island on 23 May (PAB) and at Back Bay NWR on 25 May (PAB, RGF, RLS). These reports confirm our suspicion about offshore occurrence in late May.

One picked up dead on the beach at Back Bay NWR on 15 March 1964 (Raven, 37: 60) is decidedly unusual, since the species is unknown from the New York/New England area before May and almost unknown after September. At present it is probably best to view this bird (which was in fresh condition when found) as an early (storm-blown?) spring migrant. Further pelagic data may change this interpretation.

Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*): On 27 June 1968 an immature was found at Lynnhaven Inlet, Princess Anne Co., and at this writing [29 September 1968] is still present. A second and recognizably different immature appeared in Chesapeake Bay off Smithville, Northampton Co., from 9 to 13 July 1968.

These are the first recorded Virginia occurrences for this species, and will be discussed in detail elsewhere (Buckley and Buckley, Ms). They are included here for completeness.

Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*): An immature was seen from the CBBT, Northampton/Princess Anne Counties, on 3 July 1968.

This is the first recorded Virginia occurrence for this species, and will be discussed in detail elsewhere (Buckley and Buckley, Ms). It is included here for completeness.

White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*): Prior to June 1968 there were about a half dozen records from Virginia, usually singles, occasionally a pair, and almost always birds of the year. Possibly heralding a widespread northward invasion/expansion similar to that of the Fulvous Tree-duck (*Dendrocygna fulva*) (see AFN, 1960-65), a flock of 30 White Ibis showed up at Back Bay NWR on 26 June 1968; they were present in varying numbers until late July and were seen by a number of observers, including the writers. On 28 June, there were 13 seen at Lynnhaven Inlet (PAB, FGB, RLA), remaining in varying numbers for a few days. On 30 June 1968, at Lake Smith, Norfolk Co., (about 5 miles SW of Lynnhaven Inlet) members of a Cape Henry Bird Club field trip saw over 100 in several flocks circling overhead, but it is not known if or where they landed. On 4 July 1968 the writers saw one at Craney Island Disposal Area, Nansemond Co., and on 20 July 1968, five at Hog Island Game Refuge, about 40 miles up the James River from Craney Island, in Surry Co. Finally, two were at Stumpy Lake, Princess Anne Co. from 7 to 21 August



1968 (FCB *et al.*). Significantly, all of the birds involved were immature, as was the one that penetrated to the New York City area, in Far Hills, Somerset Co., N.J. in mid-July (R.L. Plunkett, pers. comm.) The origin of all these birds is unknown, and although it is not too far to the nearest known breeding colony at Battery Island, Brunswick Co., N.C., its young apparently do not normally spread far north, since White Ibis is still a decided vagrant even at Pea Island NWR, Dare Co., N.C.

Gadwall (*Anas strepera*): In June 1967 one pair of Gadwall successfully raised several young at Back Bay NWR (Ambrosen, pers. comm.) In early June 1968 a pair of Gadwalls was seen on a small tidal pond on Fisherman's Island, Cape Charles, and on 19 June the female had eight newly hatched ducklings with her (PAB, FGB *et al.*), all of which were still alive in early July. They were not seen after that, but no special effort was made to relocate them. These appear to be the first recorded nestings of Gadwall in Virginia, and the 1968 nesting on Fisherman's Island was exceptionally unusual in that it was on a natural salt pond; virtually all Atlantic Coast nestings of Gadwall since the first on LI, NY in the late 1940s have been in artificial, freshwater impoundments at wildlife refuges. This may be one of the first away from such areas, and certainly indicates the healthy status of breeding Gadwalls on the east coast.

Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*): Much of what is said below about eider distribution changes may be applied to this species. It was not until 1958/59 that the first (a male) was recorded from Virginia, at Craney Island. Next were a pair (male & female) at the CBBT 4 December 1966 and 5 March 1967. Presumably this pair was there 15 April 1967 (PAB, FGB, MAB), and the female still there on the unusually late date of 25 May (PAB, FGB). The following winter, a male was seen there on 18 December 1967 (PAB, FGB, Smith), but not again until 19 June 1968 when a molting male was again on the rocks of the CBBT; this bird was seen there daily until 6 July. The irregularity with which this species is seen from the CBBT suggests that it ranges over a wide area while wintering in the Virginia Capes area, which may be a regular occurrence now that rocky habitat is available; and that more than one pair might be involved. If so, this seems a genuine wintering range extension, aided at least in part by the appearance of man-made but suitable habitat.

Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*)

King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*): 1966/67 data (Buckley & Buckley, 1967) suggesting the relative abundance of these two species in the Virginia Capes area were borne out by 1967/68 observations. Common was seen twice, a female on 13 and 21 May 1967 at Fort Monroe, Hampton, Newport News Co., probably the same one mentioned in Buckley & Buckley (1967) and a female at Cape Henry on 27 December 1967 (RLA and Sykes). No eiders returned to Fort Monroe in the 1967/68 winter, but on 24 November 1967, 2 male Kings, probably birds of the year, appeared off Cape Henry, with at least 2 males and three females there until about mid-December (PAB, FGB) and 2 females were at Craney Island on 3 December 1967 (V.S.O. trip). No eiders were seen thereafter, until 5 February 1968 when the writers found 2 male and 8 female Kings sitting on the sandy beach of Fisherman's Island, a most unlikely location for the usually rock-loving eiders. They remained there in diminishing numbers until by 4 April 1968 only 1 female remained. She was seen almost daily until 22 June, and may possibly have summered nearby. An imm. male with white head patches seen at Fisherman's Island on 10-11 September 1968 (RLA, Curtis *et al.*) is apparently not from the original flock of 10 seen in February, since 8 were females and the two males were almost in breeding plumage. This male probably summered somewhere in nearby Chesapeake Bay, or else is the earliest Virginia arrival of any eider. In the last eight years, an unprecedented number of

summering eiders of both species, but mostly Kings, have been seen from the Virginia Capes, Chesapeake Bay, southern New Jersey and Long Island, as well as an increasing number of winter reports further south on the Atlantic coast (see AFN). It remains to be seen if these are merely temporary phenomena or reflect some underlying population changes.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*): There are now only about three records from Virginia for this species which breeds (in limited numbers) north to SE South Carolina. An adult seen near Kempsville, Princess Anne Co., on 23 July 1968 (FCB) is the first one since two 1962 records (one of which was a pair very close to this observation's location, also by Mrs. Burford, on 28 August). These records suggest a slight postbreeding northward movement; the 1968 record is published here for the first time.

Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*):

Black Rail (*Lateralus jamaicensis*): These species are among the most secretive and little known North American birds. Black Rail in particular is truly nocturnal, often not becoming active or at least vocal until past midnight. Thus their distribution and migration patterns are poorly known. There seem to be very few Virginia Capes records for either species, so all data are pertinent.

Yellow Rail: One was flushed from a patch of short grass on one of the CBBT islands on 12 May 1968, the day of a heavy downfall of nocturnal migrants (PAB, FGB). It flew out over, and dropped onto, Chesapeake Bay and was not seen again. One was flushed several times at Grandview, (Hampton), Newport News Co., on 22 April 1967 (MAB, Baker) and in 1966 during disking operations at Back Bay NWR on 18 May, Waterfield flushed two Yellow Rails. Russell saw one at Cape Charles on the Christmas Count of 29 December 1967. Presumably all these records refer to migrants although it may winter in limited numbers.

Black Rail: At the same CBBT island referred to above, on 12 May 1968, PAB & FGB found a freshly killed male Black Rail, now in our collection, and caught by hand another adult which was photographed, taken to Fisherman's Island and released. At the Grandview marsh Byrd and Hall flushed a Black Rail on 11 May 1968; and during the disking operation at Back Bay NWR in 1966 Waterfield also flushed at least 15 Black Rails on 18 May. There is now some question that these latter might have been breeding birds, since in 1968 Daly and Waterfield saw at least two Black Rails at Back Bay NWR in April and May, and on 27 May one 'sang' (kee-kee-kerrr) about 25 times in mid-afternoon (PAB). Habitat on the inside of the barrier beach separating Back Bay from the ocean abounds in short wet grasses, and seems ideal for breeding Black Rails (and Water Moccasins). Moreover, recent observations from coastal Long Island (F. Enders and W. Post, pers. comm.) indicate that extensive stands of the grass *Spartina patens* may not be a prerequisite for coastal breeding sites. Nocturnal listening and recording-playback trips in a variety of coastal marsh habitats are the only way to ascertain the species' true status. We would also not be especially surprised to find that some may winter, even though there are no winter records at present.

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyryla martinica*): This species reaches the northern limit of its breeding range in extreme SE North Carolina. Prior to 1967, there were only about three records from the Virginia Capes area, where it may be increasing, as the following records suggest:

1: dead, CBBT, 25 May 1967 (PAB, FGB); 1: Back Bay NWR, 3 May 1968 (PAB, FGB); 2: Back Bay NWR, 18 May 1968 (Ambrosen); 2: Back Bay NWR, 4 June 1968 (Daly); 1: Back Bay NWR, 13 June 1968 (Daly).

The two different pairs at Back Bay were seen in different parts of the Refuge, and it is not unlikely that at least one and possibly both pairs were

attempting to (or did) breed there. If so, this would extend the species' breeding range northwards by about 225 miles. This possibility certainly should be investigated carefully in the next few years.

American Woodcock (*Philohela minor*): Murray (1952) pointedly omits coastal areas from this species' Virginia breeding range, and in fact lists only six records at all for the Cape Henry area. Recent data, at least, indicate that is not uncommon there in fall, winter and spring. Totals for recent Cape Charles Christmas Counts are hardly indicative of winter rarity, for example: 109 on 30 December 1966, and 47 on 29 December 1967. However, a nest with four eggs at Back Bay NWR on 15 March 1968 (Waterfield, PAB *et al.*) seems to be the first coastal breeding record for Virginia. Two weeks later, Waterfield repeatedly flushed another in a different portion of the refuge, but could not locate a nest. Dusk listening for courting males should clarify the species' status in this area.

Long-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*): Additional reports since Part I confirmed our prediction about the relative status of the two species, particularly at Back Bay NWR, where Short-billed (*L. griseus*) prefers the bay margins, and Long-billed the impoundment grassy pools, although not invariably. The following are Back Bay NWR records of *scolopaceus* since early 1967:

6+: 24 April 1967 (PAB, FGB); 9: 4 October 1967 (PAB, FGB, TZ); 1: 22 April 1968 (PAB); 3+: 27 April 1968 (PAB & class); 1-2: 3 May 1968 (PAB, FGB). One other report was from Craney Island; 15+: 28 September 1967 (PAB, TZ).

All the above records were based on the qualitative character of voice, coupled with the more quantitative plumage and bill length characters. Based on these and earlier limited observations, Long-billed Dowitcher should now be considered a regular but rare spring migrant, in the period 20 April-5 May; a regular but uncommon fall migrant, in the period 15 September-1 November, terminal date uncertain (and probably late July-early August, judging from Chincoteague NWR records [see AFN]; and a rare winter resident or attempted winter resident at a few selected locations such as Stumpy Lake or possibly Back Bay NWR (e.g., 1: 28 December 1963) if water level conditions are favorable. Wintering dowitchers as near as Pea Island NWR, N.C. in both 1966/67 and 1967/68 we suspected were *scolopaceus*; these should be investigated.

Stilt Sandpiper (*Microphalama himantopus*): Favoring grassy freshwater pools much like Long-billed Dowitchers, this is one of the most overlooked shorebirds, particularly during mid-July to early August when southbound adults move through coastal Virginia, as well as New Jersey, upstate and coastal New York and presumably the intervening states. Recent records are:

6+: Back Bay NWR, 23 July 1967 (PAB, FGB, TZ, RGF); 2: Craney Island, 24 July 1967 (PAB, FGB, TZ, RGF); 2: Craney Island, 5 August 1967 (PAB, FGB, MAB, Baker); 1: Back Bay NWR, 7 August 1967 (PAB, TZ); 6: Hog Id. Refuge (James River) 20 July 1968 (PAB); 20: Craney Island, 23 July 1968 (PAB); 16: Back Bay NWR, 24 July 1968 (PAB, FGB).

Murray (1952) listed one spring record from the Cape Henry area as of 1950, and prior to 1968 there appear to have been two others for the state, both at Chincoteague NWR, Accomac Co. (8: 17 May 1964, and 1: 22 May 1966.) As a result of optimal water conditions at Back Bay NWR in the spring of 1968, coupled with a seeming increase in spring (especially) and fall records for this species on the entire east coast, remarkable numbers were seen. The first, 4 on 12 April, were largely in winter plumage, and built up to a maximum of 18, most in breeding plumage, on 12 May (PAB, FGB), the highest spring figure we know of for the entire Atlantic seaboard. The last, 6, were recorded

on 16 May. It remains to be seen if this was a one-season incident, or the pattern for future springs.

Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*): Since the 50s this shorebird has been on the increase in its southbound migrations along the Atlantic coast and is now recorded annually in Virginia, often in small flocks up to a dozen in number, in the favored habitat available at Chincoteague NWR and Craney Island. However, together with Buff-breasted (*Tryngites subruficollis*) and Baird's Sandpipers (*Erolia bairdii*), it is the rarest of spring migrants anywhere along the Atlantic coast. We know of spring records after 1925 only from Massachusetts (two: 1953 & 1954), Long Island (at least six, but the last one in 1959), New Jersey (one: 1938) and none further south. Consequently it was very surprising to find one in breeding plumage at Back Bay NWR on 25 May 1968 (PAB, RGF, RLS). It was examined closely, and the possibility of either European godwit unfortunately ruled out. In spite of its recent increase in numbers, Hudsonian Godwit seems to be still only a vagrant in spring on the Atlantic seaboard, with no evidence that the situation is changing.

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*): Now recorded in eastern North America with such regularity, and in such numbers, that the ineluctable conclusion is that Ruff breeds in North America; just where remains to be seen. In Virginia it is now recorded almost every spring, summer and fall at Chincoteague NWR. It seems to be regular in the Cape Henry area and we recorded it four times: male: Stumpy Lake, 14 October-29 December 1966 (PAB, Rountrey *et al.*); female: Back Bay NWR, 24 April 1967 (PAB, FGB); male: near Kempsville, 10 December 1967 (PAB, FGB); male in breeding plumage: Back Bay NWR, 22 April 1968 (PAB).

In most cases they associated with dowitchers (both species) and yellow-legs (both species), but the association seemed to be one of simply large shorebirds feeding together vs. small shorebirds feeding together. As usual, the Ruffs preferred shallow, grassy pools, feeding both at the margins and wading to some depths, although not as deeply as Long-billed Dowitchers or godwits.

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*): The northernmost breeding location known for certain is at Bodie Island, Dare Co., N.C., although since 1962 summering birds have been suspected of breeding at Little Creek State Game Refuge in Kent Co., Del. Probably associated with the range extension to Delaware are the recent spring and summer records from Back Bay NWR. In 1965 two were seen, but only once, on 18 May (Ambrosen); in 1966, two arrived on 16 May, and remained until late summer (exact departure date not available). In 1967 none were seen, but in 1968, 5 appeared on 27 April. Two were seen until 3 May (PAB, FGB *et al.*) Due apparently to the ephemeral shallow water conditions at Back Bay, the stilts always left shortly after arrival (except in 1966). Perhaps they might breed were one impoundment kept filled with shallow water; this would certainly attract other shorebirds as well and is worth attempting. It seems likely that Back Bay NWR will be their next breeding location between Little Creek, Del., and Bodie Id., N.C., since the species has never been seen at the more extensive impoundments at Chincoteague NWR, and only once at Blackwater NWR in Dorchester Co., Md.

Wilson's Phalarope (*Steganopus tricolor*): Virtually all that could be said about habitat, spring and fall status, recent high counts and the extraordinary spring 1968 numbers of Stilt Sandpipers applies to this species as well. Sample fall dates: 2-3: Craney Island, 17-21 September 1966 (PAB *et al.*); 2: Craney Island, 5 August 1967 (PAB, FGB, MAB, Baker), building up to 8 in late August (TZ, RLA).

In the spring of 1968, one in winter plumage showed up at Back Bay NWR on 12 April; it was subsequently jointed by two breeding-plumaged males and

two breeding-plumaged females on 27 April. The last, still in winter plumage, left 3 May. Perhaps one of these five was the female seen at Chincoteague NWR on 25 May 1968 by T. H. Davis *et al.* These are unprecedented numbers for a species previously almost unknown in spring in Virginia, but probably reflect both a change in spring status and an increase in optimal habitat. In the last ten years Wilson's Phalarope has been recorded annually in spring from Massachusetts, Long Island, and New Jersey. It may be that, finally, after 50 years of protection, the shorebirds are at last in sufficient numbers that a small segment of most species that are normally Mississippi Valley migrants in spring are now returning in limited numbers along the Atlantic coast route that many more of them follow each fall. (See also Hudsonian Godwit, above).

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*):

Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*): Due to the paucity of offshore observations, the Virginia Capes status of jaegers, like most pelagics, is relatively unknown. Our few observations add materially to the meager data on both species, so all records, even a few actually in nearby North Carolina, will be listed. It is not yet possible to suggest migration or wintering dates, but it would not surprise us if both these species were found wintering off the Virginia Capes regularly. The year-round relative abundance of the two remains unknown.

1 Parasitic: about ten miles below Va., N.C. line, 24 April 1967, (PAB, FGB); 4+ Parasitics: Cape Henry, 4 May 1967, (PAB, FGB); 1 Parasitic, 1 Pomarine, 10 unidentified: Cape Henry, 22 May 1967, (PAB, FGB); 2 Parasitics: 15 miles s. of Back Bay NWR on ocean beach, 1 November 1967 (PAB, FGB); 7 Pomarines, 2 Parasitics: Oregon Inlet, N.C., 11 November 1967, (PAB, FGB); 2 Pomarines, 1 Parasitic (prob.): Cape Henry, 24 November 1967, (PAB, FGB); 2 Pomarines (prob.): Back Bay NWR, 24 November 1967, (PAB, FGB); 2 Parasitics: Cape Henry, 13 December 1967, (PAB, MAB, *et al.*); 1 Parasitic, 1 Pomarine: Back Bay NWR, 25 May 1968, (PAB, RGF, RLS).

Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*):

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucoideus*): Since Part I, when we noted seeing Glaucous once and Iceland not at all, we have found both species regular in the Virginia Capes area. Possibly the reports listed below simply indicate periods of unusual abundance for both species, but we do not think so.

Glaucous:

1 imm.: Lynnhaven Inlet, 4 May 1967 (PAB, FGB) 1 imm.: CBBT, 6 October 1967 (FCB) 1 ad.: Cape Charles, 31 December 1967 (P.A. DuMont *et al.*) 1-2 imm.: Kempsville Dump, 17 January 1968 (PAB, FGB, TZ) 1 imm.: Craney Island, 28 January to 22 February 1968 (PAB *et al.*) 1 imm.: Lynnhaven Inlet, 2 February 1968 (J.R. Withrow) 1 imm.: CBBT, 27 March 1968 (PAB, FGB, TZ) 2 (1 ad., 1 imm.): Fisherman's Island, 30 March 1968 (PAB and class) 1 imm.: Fisherman's Island, 4 April 1968 (PAB, FGB, MAB)

Iceland:

1 imm.: Fisherman's Island, 6-12 May 1967 (PAB, FGB) 2 (1 ad., 1 imm.): Kempsville Dump, 17 January 1968 (PAB, FGB, TZ) 1 imm.: Cape Henry, 1 February 1968 (PAB, FGB) 1 imm.: CBBT, 27 March to 19 April 1968 (PAB *et al.*) 1 imm.: Cape Henry, 15 April 1968 (PAB, FGB) 1 imm.: Fisherman's Island, 19 April 1968 (PAB, FGB, MAB) 1 imm.: CBBT, 26 April 1968 (PAB, FGB, R.M. Beck) 1 imm.: Fisherman's Island, 11 to 29 May 1968 (PAB *et al.*)

To the best of our knowledge, each bird mentioned above is a different individual. The ages and dates of occurrence of both these species in the Virginia Capes area dovetail nicely with data from other Middle Atlantic States, notably the New York City area, with which we are most familiar: (1) most records are for immatures; only rarely are adults seen; (2) only rarely are any seen before late November or even late December, and January is a more

normal arrival time; (3) both species linger late, regularly into April, while at the same time there seems to be a northward return flight, commencing in April and very often continuing into late May. Even the few older Virginia Capes records support this spring return flight (see 1950s issues of *The Raven* for records).

Field identification of the two species is not as difficult as many books would lead one to believe, in spite of occasional birds that seem intermediate in size. The best method is direct comparison in the field, not always possible especially in Virginia. One field mark not generally known is bill size and color: Glaucous bills are usually massive, even if the bird itself is small, and in our experience, are always *two-toned*: the basal half is pink, the terminal half dark. This character is probably valid after sometime in their first year or even earlier, until late in their third or fourth year, when they are getting the grey mantle of the adult. On the other hand, Iceland Gulls almost always look very dove-headed, probably enhanced by their bills: small, and almost invariably *solidly dark*. Late in their third year or early in the fourth year, their bills begin to get light at the base, but by then the dark wing-tip 'mirrors' characteristic of *L. g. kumlieni*, the North American form, should be appearing. At any rate, adults or near adults of both species are decidedly unusual: most of those seen in the Middle Atlantic States are in the all white or slightly beige/buffy plumage when bill color is a satisfactory qualitative field mark.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*): Another of the European gulls turning up with increasing regularity in eastern North America. Unlike Black-headed and Little Gulls, which show up along the length of the coast from Nova Scotia south, *fuscus* to our knowledge has never been formally reported from New England or the Maritime Provinces. On the other hand, it is seen practically every winter in the New York City region, especially at certain favored garbage dumps on the Newark/Hackensack Meadows (New Jersey), where up to four different birds a season have been seen and at least one specimen taken. It has occurred in upstate New York on several occasions (with a Buffalo specimen), and one has returned for five successive winters since 1962/63 to Ithaca, New York on Cayuga Lake. There is a recent specimen from inland Indiana, one from Virginia, sight records from the Texas coast and from Puerto Rico, and a recent specimen from St. Martin (Netherlands Antilles).

Virginia records, all of adults and by observers previously familiar with the species in life, have come from the coast (except one). They suggest that Lesser Black-backed Gull passes through on migration but seems not to winter. Careful observations at large garbage dumps may alter this tentative picture. Virginia reports include: 1: Chincoteague NWR, 7 October 1948 (Herbert & Buckalew) specimen in USNM; 2: Potomac R. @ Fort Hunt (? Co.), 20 November 1966 (J.M. Abbott); 1: Back Bay NWR, 31 December 1966 (W.C. Russell); 1: Lynnhaven Inlet, 1 April 1967 (PAB, FGB); 1: Roaches Run, Arlington Co., 11-12 January 1968 (J. Higman & D.R. Simonson) 1: CBBT, 4 April 1968 (PAB, FGB).

While all collected North American specimens have been *L. fuscus graelsii*, the British Isles form, two questions remain unanswered: Why are there no reports from the Maritimes and New England, where there is probably the most intense observation on the continent? and, What is the source of North American birds? We suggest that a small population may regularly winter at favorable garbage dumps in more northerly (i.e. New York/Middle Atlantic States) latitudes, and that others winter in the West Indies, passing down the Atlantic coast each fall, at least some returning north in spring. (The West Indies wintering population may be augmented by west African wintering birds following tradewinds west across the Atlantic. If so, these birds would probably recross the ocean in the tropics, since there is no increase in Atlantic coast numbers in spring; if anything, there are less seen than in fall,



in spite of more observers afield in spring.) If, as should now be suspected, Lesser Black-backed Gull breeds somewhere in North America, the pattern of records suggests a colony somewhere in the interior of Canada, perhaps the James Bay region, although we stress that we know of no interior Canada records for the species. Alternatively, but less likely in our opinion, the North American birds may be annual transatlantic migrants (the species breeds in Iceland, and only since ca. 1925). If North American birds are of European origin, the lack of New England/Maritime records suggests entry into continental North America via the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the St. Lawrence River, the birds then dispersing once in the Great Lakes. If this is the explanation, the gulls may quite possibly follow ships across the ocean and up the St. Lawrence Seaway.

Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*): In the winter of 1967/68, one Black-headed Gull was seen, a sub-adult with Bonaparte's (*L. philadelphia*) at Cape Henry on 24 November 1967, (PAB, FGB), but not again. However on 25 May 1968, a similarly-plumaged bird was watched for one half-hour on the ocean beach at Back Bay NWR (PAB, RGF, RLS). It was not seen thereafter. This brings to at least five the known Virginia reports, all since 1959.

Little Gull (*Larus minutus*): Seemingly more numerous if not more regular than the preceding species. One winter-plumaged adult was seen at Cape Henry on 6 December 1967 (PAB) and another, different adult at the same place on 16 December (PAB, FGB, R. & P. Isleib). As in 1966/67, they were not seen again, despite many observations of what appeared to be the same wintering flock of Bonaparte's. Where else they go, or winter, in the Hampton Roads area, remains unknown. These are about the 4th and 5th Virginia reports, although probably at least six individuals have been involved.

Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*): On 6 December 1967 one immature was seen with Bonaparte's and Little Gulls at Cape Henry (PAB); on 10 December, during a strong NE gale, another (oiled) immature and an adult were seen in the same place (PAB). None was seen again. While these are only about the fourth and fifth Virginia records from shore, all but one from the Cape Henry area, this highly pelagic bird probably occurs offshore regularly each winter, although at present the only observations supporting this contention are from the Chincoteague Lightship, 20 miles off Chincoteague Inlet, (Accomac Co.,) where McCartney recorded it daily from 29 November 1954 to 10 March 1955 (Murray, 1955). Winter observations are badly needed off the Virginia coast to elucidate the status of this and other pelagic species, particularly alcids.

Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*): An adult in winter plumage was seen at Back Bay NWR on 4 October 1967 (PAB, FGB, TZ) and a second, a sub-adult in winter plumage, was seen on the CBBT on 20 and 22 June 1968 (PAB, FGB, RLA).

These are the first recorded Virginia occurrences of this species and will be discussed in detail elsewhere (Buckley and Buckley, Ms.); they are listed here for completeness.

Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougallii*): Probably the most frequently overlooked small tern besides the difficult Arctic (*S. paradisaea*), Roseate's status in coastal Virginia is puzzling. While the species has a worldwide distribution, known breeding locations are often widely separated, sometimes harboring immense colonies of several thousand birds, yet can comprise only a few pairs nesting with another species, usually Common (*S. hirundo*) or Arctic. The time is ripe for a careful study of the species' ecological requirements to explain its distribution.



In Virginia, when noticed, it has been listed as rare; the only breeding records after the turn of the century were at Cobb, Wreck and Isaacs (= Fisherman's) Islands, all in 1920 (Murray, 1952). In fact, Murray (op. cit.) listed only two other records at all, both from the coast and in the 1940s. Since then AFN has listed a few, but less than a half dozen. If our observations are indicative, Roseate Tern is a regular but uncommon rare spring migrant, appears *at* (so far, not *in*) the larger Common Tern colonies such as on Fisherman's Island, in summer, and seems to disappear after late July. Our records are: 1: Lynnhaven Inlet, 11 May 1967 (PAB, FGB); up to 9: 14 June-9 July 1967, Fisherman's Island (PAB *et al.*); 1: Rudee Inlet, Princess Anne Co., 27 May 1968 (PAB); 3-5: Fisherman's Island, 22 June-2 July 1968 (PAB *et al.*); 1: Craney Island, 4 July 1968 (PAB, FGB) our only one away from ocean front; 2: Back Bay NWR, 9 July 1968 (PAB, RLA).

As more observers learn that it is easiest to identify Roseate Tern by its distinctive call notes—the disyllabic *chewick* or *cheewy*, and the harsh, monosyllabic *chaack*—its true status in Virginia will be realized. It is certainly to be expected as a breeder, probably on Fisherman's Island, at any time.

Sandwich Tern (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*): Murray (1952) records one 1880 specimen from Cobb Island, Northampton Co.; and a set of eggs "from one of the coastal islands" in 1920. There seem to have been no other records whatsoever until 8 May 1959 when two were seen at Wachapreague Inlet (FCB); then none until one was seen in the Royal Tern colony (but no proof of nesting obtained) on Fisherman's Island on 5 June 1965 (P. W. Sykes). Since 1966, we have recorded it as follows: pair, with newly hatched chick: Fisherman's Island, 18-21 July 1967 (PAB, FGB); 2 (adult & juvenile): Back Bay NWR, 23 July 1967 (PAB, FGB, TZ, RGF); 1 adult: Cape Henry, 28 July 1967 (PAB, FGB); 1 adult: Back Bay NWR, 4 October 1967 (PAB, FGB, TZ); 1 adult: Fisherman's Island, in Royal colony, 22 June 1968 (FGB); 1 adult: Back Bay NWR, 26 June 1968 (PAB, FGB); 1 adult: Back Bay NWR, 9 July 1968 (PAB, RLA); 12+ (10 juveniles): Fisherman's Island, 19 July 1968 (PAB, FGB, M.R. Dilger); 5 (3 juveniles): Back Bay NWR, 24 July 1968 (PAB, FGB).

It is possible that Sandwich Tern has been overlooked, is expanding its range, or 1968 was exceptional. None of these explanations precludes the others. Unless one has been in a thriving Royal Tern colony, it is hard to imagine just how easily Sandwich Terns can be overlooked. In 1967 for example, working almost daily in the Fisherman's Island colony, we did not discover the breeding pair until about two days after their chick hatched: the incubation period in Sandwich Tern is at least 24 days! Careful examination of the Eastern Shore barrier beach islands and any Royal Tern colonies on them will probably turn up more Sandwich Terns, as will careful examination of flocks of large terns anywhere in coastal Virginia. As to the July 1968 numbers of just-fledged juveniles on Fisherman's Island, we can only conjecture where they were raised: possibly Smith Island or the Myrtle/Ship Shoal complex, or even the Oregon Inlet, Dare Co., N.C. colonies, which are known to contain a sizeable Sandwich population. We do feel the species is expanding northward, probably following the expansion of its preferred colony-mate, Royal Tern.

Royal Tern (*Thalasseus maximus*): Reaches the northern limit of its breeding distribution at or just above the Virginia Capes. Prior to 1967, it nested sporadically on islands in Chincoteague Bay, Accomac Co., and near Ocean City, Maryland. These apparently were never large or very stable colonies, probably due to interference from boating parties, fishermen, and other human disturbances. In 1967 & 1968 there was a small colony of about 250-750 pairs in the middle of Wachapreague Inlet, Accomac Co., about 40 miles north of Fisherman's Island (MAB). At the latter location, a population has been build-

ing up since the early 1960s, probably reaching its greatest size in 1967, when the writers estimated some 4500 pairs. Numbers were down in 1968, again due to human disturbance in spite of "Posted" signs. That year, as in years past, there apparently was some production on either Smith Island, the next barrier beach island north and east of Fisherman's Island, or the Myrtle/Ship Shoal Island complex, north and east of Smith Island. All but Fisherman's Island are accessible only by plane or boat, so regularity of colony occupancy and production data are lacking. The nearest colonies south of the Cape Charles area are at Oregon Inlet, N.C. These are large and well-established, and probably seed the coastal Virginia colonies.

Royal Terns arrive at Fisherman's Island in late March, and usually begin laying in the first week in May. They are often washed out by storm tides and it is not unusual for the first hatchings to occur in early July, and the last fledgings in late August, or even later. Most Royals depart by late September/early October, and while occasional birds may linger until late December, this is unusual. Overwinterings may occur locally, and do regularly at Hatteras Inlet, Dare Co., N.C., about 150 miles south of Cape Charles; birds may also overwinter in limited numbers at Oregon Inlet, N.C. Royal Tern seems on the increase in Virginia, but badly needs protection from human disturbance on the exposed, desolate island/sandbars that seem the species' exclusive preference for breeding colonies.

Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*): A regular migrant in the Virginia Capes area, this species is a possibility as a breeder in the local Royal Tern colonies. We know of no proven Virginia nesting in the past, despite published references to the contrary, but it does breed sporadically along the Gulf coast and at least in South Carolina, in Royal colonies. Adults or juveniles at or near Royal colonies should be watched, but in themselves are definitely *not* evidence of local breeding since juvenile Caspians, like Royals, follow and beg food from adults up to hundreds of miles from the breeding colonies, if not further (pers. obs.)

Caspian Terns arrive in the Virginia Capes area in early to mid-April, some ten days to two weeks behind Royals. Most are gone by mid-May, although some linger later, usually adults that are often in winter plumage (blotched white foreheads). They occasionally appear in June at Craney Island, a favorite loafing area for (colorbanded) Royal Terns from the Fisherman's Island colony, where occasional Caspians also show up in June. So far we have no evidence or even suggestion of breeding there, a situation that could change at any time. Southbound adults or juveniles colorbanded on the Great Lakes arrive regularly by 15 July, sometimes on or before the 4th of July, e.g. 30: Craney Island, 4 July 1968. Our observations help to explain the origin of July birds from coastal New Jersey and Long Island: they are probably also southbound from Great Lakes colonies. Coastal Labrador and Newfoundland birds are probably those that move down the mid-Atlantic states' coast regularly in September. Most Caspian Terns depart the Virginia Capes area by early November: we have seen none after the 10th, although there are later local records.

Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*): Another of the regular 'western vagrants' that reach the coast each fall, sometime winter or attempt to, and more rarely return with northbound icterid flocks in spring. As more observers scrutinize blackbird flocks, more and more Yellow-heads are recorded. Two recent Cape Henry records are an imm. male, Norfolk, 10-25 April 1965 (FCB *et al.*), and a female, Back Bay NWR, 12-18 April 1968 (Waterfield, Ambrosen *et al.*) Both were at feeders with Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), and Yellow-head seems to be moving east as a breeder. There are other recent Virginia records, and it can be expected to occur even more frequently in the future.

Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*): The current breeding status of the species in the Middle Atlantic States is reasonably well outlined in the 5th edition of the A.O.U. Check-list (1957), despite other published statements. More precisely, it may breed rarely in the Maryland portion of the Delmarva Peninsula; perhaps formerly did breed on Virginia's Eastern Shore but there is no evidence that it does any longer; and elsewhere in southern Virginia, east of Richmond it has never been recorded breeding. Indeed, until recently, it was rarely even recorded in the Virginia Capes area in migration: Grey (1950) knew of only three records.

Its status as a migrant seems to have changed since then. We and others saw it regularly in fall, especially in August and September and often in small flocks; in spring it seems to be less common, although still regular. In winter it has been showing up at feeders with remarkable regularity, and in the winter of 1963/64 one flock of 50 (!) wintered in Newport News (see AFN). Some of these wintering birds may be the ones recently attempting to breed in the Cape Henry area, as follows. In June 1967 a male and female were seen repeatedly in a residential area of Norfolk. Later that month an empty nest was found after a storm; the pair left shortly thereafter. In 1968 presumably the same male and female were in the same location in May and June but no nest could be located, and no young were ever seen (*vide* Emily Moore). Also in 1968, from at least early July to late August, another male and female were seen near Hickory, Princess Anne Co., (only about five miles from the N.C. line) and in late August three in female or immature plumage were in the same place (Curtis, Moore *et al.*) The grounds on which the birds were located could not be examined more carefully, so it is not known if the pair did actually bring off a brood. If Baltimore Oriole is definitely proved to nest in the Cape Henry area in the future this would extend its known breeding range southward and eastward by at least 150 miles.

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*): Another 'western vagrant.' There are apparently now five records for Virginia. The first was from a Virginia Beach, Princess Anne Co., feeder on 29 January 1965 (F.C. Richardson); the second was a female or immature in Norfolk, 13 October 1966 (FCB); the third, at Wellington, Fairfax Co., was an imm. male at a feeder from 25 February to ca. 1 April 1967 (Abbott *et al.*); the fourth (age/sex unknown) was at a Chester, Chesterfield Co., feeder from 9 January to 22 February 1968 (A. Miranian) and the fifth was an almost adult male that appeared at the Curtis feeder near Little Creek, Princess Anne Co., ca. 1 April 1968; it was mist-netted and color photographed on 18 April (PAB *et al.*), and when last seen on 1 May was in essentially complete breeding dress.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*): A straggler to Virginia, there being probably less than a half dozen records for the entire state. The species normally winters no further north than Florida, so the following two overwinterings at a Little Creek feeder (probably involving the same individual) are noteworthy. The bird, apparently an adult female, first appeared (dates of arrival and departure uncertain) in November 1965 and remained until early April 1966; then again in mid-December 1966, staying until early April 1967. Mrs. Donald Curtis, at whose feeder it stayed, took color motion pictures from a few inches away; the writers have examined these movies and confirm the identification as to species and sex. These records are reported here for the first time.

Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*): Another mid-'western vagrant' that now seems to be in the process of reestablishing itself over the eastern US breeding range it had prior to completely vanishing in the late 1800s. In the Cape Henry area, we saw it twice on migration: imm. male, Sandbridge, 14 October 1966 (PAB, FGB, FCB) and a female, Fisherman's Island, 30 September 1967 (FGB, PAB, RLA).

About 1 June 1967, Mrs. Joy Dulaney reported several singing males near Driver, Nansemond Co., which we confirmed on 23 June, at which time the field they were in was mowed. The birds disappeared immediately thereafter. On 23 July 1967 a singing male and an agitated female were found near Princess Anne, Princess Anne Co. (PAB, FGB, TZ, RGF) but no nest could be located and the birds were not seen again. From 2 December 1967 on, Mrs. Dulaney had at least two males and a female at her feeder, about three miles from the 1967 Driver location. In mid-March 1968 one male disappeared, the female began carrying nesting material in April but she and the remaining male then singing, finally left around 24 April. None was seen in the Driver location nor elsewhere in the summer of 1968, but it seems likely that Dickcissels are breeding somewhere near the ocean in southeastern Virginia. If so, this would be the first breeding of the species on the Atlantic coast in the 20th century, and probably foreshadows coastal breeding elsewhere in Virginia, then in Maryland and New Jersey where inland range reclamation is now in process.

House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*): The spread in the east of this introduced species has been discussed at length in several journals, particularly Bird-banding and AFN. The first recorded individuals to reach Cape Henry were a male and female that visited the Curtis feeder near Little Creek for a week in January 1967, and again on 5 March 1968. Mrs. Curtis photographed these in color movies, which the writers examined; the species was verified. In addition PAB has seen the species twice: 12: Cape Henry, 24 January 1968, feeding in sand dune grass; and a singing male, Lynnhaven Inlet, 27 June 1968, which suggests that the House Finch may now be breeding at Cape Henry.

Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*): Until the mid-1960s, one of the rarest of 'western vagrants,' but in the last 4 or 5 years has been showing up with remarkable regularity on the coast and, more unusually, inland, especially at winter feeders, from Maine and the Maritime Provinces to Florida (see AFN). There is one old Virginia specimen from Lexington, Rockbridge Co., 11 February 1942, and the following recent reports, both from the Sandbridge-Back Bay NWR area on the ocean: female or imm., 5 September 1960 (Sykes *et al.*) and a molting adult male, 20 August-ca. 7 September 1967 (FCB, Waterfield *et al.*) Both these reports were in the period when most recent coastal Lark Buntings have been seen elsewhere in the east: late August to late September.

Black-throated Sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*): This southwestern desert species has been recorded in recent years at several locations in the east, including Wisconsin, Illinois, Ohio, Massachusetts and New Jersey; in the latter state an adult spent the winter of 1961-62 at a New Brunswick feeder. On the morning of 7 October 1967, Mrs. F.C. Burford, one of Virginia's most experienced and careful observers, watched an immature Black-throated Sparrow at her feeder in Norfolk for several minutes. She wrote down a complete description, which we have, and which leaves no doubt in our mind of the correctness of the identification. The observer was thoroughly familiar with the species in life, knew its identity and rarity at the time of observation, and unsuccessfully attempted to collect it. This is the first occurrence for Virginia, and at present, the southernmost on the Atlantic seaboard; it is reported here for the first time.

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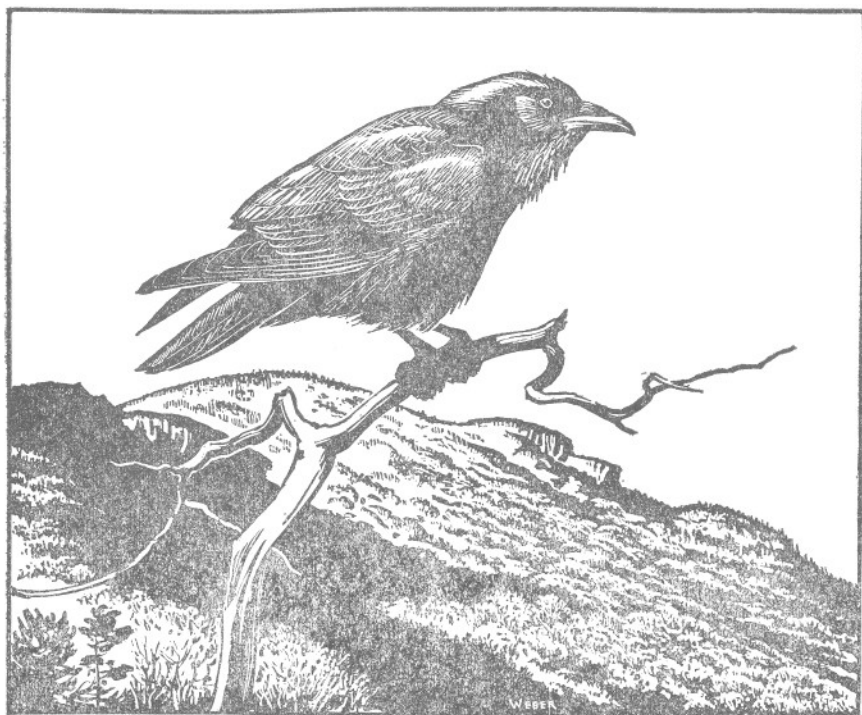
# The Raven

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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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## SOME SUMMER RECORDS OF CANADIAN AND ALLEGHENIAN ZONE BIRDS IN THE MOUNTAINS OF WEST-CENTRAL VIRGINIA

CHARLES E. STEVENS

In the course of exploring some of the highest mountains in western Augusta and Rockingham counties for plants in 1968, I was much surprised at the number of summer birds with northern affinities which occurred there. Several were found in a little-known native Red Spruce stand in the Shenandoah Mountain section of Rockingham County and some in a Balsam Fir planting about 12 miles southwestward in the same county, but still others turned up in somewhat less boreal surroundings.

The Rockingham spruce occurrence came to my attention in an article by Hoffman (1950) in *Castanea*, the journal of the Southern Appalachian Botanical Club. Red Spruce (*Picea rubens*) is the most striking and obvious plant indicator of what we call the Canadian Faunal Zone in Virginia. With this fact in mind I made several trips to the stand, which is located below Hall Spring. It extends for  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile along upper Laurel Run, which meanders across a small high plateau on Shenandoah Mountain and is underlain by the resistant Pocono sandstone. This site is 6 miles north of U. S. route 33 and  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from the West Virginia line. The spruce trees are fairly large and are best developed at the 3550 foot elevation. Several Golden-crowned Kinglets, Red-breasted Nuthatches, and Red Crossbills were found there in addition to the Veery, Solitary Vireo, Blackburnian Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, and Canada Warbler, which are more often met with in the Virginia mountains. Several northern clubmosses and the Bunchberry or Dwarf Cornel (*Cornus canadensis*) also occur here. Part of this stand is located in the George Washington National Forest.

Also on Shenandoah Mountain and astride the Virginia-West Virginia boundary  $\frac{3}{4}$  miles north of Reddish Knob is a Balsam Fir (*Abies balsamea*) planting of several acres. The trees appear to have been planted in the 1920's or 1930's. For the last 10 years or so they have been reproducing as there are numerous seedlings, mostly on the West Virginia side. This tree has an even more northern distribution than Red Spruce and is found native in Virginia, as of now, only on and near Hawksbill in the Blue Ridge. On 12 June 1968 I was greatly surprised to discover feeding in the grove, in addition to a pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches and 5 Red Crossbills, a flock of 10 Pine Siskins. The elevation here is 4000 feet. Like the Red Crossbill, the Siskin has a reputation as an erratic wanderer so that its appearance here during the breeding season may not have any particular significance. There are several other summer records for the state (Murray, 1952).

The most unexpected and gratifying find was a virgin forest of almost a square mile in size on the north side of Slate Springs Mountain in Rockingham County. This magnificent primordial stand is situated about 4 miles north of Reddish Knob and consists of several associations (hemlock, hemlock-yellow birch, and hemlock-mixed hardwood) ranging from 4100 feet near the top of the ridge down to 3200 feet at the head of Skidmore Fork. Several Canadian birds were found in this superb and unspoiled woodland, species which I had only associated before with spruce or spruce-fir in the Southern Appalachians. The Red-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Brown Creeper, and Winter Wren occurred sparingly throughout, and on 4 July a Magnolia Warbler was found singing in an almost pure hemlock section. The commonest birds present were the Black-throated Green Warbler, Slate-colored Junco, Black-capped Chickadee, Solitary Vireo, Blackburnian Warbler, and Veery. In stands

of pure hemlock where trees measured up to four feet dbh and there was almost no understory, there were few birds. Conversely, where there was a greater variety in the flora there were more bird species represented.

That this remnant of virgin forest is in any immediate danger of being cut is not known by the writer. It lies within the George Washington National Forest, and an adjacent section in the Dunkle Hollow watershed appeared to have been timbered in the last dozen years or so. Bruce Davenport, Robert J. Watson, and I heard two Winter Wrens on 29 June in the cutover section where scattered large hemlocks, bearing testimony to a former splendid forest, towered above a congestion of birch, hemlock, and Fire Cherry saplings.

Details of the above records and additional ones, all of which were made in 1968, follow.

#### **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** *Sphyrapicus varius* (Linnaeus)

On 5 May Allen Hale, of Charlottesville, and I found 4 birds drumming on territories in mixed hardwoods from 3400 to 3800 feet at the head of North River in Augusta County near the West Virginia line. In Bath County on 26 June 3 were heard drumming in a sugar maple-hickory-birch-basswood forest at 3800 feet on Mad Tom mountain near Paddy Knob. This site is on Allegheny Mountain near the West Virginia boundary.

On 19 June I saw a male drumming at 3650 feet on the northeast side of Cole Mountain in the Amherst County Blue Ridge. This is the second record for the woodpecker since it was discovered there by Freer and Murray (1952) on 6 July 1933. The bird gave a hoarse call similar to that of the Red-headed Woodpecker, a new call for the species in this observer's experience. It was found in a lightly grazed hickory-oak second growth with a pure young Shagbark Hickory stand adjacent. This a peculiarly outlying occurrence for the species in summer in Virginia.

The Augusta and Bath records represent new counties for its summer occurrence in the state.

#### **Acadian Flycatcher** *Empidonax virescens* (Vieillot)

Several of these flycatchers were found in the lower (3400 feet) part of the virgin hemlock on Slate Springs Mountain in Rockingham County where they shared territory with Golden-crowned Kinglets and Winter Wrens, demonstrating the mixture of northern and southern forms that is often found in the southern mountains.

#### **Common Raven** *Corvus corax* Linnaeus

On 6 April Bruce Davenport and I saw a flock of 38 Ravens apparently migrating northward over Second Mountain in western Rockingham County. The birds were circling while riding the thermal currents in the manner of some migrating hawks. Some of them were dogfighting and many were calling. This record is included here only because of the high number of birds seen and what would appear to be a late date for migration.

#### **Red-breasted Nuthatch** *Sitta canadensis* Linnaeus

This species was found at three locations in Rockingham County: at the Shenandoah Mountain fir planting at 4000 feet by the Spring Creek Hunt Club (2 on 12 June and 29 June and one on 3 August); 4 at 3550 feet in the Laurel Run spruce on 30 June; in the Slate Springs Mountain hemlock forest (one at 4000 feet on 29 June; one at 4100 feet, one at 4000 feet, and 2 at 3500 feet on 4 July; one at 4200 feet on 3 August). It has been previously unreported in summer from this county.

**Brown Creeper** *Certhis familiaris* Linnaeus

Recorded in Rockingham in the virgin forest on the north side of Slate Springs Mountain: a pair at 3800 feet in hemlock-yellow birch on 12 June; one singing at 4000 feet in hemlock on 29 June; on 4 July one singing at 4200 feet and another at 4000 feet in hemlock-birch; a pair at 4200 feet on 3 August. This is another new summer bird for the county.

**Winter Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes* (Linnaeus)

This wren occurs in mature hemlock associations in the Ramsey Draft drainage in western Augusta County where it has been recorded as low as 2400 feet at the nature trail in past years (also see Scott, 1962). On 19 May 1968 I found one singing at 3500 feet on Right Prong Ramsey Draft and another singing in a strip of virgin hemlock at 3200 feet on Left Prog Ramsey Draft.

In Rockingham, where it is newly recorded as a summer bird, it has been found on the north slopes of Slate Springs Mountain on the following dates: one in hemlock-yellow birch at 3400 feet on 12 June; one each at 3400 feet and 3300 feet in virgin hemlock at the head of Skidmore Fork and one each at 3400 feet and 3500 feet in cutover hemlock-hardwoods in the Dunkle Hollow drainage north of Meadow Knob on 29 June; one each in hemlock at 4200 feet and 3400 feet on 4 July above Skidmore Fork; one at the same place at 3500 feet on 3 August.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet** *Regulus satrapa* Lichtenstein

This bird, new in summer from Augusta and Rockingham, was found in hemlock on Left Prong Ramsey Draft (Augusta) on 19 May—one at 3200 feet and another at 3250 feet.

On 1 June 3 were found at 3550 feet in the Laurel Run (Rockingham) spruce. One bird was carrying food. On 30 June 3 were singing at the same place.

In the Slate Springs Mountain forest on 12 June one was singing at 4200 feet and another at 3800 feet, both in hemlock-yellow birch; on 29 June one was singing at 3600 feet in hemlock; and on 4 July one was singing in hemlock at 3400 feet.

**Nashville Warbler** *Vermivora ruficapilla* (Wilson)

The mystery of the several recent summer records of this warbler in Virginia (Stevens, 1967) deepened with the occurrence on 1 June of 4 singing birds spaced as if on territory along a 0.4-mile strip of wildlife clearing on Rader Mountain in western Rockingham. The habitat was burned-over oak-pine-heath scrub situated at 3600 feet and was very similar to the habitat in which it was seen in the northern Massanutten in 1967. Its bird associates were the Rufous-sided Towhee, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Black-capped Chickadee, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Catbird. However, on 30 June Robert J. Watson and I were unable to find it here. The morning was rather windy, and perhaps this was why we did not hear it, as we also did not record the grosbeaks.

**Magnolia Warbler** *Dendroica magnolia* (Wilson)

On 4 July one was found singing repeatedly from treetops in virgin hemlock at 3500 feet on the north side of Slate Springs Mountain in Rockingham County where there was little to no understory. This habitat differs markedly from that cited in most references and with my previous experience in Virginia and West Virginia, but Stoner (1932) said of it as a breeder in the Oneida Lake region of New York: "The magnolia warbler keeps well to the tops of the hemlocks, where it is more easily heard than seen."

The Magnolia is previously known in summer in Virginia from northwestern Highland County, the Mountain Lake area, and more recently in Southwest Virginia on Beartown (Tazewell County), Beartown Mountain (Russell County) and Whitetop.

### Pine Siskin *Spinus pinus* (Wilson)

The 10 birds seen on 12 June at the Spring Creek Hunt Club fir planting in Rockingham were calling but not singing. They may have been the remainder of a flock of 50, many singing, seen there on 24 March.

### Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra* Linnaeus

This bird was seen in small numbers during the winter and spring in the mountains of west-central Virginia but in summer was only found in the Laurel Run spruce area of Rockingham and the Slate Springs Mountain area.

On Laurel Run 4 were seen feeding in spruce on 1 June at 3550 feet, and 2 were heard flying over the same place on 30 June.

On 12 June 5 were seen in the fir stand at the Spring Creek Hunt Club cabin, and 23 were seen flying by the Flagpole Knob peak of Slate Springs Mountain. On 4 July 3 were in the fir planting, and 8 were seen flying over the virgin woods.

None of these crossbills has been heard singing, and it appears that obtaining any breeding evidence for them will be a fortuitous accident. They move about considerably but ordinarily call while flying and are easily heard. Their possible breeding in the abundant pine-oak habitat of these mountains is not to be unexpected.

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615 Preston Place, Charlottesville, Virginia 22903

## VSO TRIP TO MATTAMUSKEET

DORIS SMITH

On a warm Friday afternoon, 26 January 1968, we assembled for the VSO Mattamuskeet trip at Mattamuskeet Lodge, New Holland, North Carolina. Mr. John Davis, the new manager of Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge, explained that their ambitious plans to rebuild the Refuge to the "Goose Capital" were so strenuous that we would be on our own for the field trips. They furnished us with excellent maps and predicted cold weather in the morning.

About 35 VSO members began the Saturday morning trip to the central area of the Refuge. We found Whistling Swans, Canada Geese, Snow Geese and a few Blue Geese, Mallards, Black Ducks, Pintails, Green-winged Teal, and Coots as we followed a small road west of the highway which bisects the lake.

The afternoon trip was to the western part of the Refuge along a canal which feeds into the lake. There was a large stand of mature pine that produced a

few passerines. An extra short trip down the canal at the Lodge created quite a lot of excitement when a pair of Bobcats were found up in the trees.

Mr. Neeley, the assistant refuge manager, gave a slide illustrated talk about the Refuge and its birds on Saturday night and explained their banding program.

Sunday was "Snipe Day." We flushed them by the dozens as we walked the dikes toward the eastern side of the Refuge.

Quite a few of the group took the ocean route home to see the Gannets and shorebirds on the Outer Banks.

3009 Chesapeake Avenue, Hampton, Virginia 23361

## THE 1968 VSO ANNUAL MEETING

ROBERT J. WATSON, SECRETARY

The 1968 meeting of the Virginia Society of Ornithology convened in Gilmer Hall on the grounds of the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, on 10 May 1968. An unusually large crowd of 104 people attended the afternoon session, which was opened by Vice President James W. Eike at 2:30 p.m. Greetings were tendered the Society by Dr. Bodenstein, chairman of the Biology Department of the University, and Mrs. Jordan, representing the Albemarle-Charlottesville Library Board.

Talks were offered as follows:

1. Birds of Iceland and Greenland—Dr. Donald H. Messersmith.
2. A New Breeding Bird for Virginia and Other Records—Dr. Alexander Wetmore.
3. The Northern Raven, *Corvus corax principalis*—Mr. Dwight R. Chamberlain (assisted by Mr. Glen Dudder).
4. Some Natural History Classics—Dr. J. J. Murray.
5. An Experiment by a Chapter: The Lynchburg "Short Course" in Bird Study—Mrs. Myriam P. Moore.
6. Telemetric Determination of Turkey Movements—Mr. Jack W. Raybourne.

The banquet and business meeting (attended by 108 people) were held at the Monticello Hotel in downtown Charlottesville, with President Charles W. Hacker presiding. The principal item of business was the proposed Articles of Incorporation for the Society, copies of which had been distributed by the Secretary. Mr. Hacker pointed out that incorporation would offer several important advantages. Mr. Arthur Fast, chairman of the committee that had drafted the articles, recommended that they be approved in order that incorporation might be accomplished promptly. There followed a lively discussion centering on Section B of the articles, which, in setting forth the purposes of the Society, declared that "no part of its activities" should consist of "attempts to influence legislation." A number of members objected that such a provision would unduly hamper the Society's efforts to advance the cause of conservation. There was some difference of opinion as to whether this provision was legally necessary to qualify the Society as a "tax-exempt" institution, as defined by the U. S. Internal Revenue Service. A motion to amend this section to make the statement read "no substantial part" was finally carried. As thus amended, the Articles of Incorporation, with accompanying By-laws, were formally approved for submission to the cognizant state authorities.

The Secretary, Mr. R. J. Watson, read the report of the Nominating Com-

mittee, consisting of Mr. J. Steven Thornhill (chairman), Mrs. Margaret Coleman, and Mrs. Dorothy Mitchell, which recommended the following nominees:

*President:* MR. JAMES W. EIKE.

*Vice President:* MR. FREDERIC R. SCOTT.

*Secretary:* MR. ROBERT J. WATSON.

*Treasurer:* MRS. MYRIAM P. MOORE.

*Executive Committee, Class of 1971:* DR. ERNEST P. EDWARDS; MR. H. BRAD HAWKINS; MISS HENRIETTA WEIDENFELD.

There being no nominations from the floor, the Secretary was directed to cast a unanimous vote for these nominees.

Mr. J. Steven Thornhill was elected to fill the one-year vacancy on the Executive Committee left by the elevation of Mr. Scott to the vice-presidency.

Mrs. Margaret Watson, chairman of the Resolutions Committee (consisting of herself, Mrs. Carole Massart, and Mrs. Myriam Moore) submitted resolutions tendering hearty thanks to the host group, the newly organized Charlottesville-Albemarle Chapter of the VSO, and to all others responsible for arranging the meeting. These were unanimously approved.

Following the business meeting, Mr. Watson introduced the principal speaker, Dr. George E. Watson, Chairman, Department of Vertebrate Zoology, Smithsonian Institution, whose speech on the "Birds of Antarctica" was generously illustrated with his own slides.

On the following day, 11 May, the participants were led on two field trips by some of the local members of the VSO. One group went to the western part of Albemarle County in the lowlands, and the second group went to the Skyland Drive in Shenandoah National Park. Both groups joined for a picnic lunch in the Park at Loft Mountain.

2636 Marcey Road, Arlington, Virginia 22207

## VSO FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1967

## Cash Balance 1 January 1967

|                  |          |
|------------------|----------|
| General Fund     | \$ 62.40 |
| Publication Fund | 2,188.28 |

---

 \$2,250.68

## Cash Receipts During 1967

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Membership dues and subscriptions       | \$1,474.00 |
| Publications (sales, back issues Raven) | 30.50      |
| Supplies (sales, arm patches)           | 19.00      |
| Interest on Publication Fund            | 122.99     |

---

 \$1,646.49

## Cash Disbursements During 1967

|                      |          |
|----------------------|----------|
| The Raven            | \$606.39 |
| Newsletters          | 138.66   |
| Secretary's expenses | 80.79    |
| Treasurer's expenses | 136.85   |

## Affiliations

|                              |         |
|------------------------------|---------|
| Potomac Valley Cons. & Recr. | \$ 7.50 |
| Virginia Wildlife Federation | 100.00  |
| World Wildlife Fund          | 10.00   |
| National Audubon Society     | 25.00   |

---

 142.50

## Miscellaneous

|                              |        |
|------------------------------|--------|
| Truck freight on Raven files | \$7.11 |
| Refund to subscriber         | 3.00   |

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 10.11

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 \$1,115.30

## Cash Balance 31 December 1967

|                  |           |
|------------------|-----------|
| General Fund     | \$ 281.87 |
| Publication Fund | 2,500.00  |

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 \$2,781.87

Paid members, 1967: 559 total, including 430 active, 92 sustaining, 28 junior, 7 life, and 2 honorary members.

Myriam P. Moore, Treasurer



## THE VSO NORTHERN NECK FORAY

ROBERT J. WATSON

The current VSO program of breeding-bird forays was begun in 1966 with the objective of filling in knowledge of certain parts of the state that have been relatively unexplored by ornithologists. The 1968 foray, the third in the series, was held between 22 and 26 May 1968 and covered the Northern Neck peninsula of Virginia.

The town of Montross, county seat of Westmoreland County, served as headquarters. Field work embraced the counties of Westmoreland, Northumberland, Richmond, Lancaster, and the eastern edge of King George. The total number of registered participants was 18, most of whom, as would be expected, came from nearby parts of eastern or northern Virginia. Two other VSO members residing at the eastern end of the Northern Neck lent their assistance.

The first full day of the foray (Thursday, 23 May) saw six parties in the field. Thereafter the number dropped to five on Friday and four on Saturday. The three participants who stuck it out to the bitter end closed out activities on Sunday morning with a boat trip to some of the Chesapeake Bay marshes.

The large size of the foray area necessitated coverage on a highly selective basis. The western—or upper—end, where Stratford, Wakefield, and Westmoreland State Park offered convenient and readily accessible sites for foot parties, was most intensively covered. Sites in other parts of the area were chosen with a view to balance among various types of habitats and between inland and coastal regions.

All in all, some 165 species were reported, of which many, of course, were transients and not breeding birds. Many of the records will be itemized in detail in a separate paper, but some of the more interesting ones included a remarkable late flight of 45 Red-shouldered Hawks on May 25, the discovery of a Bank Swallow colony at Stratford, and several Vesper Sparrows which were probably breeding birds.

This was a fascinating type of field trip in a different section of Virginia, and the participants were most enthusiastic about continuing it in the future.

2636 Marcey Road, Arlington, Virginia 22207

## A JUNE TRIP TO SYRIA

GERTRUDE PRIOR

Following a spring "scouting" expedition to Graves' Mountain Lodge at Syria, Virginia, the Trip Committee, headed by W. A. Rothery, scheduled a June trip to this Madison County resort at the foot of the Blue Ridge. Twenty-eight VSOers gathered at Graves' Mountain Lodge for the June 14-16 week end, departing from the customary routine of going to Skyland in Shenandoah National Park for our June field trip.

Operated by Mr. and Mrs. Jim Graves, the main lodge contains a large and comfortable meeting room on the ground floor, with the dining room, dining porch, and kitchen upstairs. The view from this upstairs dining porch across the fields and toward the mountains is one long to be remembered. Sleeping accommodations are provided in the old farm house, Pete's House (a cottage on the side of the hill below the lodge), and several cabins tucked in the nearby woods.

The Robin seemed to be the most common bird in the fields and orchards on the Lodge property. Several persons remarked that they hadn't seen as

many Robins in one place in a long time. The bird that created most interest probably was the Warbling Vireo, which sang from the trees along the stream (the Robinson River) in the front field.

On Saturday morning our hosts transported us in cars up to the Skyline Drive and to the start of the White Oak Canyon Trail. This lovely walk through the Lumberlost and then on down along the stream of the Canyon provided both birders and botanists with much to see and hear. Our ears thrilled to the song of the Veery and other mountain birds, such as the Solitary Vireo, the Chestnut-sided and Black-throated Blue Warblers, Redstart, Louisiana Waterthrush, and other standbys. The walk from the Skyline Drive down to the place where the cars met us was probably about five miles. This was luxury hiking—all downhill.

On Sunday morning 12 of the group had a leisurely walk around the saddle of Old Rag, having been deposited at one end with cars awaiting at the other. The song of the Cerulean Warbler was the highlight of this excursion. Other groups birded, botanized, and photographed in the vicinity of the Lodge, and one car made the trip to the Hoover Camp not far away. The trip was officially ended after a noon dinner.

The combination of beautiful rolling country, almost perfect weather, delicious home-cooked food, interesting birding, and pleasant company, all in a most pleasant and relaxed atmosphere, made this a very satisfactory trip for the VSOers.

Box AW, Sweet Briar, Virginia 24595

## ACTIONS BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The VSO Executive Committee met in Charlottesville on 16 March and 10 May 1968 and took the following action:

1. Approved the revised proposed new Articles of Incorporation and By-laws and voted to submit these to the VSO membership for approval at the annual meeting in Charlottesville.
2. Requested Mr. J. Steven Thornhill to design a new membership application form which will double as a cover sheet for the *VSO Newsletter*.
3. Reviewed plans for future annual meetings, which presently are set up for Williamsburg in 1969 and Natural Bridge in 1970.

## NEWS AND NOTES

**LATE BREEDING RECORDS AT FALLS CHURCH.** James W. Eike reported an unusual number of birds still in breeding activities in early September 1967 at Falls Church, Virginia. He found Catbirds feeding young out of the nest on 2 and 7 September, a Cardinal nest with young on 3 September, 3 fledging Indigo Buntings on 2 September, and Song Sparrows feeding young out of the nest on 4 September.

**DIURNAL MIGRANTS AT KIPTOPEKE.** Several excellent counts of migrating flocks of birds were made at the banding station at Kiptopeke Beach, Virginia, in 1967. Among these were 300 Eastern Kingbirds on 1 September (M. A. Byrd & F. R. Scott), 77 Baltimore Orioles on 3 September (Byrd), 513 Bobolinks on 7 September (Byrd), and 1700 Broad-winged Hawks on 12 October (Dorothy Mitchell, Myriam Moore, & F. R. Scott).

**LATE AMERICAN BITTERN NEAR CHARLOTTESVILLE.** An American Bittern found near Charlottesville, Virginia, on 26 November 1967 was the latest fall record for Albemarle County (C. E. Stevens).

**BLACK DUCK NEST NEAR CHARLOTTESVILLE.** A Black Duck nest with 11 eggs was found near Charlottesville in April 1968 by Bruce Davenport. It was later abandoned. This was the first breeding record of this species for Albemarle County.

**MIGRATING PIGEON HAWKS.** Philip A. DuMont saw 9 Pigeon Hawks moving southward behind the dunes at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, Virginia, on 7 October 1967. This is a good count and the best in several years.

**LATE TURKEY BROOD IN AUGUSTA COUNTY.** Ruskin S. Freer found a Turkey hen and 12 almost fully grown young at the Big Levels Wildlife Management Area in Augusta County on 16 September 1967.

**WOODCOCK BREEDING AT CHINCOTEAGUE.** Elwood M. Martin reported an adult and 2 ½-grown young American Woodcock at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, Virginia, on 11 May 1968. The young had apparently been hatched out locally.

**HUDSONIAN GODWITS AT CHINCOTEAGUE.** Many persons saw the Hudsonian Godwits at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge in the late summer and early fall of 1967. The highest count was 14 on 30 September 1967 by Marcia Lakeman and Marcia Nelson. This was probably a record state count.

**BONAPARTE'S GULL INLAND IN AUGUST.** Jackson M. Abbott noted a Bonaparte's Gull in immature plumage at Dyke, Fairfax County, Virginia, on 27 August 1967.

**EARLY DOVE NEST.** J. M. Abbott found an early Mourning Dove nest with 2 eggs at Dyke, Fairfax County, Virginia, on 11 March 1968.

**WESTERN KINGBIRD AT CHINCOTEAGUE.** Marcia Lakeman and Marcia Nelson saw a late Western Kingbird at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge on 25 November 1967.

**EARLY INDIGO BUNTING AT NEWPORT NEWS.** An early Indigo Bunting was present at Newport News, Virginia, from 7 to 9 March 1968 and was banded and photographed by Dorothy Mitchell.

# The Raven

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY

VOLUME 39

DECEMBER 1968

NUMBER 4



Courtesy of Walter Weber

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The Virginia Society of Ornithology, Inc., 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 STATUS AND DISPERSAL OF VIRGINIA ROYAL TERNS

WILLET T. VAN VELZEN

Since the 1913 publication of *The Birds of Virginia*, in which Bailey commented upon the destruction of Royal Tern (*Thalasseus maximus*) colonies for millinery purposes and the collection of eggs by fishermen, little has been published on the occurrence of this outstanding tern as a breeding bird in Virginia. Murray (*A Check-list of the Birds of Virginia*, 1952) summarized the literature and commented that no breeding data were available. In recent years only miscellaneous mention has been made of this bird in the literature, mostly in the season reports of *Audubon Field Notes*.

### Review of Status

Frederic R. Scott (*Raven*, 24: 66, 1953) recorded 200 young Royal Terns near Wachapreague on 16 August 1952 and Miller (*Raven*, 24: 87-88, 1953) noted nests of six pairs, some with young, on Rogue Island in Hog Island Bay on 10 June 1953. For the next eight years, one can find this species mentioned only occasionally on various bird lists, with no indication that it was nesting in Virginia. In 1960 Scott and Cutler (*Audubon Field Notes*, 14(5): 440, 1960) stated that there were none at the Fisherman's Island colony. The following year (*AFN*, 15(5): 457, 1961) they were reported to have had a poor breeding season and none of the known Virginia nesting sites were used. Royal Terns apparently attempted to nest in 1962 (*AFN*, 16(5): 465, 1962) but were washed out by late June storms. In 1963 John S. Weske *et al.* (*AFN*, 17(15): 453, 1963) estimated 150 pairs on Adams Island. The following year Van Velzen and Weske (*AFN*, 18(5): 502, 1964) banded nearly 800 Royal Terns in colonies on Smith and Fisherman's Islands. Both of these colonies are on the barrier islands at the southern tip of Northampton County, near Kiptopeke. In 1965 P. W. Sykes (*AFN*, 19(5): 531-532, 1965) estimated 2200 active nests on Fisherman's Island on 5 June and 1500-1800 two-thirds grown young on 5 July. On an independent trip to the island on 23 June, however, Van Velzen and Mrs. G. H. Cole banded only 613 young; nearly all young in the colony were captured. That same year Van Velzen and E. W. Stiles banded an additional 946 young on Smith Island. Mrs. F. C. Burford (*AFN*, 20(5): 558, 1966) visited Fisherman's Island on 1 July 1966 and reported 500 good-sized young and 200 nests with eggs. That summer R. D. Benedict banded 2883 Royal Tern chicks in the Virginia colonies. Buckley (*AFN*, 21(5): 554, 1967) estimated 4500 pairs of Royal Terns on Fisherman's Island in 1967 and another 450 nests were reported near Cedar Island on 8 July, but Benedict reported (personal communication) that the Smith Island colony was abandoned. A short review of the status of the Royal Tern was also given by P. A. and F. G. Buckley (*Raven*, 39: 36-37, 1968).

The foregoing probably presents an incomplete picture of the status of the Royal Tern in Virginia from 1952 through 1967. The fact that this species was breeding in small numbers as far north as Maryland during the 1950's suggests that more breeding activity may have occurred in Virginia during this period than has been reported in publications. Starting with 1963, Royal Terns have apparently made a strong comeback, and each year the number of breeding birds seems to have increased.

### Banding

During the 1964 and 1965 breeding seasons several visits were made to the Smith Island and Fisherman's Island colonies to band young birds.

In 1964, 99 Royal Tern chicks were banded on Fisherman's Island on 27 July and 302 on Smith Island on 28 July. From the total of 401 birds banded, six recoveries (1.5%) have been received as of October 1968. In 1965, 613 chicks were banded on Fisherman's Island on 28 June and 946 on Smith Island on 9 July. From the total of 1559 banded, 40 recoveries (2.6%) have been received. No attempt was made to capture adult birds for banding or to check for returns. Table 1 lists the states and countries from which recoveries have been received along with the total number from each.

Table 1. Distribution of Royal Tern Recoveries.

| <i>United States</i> |    | <i>Caribbean</i>     |   | <i>Central and South America</i> |   |
|----------------------|----|----------------------|---|----------------------------------|---|
| Florida              | 17 | Dominican Republic   | 4 | Colombia                         | 5 |
| New Jersey           | 3  | Cuba                 | 3 | Honduras                         | 2 |
| North Carolina       | 2  | Jamaica              | 2 | British Honduras                 | 1 |
| Georgia              | 1  | Netherlands Antilles | 1 | Canal Zone                       | 1 |
|                      |    | Trinidad             | 1 | Venezuela                        | 1 |
|                      |    |                      |   | Guatemala                        | 1 |
|                      |    |                      |   | Peru                             | 1 |

### Recoveries of Immatures

No birds less than one year old were recovered until November, four or five months after banding (fledging). Recoveries were then received for each subsequent month during their first year.

Apparently a large percentage of birds less than one year old winter in Florida and the Caribbean. Florida recoveries (and one in Georgia) were obtained from November through June, with the highest percentage (35%) found there during January. Figure 1 shows the distribution of recoveries from Florida, all of which represented birds less than one year old. Although many of the young apparently winter in this area, one was recovered in November as far south as Venezuela. This dispersal is very similar to the pattern shown by Ludwig, (*Bird-Banding*, 36: 217-233, 1965) for Caspian Terns (*Hydroprogne caspia*) banded in the Great Lakes area, where recoveries of immatures were confined largely to the southern Atlantic and Gulf coast States, the Caribbean Islands, and Colombia.

### Recoveries of Adults

Unfortunately, the number of recoveries of adult birds was small: two birds were recovered during the fall and winter of their second year from Central and South America (Honduras and Colombia), two early spring records came from the Caribbean, and four during summer and early fall (July-September) came from the United States. Of the latter, two late-summer recoveries were from New Jersey, north of the breeding colony, and two were from South Carolina. An additional recovery of an adult bird was obtained from Peru during April; no information was given regarding the date this bird was actually found, and it is assumed that the band was probably obtained some time prior to the date reported. Although the sample of adult recoveries is small, all were at a latitude where one would expect to find them if they had been returning north to breed. In contrast, birds less than one year old were found as far south as Colombia and the Canal Zone as late as May and June, suggesting that this age class probably does not breed the first season. Ludwig also suggested this for the Caspian Terns he banded. The picture is not clear in his study, since those recoveries reported from the breeding grounds the first nesting season after banding were probably from young that died before leaving the area the previous summer. Chances of this occurring in tidal colonies is much less likely, as the displacement of beach material is more thorough.

### Dispersal

The dispersal pattern of both young and adult Royal Terns appears to be similar. Post breeding season recoveries have been received for both classes as far north as New Jersey and early winter recoveries from Central and South America. Figure 2 shows the distribution of recoveries (other than those from the U. S. and Peru) for both age classes. In Ludwig's analysis of the Caspian Tern data, he concluded that adults and immatures occupied the same wintering ranges. This also appears to be true for the Royal Terns banded in the Virginia colonies.



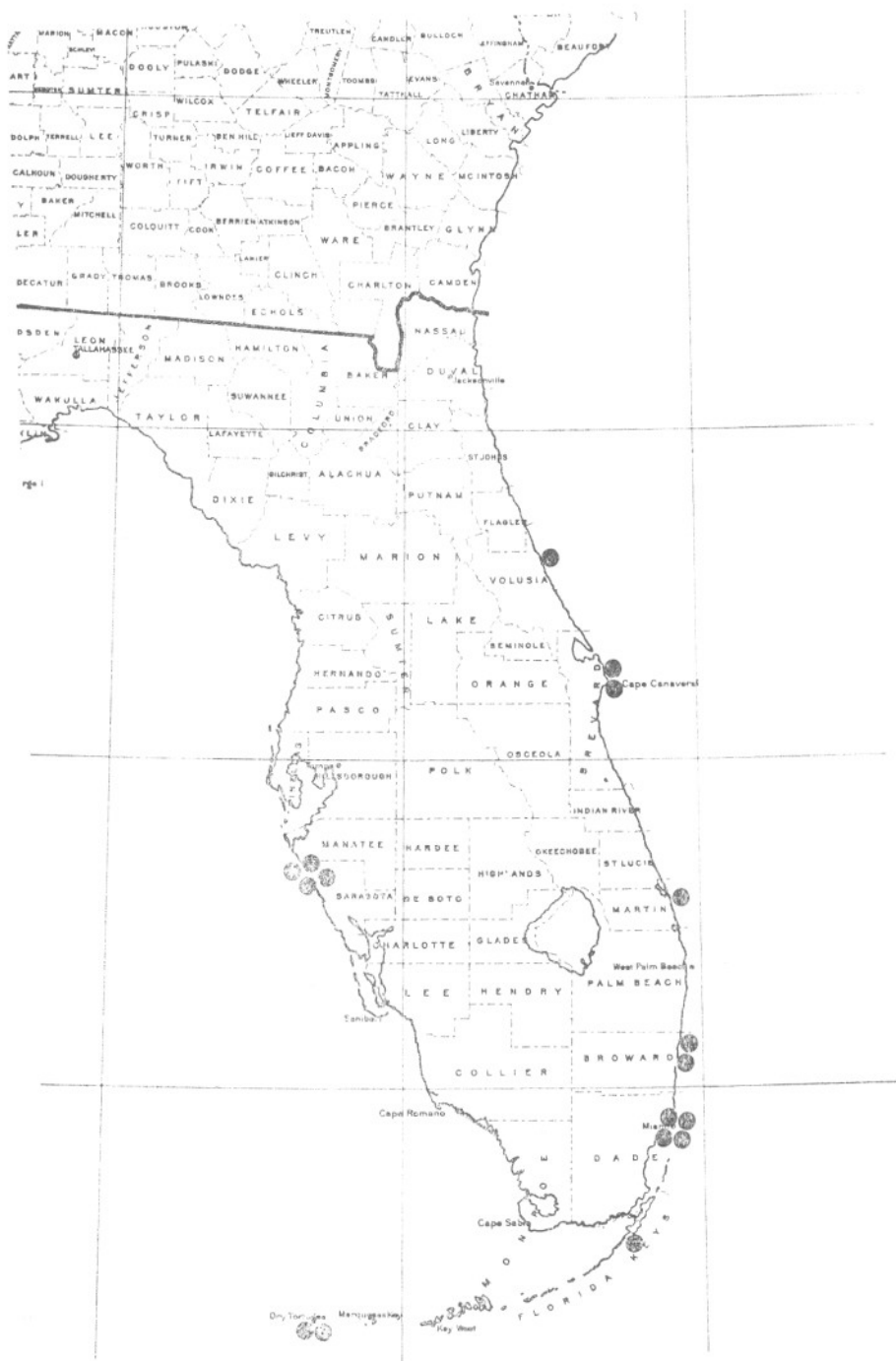


Figure 1. Distribution of Florida Recoveries of Immature Royal Terns Banded in Virginia



Figure 2. Distribution of Recoveries of Immature and Adult Royal Terns Banded in Virginia

Escalante (*Condor*, 70: 243-247, 1968) mentions the lack of published records for Royal Terns banded in the United States and recovered from the Atlantic coast of South America south of Venezuela. None of the Royal Terns banded in this study were recovered there, although one was obtained from as far south as Peru on the Pacific coast.

### How Recoveries Were Obtained

The largest number of recoveries (14) were of birds reportedly found dead. An additional nine birds were injured or in a condition that allowed them to be caught by hand. No information regarding the means of recovery was received for five birds.

A large percentage of recoveries were attributed directly to the activities of man; 12 birds were entangled (or hooked) by fishing operations (generally it was not known whether the birds were released alive or not), three were reported shot, one "killed," and one trapped. One is often somewhat suspicious of the large number of birds reported as found dead, and undoubtedly a percentage of these birds are actually killed (shot) but not so reported.

Details for all recoveries used in this paper are given in Tables 2 and 3.

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Table 2. Recoveries of Royal Terns banded at Smith Island, Northampton County, Virginia.

| <i>Band Number</i> | <i>Date Banded</i> | <i>Date Recovered</i> | <i>Recovery Location</i>       | <i>How Obtained</i> |
|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| 545-00029          | 7-28-64            | 12-01-64              | Port Henderson, Jamaica        | 59                  |
| -00076             | 7-28-64            | 1-28-65               | Puerto Hermoso, Dom. Rep.      | 54                  |
| 565-22739          | 7-09-65            | 1-27-66               | Sarasota, Florida              | 52                  |
| -22798             | 7-09-65            | *4-30-67              | Colan, Peru                    | 47                  |
| -22806             | 7-09-65            | 2-07-66               | Pompano Beach, Florida         | 26                  |
| -22826             | 7-09-65            | *12-08-65             | Covenas, Bolivar, Colombia     | 26                  |
| -22828             | 7-09-65            | 5-19-67               | Sambo Creek, Honduras          | 47                  |
| -22886             | 7-09-65            | *2-04-66              | Veradero, Matanzas, Cuba       | 52                  |
| -22895             | 7-09-65            | 11-04-65              | Guanta, Venezuela              | 56                  |
| -22905             | 7-09-65            | *4-11-67              | Moruga, Trinidad, W. I.        | 52                  |
| -22913             | 7-09-65            | *2-21-66              | Las Villas, Cuba               | 56                  |
| -22914             | 7-09-65            | 5-13-66               | Brunswick, Georgia             | 47                  |
| 595-49502          | 7-09-65            | 4-29-66               | Dry Tortugas, Florida          | 47                  |
| -49581             | 7-09-65            | *3-08-66              | Cape Canaveral, Florida        | 56                  |
| -49582             | 7-09-65            | 1-25-66               | Miami Beach, Florida           | 26                  |
| -49588             | 7-09-65            | *6-02-66              | Ailigandi, Panama              | 28                  |
| -49645             | 7-09-65            | *11-29-65             | Leonardo, New Jersey           | 47                  |
| -49716             | 7-09-65            | *3-22-66              | Central Delicia, Oriente, Cuba | 28                  |
| -49733             | 7-09-65            | 1-15-66               | Ft. Lauderdale, Florida        | 26                  |
| 625-18182          | 7-28-64            | 12-13-64              | Montego Bay, Jamaica           | 26                  |
| -18595             | 7-09-65            | 9-10-67               | Barnegat Inlet, New Jersey     | 26                  |
| -18659             | 7-09-65            | *4-24-66              | Pt. Placencia, Br. Honduras    | 47                  |
| -18662             | 7-09-65            | 5-03-68               | Santo Domingo, Dom. Rep.       | 04                  |
| -18669             | 7-09-65            | 1-07-66               | Islamorada, Florida            | 26                  |
| -18686             | 7-09-65            | *10-27-65             | Riohacha, Guajira, Colombia    | 56                  |
| -18914             | 7-28-64            | 11-28-64              | Sarasota, Florida              | 26                  |
| -18963             | 7-28-64            | 12-07-64              | Riohacha, Guajira, Colombia    | 53                  |
| -18997             | 7-28-64            | 12-07-64              | Miami Beach, Florida           | 47                  |

\* Letter date only.

Table 3. Recoveries of Royal Terns banded at Fisherman's Island, Northampton County, Virginia.

| <i>Band Number</i> | <i>Date Banded</i> | <i>Date Recovered</i> | <i>Recovery Location</i>      | <i>How Obtained</i> |
|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| 545-00101          | 6-28-65            | 4-24-66               | Sarasota, Florida             | 47                  |
| -00114             | 6-28-65            | 2-05-66               | Miami, Florida                | 52                  |
| -00176             | 6-28-65            | 12-28-65              | Bahia de Ocoa, Dom. Rep.      | 26                  |
| 565-22108          | 6-28-65            | *1-16-67              | Puerto Cortes, Honduras       | 47                  |
| -22151             | 6-28-65            | 5-10-66               | Dry Tortugas, Florida         | 28                  |
| -22177             | 6-28-65            | *8-09-67              | Atlantic City, New Jersey     | 47                  |
| -22181             | 6-28-65            | 1-02-66               | Sebastian, Florida            | 47                  |
| -22195             | 6-28-65            | *5-04-66              | Cienaga, Magdalena, Colombia  | 59                  |
| -22230             | 6-28-65            | 8-08-66               | Salter Path, North Carolina   | 51                  |
| -22292             | 6-28-65            | *3-06-66              | Daytona Beach, Florida        | 47                  |
| 625-18206          | 6-28-65            | 7-20-67               | Morehead City, North Carolina | 47                  |
| -18274             | 6-28-65            | 1-27-66               | Cape Kennedy, Florida         | 26                  |
| -18347             | 6-28-65            | 9-23-67               | Covenas, Colombia             | 26                  |
| -18374             | 6-28-65            | *3-31-66              | Palmetto, Florida             | 47                  |
| -18432             | 6-28-65            | 1-17-66               | Huehuetenango, Guatemala      | 59                  |
| -18435             | 6-28-65            | 4-02-66               | Miami Beach, Florida          | 47                  |
| -18459             | 6-28-65            | *6-03-66              | Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles | 26                  |
| -18482             | 6-28-65            | *4-25-67              | Dominican Republic            | 56                  |

\* Letter date only.

*How Obtained Codes:*

|    |                           |    |                |
|----|---------------------------|----|----------------|
| 04 | Caught in trap            | 52 | Injured        |
| 26 | Entangled in fishing gear | 53 | Exhausted      |
| 28 | Caught by hand            | 54 | Killed         |
| 47 | Found dead                | 56 | No information |
| 51 | Sick                      | 59 | Shot           |

## BANDING RESULTS AT KIPTOPEKE BEACH—1967

M. A. BYRD AND W. P. SMITH

For the fifth successive year, a banding station was operated during the fall migration at Kiptopeke Beach, Virginia, in conjunction with *Operation Recovery*, a cooperative banding program sponsored by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. The major objective of this program has been to attempt to correlate major fall migration movements of birds with associated weather phenomena and to trace the movements of birds along the coast. In addition, the operation has provided morphological data on the birds captured as well as indications of some seasonal changes in the species composition of the birds banded. These changes have, in some instances, probably reflected population variations of the species and, in other cases, may be attributed to trapping techniques.

The addition of two licensed banders to the station personnel permitted the expansion of the period of operation from 37 days in 1966 to 51 consecutive days, from 7 September through 22 October in 1967. A total of 8590 birds of 96 species was trapped during this period.

Station operating procedures were essentially the same as detailed by Scott (1967). A maximum of 34 mist nets, each approximately 40 feet long and 7 feet high, were placed in lanes, in hedgerows, and along woods borders. In 1966, a few English tethered nets were used, and this number was increased substantially in 1967. Although the small 1¼ inch mesh English net constituted a greater percentage of the net total in 1967,

some untethered 1½ inch Japanese mist nets also were used. Bal-chatri traps were used to capture transient raptors but were successful only with Sparrow Hawks. Nets were usually kept open during daylight hours unless excessive rain or wind forced early closure. Utilization of a greater number of tethered nets permitted effective operation during periods of higher wind velocity than previously had been the case, particularly along field borders and in other exposed locations. Nets were closed completely on only one day, 15 September, when the high winds and rain of Hurricane *Doria* made operation unfeasible. One licensed bander was in charge of the station each week with effort being made to have other banders and additional assistants available at all times. In 1967, M. A. Byrd was in charge from 2 September to 9 September, Frederic R. Scott from 10 September to 17 September, Walter P. Smith from 17 September to 24 September, C. W. Hacker from 24 September to 1 October, Sydney Mitchell from 1 October to 8 October, Dorothy Mitchell from 8 October to 15 October, and H. Brad Hawkins from 15 October to 22 October. There were a total of 100 assistants and visitors at the station during the operation, many of whom provided invaluable assistance.

Scott (*op. cit.*) indicated some of the biases inherent in sampling a transient bird population utilizing these techniques. He has indicated that these techniques tend to bias results in favor of birds of woodlands, hedgerows, and field borders. In 1967, a total of 8590 birds of 96 species were trapped. Of this number, 8577 were taken in 17,725 net-hours and 13 raptors (all Sparrow Hawks) were taken in Bal-chatri traps. This averaged 484 birds per 1000 net-hours, a figure which is reasonably normal for this station. These data are detailed in Table 1.

Scott (*op. cit.*) also has indicated something of the bias in favor of trapping small species which may result from the use of smaller-mesh nets, particularly for those species which take size 0 and 1 bands. The dramatic influence of this is best seen by comparing the number of birds trapped of selected small species in 1966 and 1967 when the number of nets utilized was approximately the same in each year but in which the number of small-mesh nets was substantially increased in 1967. This phenomenon was discussed by Heimerdinger (1966), and although it appears clear from the data in Table 2 that net mesh size is an important variable influencing catch, annual changes in species composition probably are not wholly attributable to this factor. In the case of Myrtle Warblers, particularly, much of the increased catch probably was due to the fact that the station was operated one week longer in October, and this species is a late migrant. There was an increase from 1966 to 1967 in the catch of Myrtle Warblers of 1605, of which 1324 were taken in the last week of operation. Much of the increase in the catch of Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets also may be attributed to the extra week of operation in October, but it is also likely that a greater percentage of the three species above which hit the nets were actually caught.

In contrast to the situation with respect to small birds, visual observations of larger birds either escaping nets or bouncing off them would indicate that reductions in the catch of species taking size 1B and larger bands may be attributed largely to the use of smaller-mesh nets. Comparison of the catches of several selected larger species for 1966 and 1967 is shown in Table 3. It would appear that net mesh size is important in reducing the catch substantially in some of the larger species such as Yellow-shafted Flicker, Blue Jay, and Brown Thrasher.

The increase in the catch of House Wrens, Western Palm Warblers, Northern Waterthrushes, Yellowthroats, and American Redstarts between 1966 and 1967 as shown in Table 2 is substantial, however, and likely is due largely to net type. Although one of the more interesting aspects of the *Operation Recovery* program has been the seasonal trends in the catch of species, the data in Tables 2 and 3 suggest that caution should be exercised in reaching conclusions about population variations of a species based on netting information. The data also indicate the importance of keeping accurate information regarding the type and placement of nets with respect to catch.

The Catbird, Swainson's Thrush, and American Redstart were among the top five

Table 1. Banding results at the Kiptopeke Beach, Virginia, station during September and October 1967. Licensed banders in charge each day are indicated by initials as follows: M. A. Byrd (MB); F. R. Scott (FS); W. P. Smith (WS); C. W. Hacker (CH); Sydney Mitchell (SM); Dorothy Mitchell (DM); and H. B. Hawkins (BH). The total of 8590 birds trapped includes 65 dead birds. This figure differs slightly from the total (8549) of all the daily species tabulations as dead birds are not included in the daily species totals for the last week of the operation.

| September                 | 2    | 3    | 4    | 5    | 6    | 7    | 8    | 9    | 10   | 11   | 12   | 13   | 14   | 15   | 16   | 17   | 18   | 19   | 20   | 21   | 22   | 23   | 24   | 25   | 26   | 27   | 28   | 29   | 30   | Sept.<br>Total |
|---------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|----------------|
| Red-shouldered Hawk       | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | ....           |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk        | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | 2    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | 1    | .... | 2    | 1    | .... | .... | 1    | 1    | .... | 10             |
| Cooper's Hawk             | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1              |
| Sparrow Hawk              | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 3    | 1    | 1    | 2    | .... | .... | .... | 1    | 8              |
| Bobwhite                  | 1    | .... | 1    | .... | 2    | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 6              |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo      | .... | .... | 1    | 1    | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 4              |
| Black-billed Cuckoo       | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2    | 5              |
| Screech Owl               | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1              |
| Whip-poor-will            | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1              |
| Yellow-shafted Flicker    | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | 7              |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1              |
| Hairy Woodpecker          | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | ....           |
| Downy Woodpecker          | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | 1              |
| Great Crested Flycatcher  | .... | 1    | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 3              |
| Eastern Phoebe            | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | ....           |
| Yellow-bellied Flycatcher | 1    | 3    | .... | 3    | 3    | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 12             |
| Acadian Flycatcher        | .... | 2    | .... | 1    | 5    | 4    | 1    | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | 1    | 1    | .... | 1    | 1    | .... | 2    | 1    | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1              |
| Traill's Flycatcher       | 1    | 2    | 1    | .... | 3    | 2    | .... | .... | .... | 6    | 5    | 6    | 1    | 1    | .... | 3    | 3    | 2    | 2    | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 39             |
| Least Flycatcher          | .... | 1    | 1    | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2    | 1    | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 9              |
| Eastern Wood Pewee        | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2    | 3              |
| Blue Jay                  | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | 2    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 4              |
| Carolina Chickadee        | .... | .... | .... | 1    | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | 2    | .... | .... | .... | .... | 8              |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch     | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | ....           |
| Brown Creeper             | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | ....           |
| House Wren                | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | 2    | .... | .... | .... | 2    | 1    | 1    | .... | .... | 8    | 6    | 6    | 6    | .... | .... | .... | 2    | 35             |
| Winter Wren               | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | ....           |
| Carolina Wren             | .... | .... | 1    | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 4              |
| Long-billed Marsh Wren    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | 1              |
| Mockingbird               | 2    | 2    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | 1    | 1    | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 9              |
| Catbird                   | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2    | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2    | 4    | 1    | 12   | 9    | 4    | 12   | .... | .... | 2    | 22   | 71             |
| Brown Thrasher            | 1    | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2    | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2    | 2    | 2    | .... | 2    | 9    | 2    | 4    | 10   | 1    | 1    | 3    | 5    | 48             |
| Robin                     | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | ....           |
| Wood Thrush               | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | 2    | .... | 1    | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | 6              |
| Hermit Thrush             | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | ....           |
| Swainson's Thrush         | .... | .... | .... | 1    | 1    | 1    | 2    | .... | 1    | 1    | 1    | 8    | 4    | 5    | .... | 2    | 100  | 22   | 11   | 19   | 6    | 15   | 14   | 10   | 15   | 3    | .... | 1    | 6    | 159            |

|                              |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |   |     |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |   |   |    |     |     |
|------------------------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|---|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|---|---|----|-----|-----|
| Gray-checked Thrush          | 2  | 9  | 6 | 4  | 12 | 22 | 13 | 11 | 1 | 10  | 2  | 14 | 12 | 6  | 10 | 1  | 1  | 4  | 2  | 2  | 2 | 10 | 5  | 3  | 2  | 1 | 4 | 40 |     |     |
| Veery                        |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |   |     |    |    |    |    |    |    | 4  | 3  | 3  | 10 | 2 | 2  | 13 | 7  | 4  | 7 | 1 | 1  | 2   | 191 |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet       |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |   |     |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |   |   |    |     |     |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet         |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |   |     |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |    | 2  | 1  | 3  |   |   |    | 1   | 7   |
| White-eyed Vireo             |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |   |     |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |   |   |    |     |     |
| Solitary Vireo               |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |   |     |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |   |   |    |     |     |
| Red-eyed Vireo               |    |    | 1 |    | 2  | 3  | 3  | 1  |   | 3   | 1  | 1  | 3  | 12 |    | 7  | 3  | 8  | 8  | 2  | 2 | 4  | 7  | 2  | 4  | 3 |   |    | 1   | 81  |
| Philadelphia Vireo           |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |    | 1 |     | 1  | 1  |    | 1  |    |    |    |    |    |    |   | 2  |    | 1  |    |   |   | 1  | 1   | 8   |
| Black-&-white Warbler        | 5  | 6  | 4 | 3  | 6  | 4  | 2  | 2  | 1 | 2   | 3  | 2  | 3  | 5  |    | 2  |    | 3  | 2  | 1  |   | 6  | 2  | 2  | 7  | 1 |   | 3  | 77  |     |
| Prothonotary Warbler         |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |   |     |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |   |   |    |     | 1   |
| Worm-eating Warbler          |    |    | 2 |    |    | 1  |    |    |   |     | 1  |    |    |    |    | 1  |    |    |    | 1  |   |    |    |    |    |   |   |    |     | 6   |
| Blue-winged Warbler          |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |   |     |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |   |   |    |     | 1   |
| Tennessee Warbler            |    |    |   |    | 1  | 1  |    |    |   | 3   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   | 1  |    |    |    |   |   | 2  |     | 8   |
| Orange-crowned Warbler       |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |   |     |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |   |   |    |     |     |
| Nashville Warbler            | 1  |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |   |     |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 1 |    |    | 1  | 2  |   |   |    |     | 5   |
| Parula Warbler               |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |   | 1   | 1  |    |    | 2  |    |    |    | 2  |    |    |   | 4  |    |    | 1  |   |   | 1  |     | 12  |
| Yellow Warbler               | 1  |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |   | 2   | 2  | 1  |    | 2  |    |    |    | 1  | 1  | 1  | 1 |    |    |    |    |   |   |    |     | 13  |
| Magnolia Warbler             | 1  | 1  |   | 1  |    | 1  |    | 1  |   | 3   | 2  | 3  |    | 3  |    |    |    | 1  | 1  | 1  | 4 | 2  |    | 16 | 3  | 1 | 3 | 1  |     | 64  |
| Cape May Warbler             |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |   | 1   |    |    |    | 1  |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |   |   | 1  |     | 3   |
| Black-throated Blue Warbler  | 2  |    |   | 1  | 1  | 2  |    |    |   | 3   | 3  |    | 1  | 4  |    | 1  | 7  | 2  | 3  |    |   | 13 | 3  |    | 1  | 1 |   | 8  |     | 56  |
| Myrtle Warbler               |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |   |     |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |    |    | 1  |    |   |   | 2  |     | 3   |
| Black-throated Green Warbler |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |   | 1   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   | 1  |    | 1  |    |   |   |    |     | 3   |
| Blackburnian Warbler         |    |    |   |    | 1  | 1  |    |    |   |     |    |    |    | 1  |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |   |   |    |     | 3   |
| Chestnut-sided Warbler       |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |   | 1   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   | 1  |    |    |    |   |   | 4  |     | 6   |
| Bay-breasted Warbler         | 1  |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |   |     |    | 1  |    |    |    | 1  |    |    |    |    |   | 2  |    |    |    |   |   | 1  |     | 6   |
| Blackpoll Warbler            |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |   | 1   |    |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |    | 1  |    |   |    |    |    |    |   |   | 4  |     | 9   |
| Prairie Warbler              |    |    |   | 1  |    | 1  |    |    |   | 2   | 2  | 1  | 2  |    |    |    | 1  |    | 1  |    |   |    |    | 2  | 1  |   |   |    | 1   | 15  |
| Western Palm Warbler         |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |   | 2   | 3  |    |    | 5  |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |   |    | 9  | 2  | 3  | 5 |   | 4  |     | 34  |
| Yellow Palm Warbler          |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |   |     |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |   |   |    |     |     |
| Ovenbird                     | 4  | 6  | 4 | 3  | 3  | 5  | 1  | 1  | 1 | 3   | 1  | 2  | 4  | 10 |    | 4  | 3  | 7  | 2  | 3  | 1 | 10 | 7  | 7  | 10 |   | 1 | 1  | 8   | 112 |
| Northern Waterthrush         | 3  | 3  | 3 | 3  | 1  | 8  | 1  |    |   | 40  | 5  | 3  | 2  | 10 |    | 11 | 5  | 2  | 4  | 1  | 1 | 2  | 1  |    |    |   |   | 1  | 110 |     |
| Kentucky Warbler             |    | 1  |   |    |    |    |    |    |   |     |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |   |   |    |     | 1   |
| Connecticut Warbler          |    |    |   | 1  | 1  |    | 1  |    |   |     | 3  |    |    |    |    |    | 1  | 1  | 1  |    |   | 3  | 2  | 1  | 3  | 2 |   | 2  |     | 21  |
| Mourning Warbler             |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |   |     |    |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |    |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |   |   |    |     | 4   |
| Yellowthroat                 | 9  | 5  | 5 | 7  | 3  | 2  | 2  |    |   | 43  | 22 | 3  | 5  | 32 |    | 6  | 19 | 11 | 24 | 12 | 1 | 36 | 29 | 29 | 16 | 7 |   | 25 |     | 353 |
| Yellow-breasted Chat         |    | 1  |   |    |    |    | 1  |    |   | 1   |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |    |    |    |    | 1 | 1  |    | 1  |    |   |   | 2  |     | 9   |
| Hooded Warbler               |    |    |   |    |    |    | 1  |    |   |     | 1  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |   |   |    |     | 2   |
| Wilson's Warbler             |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |   | 1   | 1  |    |    |    |    |    |    | 4  |    |    | 1 |    | 1  | 1  |    |   |   |    |     | 10  |
| Canada Warbler               | 3  | 2  |   |    |    |    |    |    |   | 2   |    | 2  |    | 2  |    | 3  |    | 2  |    |    |   |    | 1  | 1  |    |   |   |    |     | 18  |
| American Redstart            | 23 | 21 | 8 | 21 | 31 | 33 | 1  | 1  | 3 | 237 | 94 | 24 | 23 | 88 |    | 34 | 16 | 7  | 9  | 6  | 2 | 29 | 11 | 17 | 14 | 1 |   | 3  | 34  | 789 |



| September              | 2    | 3    | 4    | 5    | 6    | 7    | 8    | 9    | 10   | 11   | 12   | 13   | 14   | 15   | 16   | 17   | 18   | 19   | 20   | 21   | 22   | 23   | 24   | 25   | 26   | 27   | 28   | 29   | 30   | Sept. Total |
|------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------------|
| Baltimore Oriole       | 1    | .... | 4    | .... | 3    | 1    | .... | .... | .... | 10   | 2    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 23          |
| Scarlet Tanager        | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2    | .... | 2    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 4           |
| Summer Tanager         | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2           |
| Cardinal               | 2    | 3    | .... | 1    | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 3    | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | 12          |
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | 1    | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | 1    | 6           |
| Blue Grosbeak          | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1           |
| Indigo Bunting         | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1           |
| Rufous-sided Towhee    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | ....        |
| Savannah Sparrow       | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | ....        |
| Sharp-tailed Sparrow   | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1           |
| Grasshopper Sparrow    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | ....        |
| Vesper Sparrow         | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | ....        |
| Lark Sparrow           | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1           |
| Slate-colored Junco    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | ....        |
| Chipping Sparrow       | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2           |
| Field Sparrow          | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | ....        |
| White-crowned Sparrow  | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | ....        |
| White-throated Sparrow | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | 2           |
| Lincoln's Sparrow      | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2           |
| Swamp Sparrow          | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | ....        |
| Song Sparrow           | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | ....        |
| Total New Individuals  | 65   | 72   | 42   | 53   | 84   | 94   | 31   | 19   | 7    | 386  | 173  | 75   | 62   | 200  | 0    | 90   | 81   | 91   | 93   | 62   | 25   | 228  | 128  | 112  | 131  | 27   | 3    | 15   | 173  | 2622        |
| Total Species          | 20   | 20   | 15   | 17   | 22   | 19   | 14   | 8    | 5    | 30   | 25   | 19   | 17   | 23   | 0    | 24   | 19   | 24   | 22   | 19   | 15   | 39   | 30   | 31   | 28   | 16   | 3    | 10   | 34   | 568         |
| Total Net-hours        | 285  | 387  | 382  | 374  | 374  | 374  | 170  | 340  | 195  | 357  | 408  | 416  | 408  | 391  | 0    | 374  | 374  | 374  | 374  | 374  | 374  | 374  | 382  | 382  | 374  | 374  | 40   | 366  | 374  | 9771        |
| Repeats                | 3    | 4    | 3    | 3    | 3    | 7    | 4    | 2    | 2    | 7    | 18   | 14   | 11   | 12   | 0    | 16   | 7    | 5    | 8    | 11   | 2    | 8    | 9    | 13   | 13   | 3    | 0    | 2    | 10   | 200         |
| Foreign Recoveries     | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 1    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 1    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0           |
| Prevailing Wind        | N    | NE   | NE   | N    | NE   | NE   | E    | SE   | E    | NE   | N    | NE   | N    | NW   | —    | NE   | N    | N    | N    | S    | NW   | N    | NW   | SW   | SE   | SE   | SE   | S    | W    | 2           |
| Dead Birds             | 0    | 0    | 0    | 1    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 5    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 3    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 1    | 0    | 2    | 1    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 1    | 0    | 0    | 14          |
| Returns                | 0    | 1    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 1           |
| Bander in Charge       | MB   | MB   | MB   | MB   | MB   | MB   | MB   | MB   | FS   | FS   | FS   | FS   | FS   | FS   | FS   | FS   | WS   | WS   | WS   | WS   | WS   | WS   | WS   | CH   | CH   | CH   | CH   | CH   | CH   | CH          |

| October                   | 1    | 2    | 3    | 4    | 5    | 6    | 7    | 8    | 9    | 10   | 11   | 12   | 13   | 14   | 15   | 16   | 17   | 18   | 19   | 20   | 21   | 22   | Oct.<br>Total | Grand<br>Total |    |
|---------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|---------------|----------------|----|
| Red-shouldered Hawk       | .... | .... | .... | .... |      | 1    | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | 5    | 1    | 1    | .... | .... | .... | 1    | 1    | .... | ....          | 1              | 1  |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk        | .... | .... | .... | .... |      | 1    | 1    | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | 1    | 1    | 1    | .... | .... | 1    | 1    | 1    | 2    | 8    | 2             | 25             | 35 |
| Cooper's Hawk             | .... | .... | .... | .... |      | 2    | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 0             | 1              |    |
| Sparrow Hawk              | .... | .... | .... | .... |      | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 5             | 13             |    |
| Bobwhite                  | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1             | 7              |    |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo      | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | 2             | 6              |    |
| Black-billed Cuckoo       | .... | 1    | .... | 1    | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 3             | 8              |    |
| Screech Owl               | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1             | 2              |    |
| Whip-poor-will            | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1             | 2              |    |
| Yellow-shafted flicker    | .... | 5    | .... | .... | 2    | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2    | .... | .... | 10            | 17             |    |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  | .... | 1    | 3    | .... | .... | 1    | 1    | 1    | .... | .... | .... | 1    | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 3    | 12            | 13             |    |
| Hairy Woodpecker          | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1             | 1              |    |
| Downy Woodpecker          | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | ....          | 1              | 1  |
| Great Crested Flycatcher  | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | ....          | 3              | 3  |
| Eastern Phoebe            | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | 1    | 1    | .... | .... | .... | 3    | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 6    | 1    | 5    | 19            | 19             |    |
| Yellow-bellied Flycatcher | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1             | 13             |    |
| Acadian Flycatcher        | 2    | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 3             | 27             |    |
| Trail's Flycatcher        | .... | 4    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 4             | 43             |    |
| Least Flycatcher          | .... | 1    | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 3             | 12             |    |
| Eastern Wood Pewee        | 2    | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 6             | 9              |    |
| Blue Jay                  | .... | .... | 1    | 2    | .... | 2    | .... | .... | .... | .... | 5    | 1    | 1    | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2    | 2    | .... | 17            | 21             |    |
| Carolina Chickadee        | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | 3             | 11             |    |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch     | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1             | 1              |    |
| Brown Creeper             | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | 5    | 3    | .... | 1    | 1    | .... | .... | .... | 4    | .... | 6    | 23            | 23             |    |
| House Wren                | 20   | 4    | 3    | 3    | 3    | 3    | 4    | 3    | 3    | 1    | 6    | 5    | 2    | 3    | 2    | 4    | .... | 4    | 2    | 12   | 4    | 8    | 99            | 134            |    |
| Winter Wren               | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | 1    | 6    | .... | 9    | 18            | 18             |    |
| Carolina Wren             | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | ....          | 4              | 4  |
| Long-billed Marsh Wren    | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1             | 2              |    |
| Mockingbird               | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 3             | 12             |    |
| Catbird                   | 67   | 25   | 8    | 3    | 1    | 7    | 48   | 15   | 25   | 6    | 14   | 7    | 5    | 1    | 2    | 1    | .... | .... | .... | 73   | 25   | 8    | 341           | 412            |    |
| Brown Thrasher            | 5    | 5    | 5    | 2    | 2    | 3    | 4    | .... | 5    | 2    | 5    | 3    | .... | 1    | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | 2    | .... | 1    | 46            | 94             |    |
| Robin                     | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 3    | 1    | 3    | 7             | 7              |    |
| Wood Thrush               | 4    | 4    | 3    | 1    | 1    | 1    | .... | 1    | 1    | .... | .... | 2    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | 1    | 2    | 22            | 28             |    |
| Hermit Thrush             | .... | 2    | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2    | .... | .... | 1    | 2    | 1    | 3    | 1    | 3    | .... | 1    | .... | .... | 25   | 6    | 47   | 94            | 94             |    |
| Swainson's Thrush         | 14   | 94   | 42   | 15   | 7    | 9    | 21   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 2    | 8    | 10   | 2    | 4    | .... | 1    | 1    | .... | 2    | 3    | .... | 238           | 397            |    |
| Gray-cheeked Thrush       | 24   | 77   | 20   | 4    | 12   | 27   | 37   | 5    | 3    | .... | 15   | 24   | 19   | 3    | 4    | .... | .... | .... | .... | 4    | 1    | 5    | 284           | 324            |    |
| Veery                     | 8    | 42   | 7    | 3    | 1    | 2    | 5    | 2    | 1    | 2    | .... | .... | 1    | .... | 2    | .... | 1    | .... | .... | 2    | .... | 1    | 80            | 271            |    |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | 5    | 7    | 3    | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | 26   | 1    | 54   | 98            | 98             |    |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet      | 1    | 5    | 2    | .... | .... | .... | 1    | 1    | 1    | 3    | 4    | 8    | 15   | 2    | 1    | .... | .... | 1    | .... | 23   | 3    | 94   | 165           | 172            |    |
| White-eyed Vireo          | 1    | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 3             | 3              |    |

| October                      | 1    | 2    | 3    | 4    | 5    | 6    | 7    | 8    | 9    | 10   | 11   | 12   | 13   | 14   | 15   | 16   | 17   | 18   | 19   | 20   | 21   | 22   | Oct.<br>Total | Grand<br>Total |
|------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|---------------|----------------|
| Solitary Vireo               | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 3    | 1    | .... | 4             | 4              |
| Red-eyed Vireo               | 15   | 23   | 9    | 5    | 5    | 13   | 7    | 4    | 4    | 1    | .... | 6    | 4    | .... | 2    | .... | .... | 1    | 1    | 4    | 1    | 1    | 106           | 187            |
| Philadelphia Vireo           | 1    | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2             | 10             |
| Black-&-white Warbler        | 6    | 4    | 2    | 1    | .... | .... | 3    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 3    | 1    | 2    | .... | .... | 1    | 1    | 2    | .... | .... | 1    | 1    | 31            | 108            |
| Prothonotary Warbler         | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | ....          | 1              |
| Worm-eating Warbler          | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | ....          | 6              |
| Blue-winged Warbler          | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | ....          | 1              |
| Tennessee Warbler            | 1    | 1    | 1    | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | 1    | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | 7             | 15             |
| Orange-crowned Warbler       | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 5             | 5              |
| Nashville Warbler            | 1    | 2    | 2    | .... | .... | 1    | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | 1    | 1    | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | 12            | 17             |
| Parula Warbler               | 12   | 3    | 2    | .... | .... | .... | 3    | 1    | 1    | 3    | 2    | 2    | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2    | .... | .... | 32            | 44             |
| Yellow Warbler               | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1             | 14             |
| Magnolia Warbler             | 17   | 7    | 3    | 2    | 7    | .... | 9    | 8    | 4    | 4    | .... | .... | 1    | 3    | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2    | 68            | 132            |
| Cape May Warbler             | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | 3    | 5    | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 12            | 15             |
| Black-throated Blue Warbler  | 16   | 33   | 3    | 1    | .... | 3    | 32   | 9    | 2    | 2    | 5    | 25   | 31   | 4    | 3    | 2    | .... | 1    | 1    | 12   | 4    | 5    | 194           | 250            |
| Myrtle Warbler               | .... | 1    | .... | .... | 1    | 3    | 9    | 1    | 5    | 6    | 10   | 108  | 119  | 81   | 69   | 40   | 88   | 19   | 20   | 537  | 64   | 556  | 1737          | 1740           |
| Black-throated Green Warbler | .... | 4    | 1    | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2    | 1    | 1    | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | 4    | 1    | .... | 16            | 19             |
| Blackburnian Warbler         | 1    | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2             | 5              |
| Chestnut-sided Warbler       | 2    | 3    | 2    | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 8             | 14             |
| Bay-breasted Warbler         | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | 1    | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 4             | 10             |
| Blackpoll Warbler            | 1    | 2    | 1    | .... | .... | 1    | 10   | 11   | 17   | 5    | 5    | 2    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 55            | 64             |
| Prairie Warbler              | 2    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1    | 1    | .... | .... | 1    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 5             | 20             |
| Western Palm Warbler         | 7    | 3    | 2    | 1    | 2    | 3    | 6    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 6    | 10   | 2    | 1    | 1    | .... | 2    | 6    | 3    | 13   | 3    | 9    | 83            | 117            |
| Yellow Palm Warbler          | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 5    | 3    | .... | .... | .... | 1    | 4    | .... | .... | 1    | .... | 1    | .... | 5    | 1    | 11   | 32            | 32             |

[illegible]

Table 2. Comparison of catches of selected small bird species, 1966 and 1967, Kiptopeke Beach, Virginia.

| <i>Species</i>         | <i>Total Trapped</i> |      |
|------------------------|----------------------|------|
|                        | 1966                 | 1967 |
| House Wren             | 5                    | 134  |
| Winter Wren            | 1                    | 18   |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet | 4                    | 98   |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet   | 15                   | 171  |
| Red-eyed Vireo         | 85                   | 187  |
| Parula Warbler         | 18                   | 44   |
| Magnolia Warbler       | 102                  | 131  |
| Myrtle Warbler         | 132                  | 1737 |
| Blackpoll Warbler      | 47                   | 65   |
| Western Palm Warbler   | 67                   | 115  |
| Northern Waterthrush   | 51                   | 126  |
| Connecticut Warbler    | 28                   | 41   |
| Mourning Warbler       | 1                    | 5    |
| Yellowthroat           | 167                  | 998  |
| American Redstart      | 410                  | 1044 |

Table 3. Comparison of catches of selected larger bird species, 1966 and 1967, Kiptopeke Beach, Virginia.

| <i>Species</i>         | <i>Total Trapped</i> |      |
|------------------------|----------------------|------|
|                        | 1966                 | 1967 |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo   | 13                   | 6    |
| Yellow-shafted Flicker | 23                   | 17   |
| Blue Jay               | 197                  | 21   |
| Brown Thrasher         | 175                  | 94   |
| Wood Thrush            | 84                   | 28   |
| Swainson's Thrush      | 634                  | 396  |
| Gray-cheeked Thrush    | 590                  | 324  |
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak | 25                   | 15   |

species in number of birds banded as was the case in 1964, 1965, and 1966. The Myrtle Warbler and Yellowthroat constituted the remaining two species in the top five in number of individuals banded. The number of *Empidonax* flycatchers caught increased from 75 to 95, probably reflecting the fact that the station opened one week earlier, hence a greater catch of these early migrants. Many of the common winter residents were in greater numbers than 1966, again probably reflecting an extra week of operation in October. Slate-colored Juncos increased from 37 to 93, White-throated Sparrows from 134 to 298, and Swamp Sparrows from 15 to 93.

Major flights occurred on September 11, 14, and 23 and on October 1, 2, 6, 7, 13, 20, and 22. Catches of 386, 200, 228, 524, 537, 440, 307, 967, and 1197 birds, respectively, were made on those dates.

There were two foreign recoveries, the first at this station since its inception. An adult female Redstart originally banded at Tilghman Island, Maryland, on 24 September 1963 by Jan Reese was recaptured at Kiptopeke on 17 September 1967 by F. R. Scott; a Swainson's Thrush banded at Ocean City, Maryland, on 23 September 1967 (1720 EDT) by Mrs. Gladys Cole was recaptured the following day at Kiptopeke Beach (1330 EDT) approximately 95 miles away by C. W. Hacker. This direct recovery of the Swainson's Thrush the next day at another coastal station to the south apparently was

the first such case during the *Operation Recovery* program. This recovery, combined with several other recoveries in 1967 of birds banded the same season at stations north of the subsequent site of recapture, indicates that one of the original concepts of *Operation Recovery* might be realized if the migrating population of birds could be saturated with more banded individuals. One Bobwhite banded by Byrd on 2 September was subsequently recovered by a hunter on 20 November in the general area of the banding station.

It is anticipated that this banding station will be maintained in future years, and every effort will be made to extend the period of operation at the end of the season to capture more of the late migrants. It is hoped that more data may be obtained on the relative effectiveness of net mesh size as well as placement of nets at this particular station.

The banders wish to acknowledge the kindness of C. M. Cabbage, president of J. Howard Smith, Inc., who gave permission for the use of his company's land for the banding station, and Arthur Addison, manager of the Tourinns Motor Hotel, who extended many courtesies to the group.

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## BACKYARD BIRDING IN SALEM

PERRY F. KENDIG

My family and I moved to Salem in October of 1952 to begin our life and work at Roanoke College. Since that time we have lived in three different official College residences, all within the city limits of Salem and, indeed, all within a short distance of the Administration Building of the College. In the rush of moving and getting established in a new community and a new job, I did not begin to keep records of the birds I saw at our first house until 1 January 1953. From then on, I have kept records. I hope they may be of some interest, especially since by coincidence, counting only the birds I have identified from the places I have lived, I have seen a total of 50 different species of birds. By further coincidence, I saw exactly the same number of species—44—in each of the first two places I lived.

Our first house was called "The Deanery" and was located at 114 College Avenue, North, right on the edge of the campus and one block from the business district. It had a small lot, but it had some trees and bushes in the back yard, including two privet trees upon which various species of birds fed and which guaranteed that Cedar Waxwings were visitors in the autumn. In the backyard of "The Deanery" we had a bird bath and the usual feeders; we fed birds from October to April. I kept the records from this house accurately from 1 January 1953 to 5 September 1963, a period of 10 years and 9 months. During that time I identified from the property 44 different species.

On 5 September 1963 we moved about 300 yards away to "Rose Lawn", 226 High Street. The chief difference between these two places is that "Rose Lawn" has much more extensive grounds than "The Deanery" and is backed up by a meadow-like expanse, some back lots that have wild undergrowth, and a small stream. We lived in

"Rose Lawn" from 5 September 1963 to 5 September 1968, a period of exactly five years. At "Rose Lawn" I also identified 44 different species of birds.

As one might expect, since the two houses were only 300 yards apart, many of the species were the same. A combined list of all the birds seen is given in Table 1, broken down to indicate where each was seen. At each location, six birds were found which were not seen at the other.

Roanoke College, Salem, Virginia 24153

Table 1. Combined list of birds seen at "The Deanery" and "Rose Lawn." Those indicated by an asterisk (\*) were seen at both houses, those marked with a (D) were found at "The Deanery" only, and those with an (R) were seen at "Rose Lawn" only.

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|                               |                          |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Bobwhite (R)                  | Ruby-crowned Kinglet *   |
| American Woodcock (R)         | Cedar Waxwing *          |
| Mourning Dove *               | Starling *               |
| Common Nighthawk (R)          | Yellow Warbler *         |
| Chimney Swift *               | Myrtle Warbler (D)       |
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird (R) | Blackpoll Warbler (R)    |
| Yellow-shafted Flicker *      | Yellow-breasted Chat (R) |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker *    | American Redstart (D)    |
| Hairy Woodpecker *            | House Sparrow *          |
| Downy Woodpecker *            | Baltimore Oriole *       |
| Eastern Wood Pewee *          | Common Grackle *         |
| Blue Jay *                    | Brown-headed Cowbird (D) |
| Common Crow *                 | Cardinal *               |
| Carolina Chickadee *          | Evening Grosbeak *       |
| Tufted Titmouse *             | Purple Finch *           |
| White-breasted Nuthatch *     | Pine Siskin *            |
| Brown Creeper (D)             | American Goldfinch *     |
| House Wren *                  | Rufous-sided Towhee *    |
| Carolina Wren *               | Slate-colored Junco *    |
| Mockingbird *                 | Chipping Sparrow *       |
| Catbird *                     | Field Sparrow *          |
| Brown Thrasher *              | White-crowned Sparrow *  |
| Robin *                       | White-throated Sparrow * |
| Wood Thrush *                 | Fox Sparrow (D)          |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet (D)    | Song Sparrow *           |

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## VSO 1968 SUMMER TRIP

C. W. HACKER

The VSO summer trip to the Eastern Shore shifted to the Chincoteague-Assateague area this year on the week end of 16-18 August 1968. Although the housekeeping problems have eased a bit, this remains a difficult place to hold a midsummer trip. It is still impossible to feed the entire group at one time in one place. An early breakfast is especially trying.

The birding day got off to a rewarding start on Saturday morning. In addition to the customary shorebirds, a Northern Phalarope was spotted in the "far" marsh. It must be admitted that the sighting was identified on the basis of the typical phalarope behavior and only generalized plumage characteristics. The next main stop was at the parking area behind the dunes. Here an advance group led off a proposed walk through the marsh grasses. Their hurried charge was countered by an even faster retreat, accompanied by perhaps a million or more mosquitoes. At this point the scene changed to the cars and the dikes. Here a few tentative tries at the mosquito-infested dikes

started the trend to a greater amount of birding by car, preferably air-conditioned. On this part of the trip, the highlight was a close-range Marbled Godwit, feeding and in flight. In the latter hours of the morning, the leaders decided that a siesta between the hours of 1 and 4 would be in order. This proved to be a fortunate decision when it was learned that this was the hottest day of the year.

The afternoon session was mainly in Impoundment B where the afternoon sun provided excellent lighting. Here the notable sighting was four Avocets and another godwit, this time a Hudsonian. The latter, seen at close range, contrasted nicely with the Marbled Godwit seen earlier in the day.

The Sunday morning trip involved a boat ride out to Walker's Marsh in two oyster scows captained by two of our members. Derogatory reference to the descendants of Captain Bligh undoubtedly were exaggerated. In the marsh, late nests of the several species of herons were seen in the low-growing salt bush. The Glossy Ibis was well represented among the feeding birds of the island. A well-lighted Sharp-tailed Sparrow, seen with several Seaside Sparrows, was counted a bonus.

Overall, the summer trip was a successful outing. Of the 30 members attending, the majority were on their first trip to the Eastern Shore marshes and had good sighting of many species of shorebirds. The trip total for species seen was 85.

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*Secretary:* Robert J. Watson, 2636 Marcey Road, Arlington, Virginia 22207.

*Treasurer:* Mrs. Myriam P. Moore, 9 Riverview Place, Lynchburg, Virginia 24503.

*Editor:* J. J. Murray, 6 Jordan Street, Lexington, Virginia 24450.

*Immediate Past President:* C. W. Hacker, 549 Logan Place, Apt. 14, Newport News, Virginia 23601.

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##### Class of 1970

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##### Class of 1971

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*Education:* Mrs. Ruth A. Beck, Chairman, Biology Department, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185.



*Membership:* Mrs. Hawes Coleman, Jr., Chairman, 108 Gaymont Road, Richmond, Virginia 23226.

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*Records:* J. J. Murray, Chairman, 6 Jordan Street, Lexington, Virginia 24450; Ruskin S. Freer; John H. Grey, Jr.; F. R. Scott.

*Trip:* C. W. Hacker, Chairman, 549 Logan Place, Apt. 14, Newport News, Virginia 23601; Mitchell A. Byrd; Roy Jackson.

*Publicity:* W. L. Dickerson, Chairman, Darlington Heights, Virginia 23935; Mrs. James W. Wiltshire.

#### ACTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

On November 1968 the VSO Executive Committee met in Charlottesville and adopted the following resolution, submitted by the Secretary:

Whereas the Virginia Society of Ornithology on June 28, 1958, was organized as a corporation under the laws of Virginia to operate as a continuation of this unincorporated association; now therefore, I move that this association transfer all of its assets, liabilities, and activities to the corporation of the same name; that the existence of this unincorporated association be terminated; and that this meeting be adjourned.

Following this action the same officers reconvened immediately as the Board of Directors of the new corporation and took the following action:

1. Approved the new by-laws of the corporation.
2. Accepted the transfer of all assets, liabilities, and activities of the unincorporated association to the new corporation.
3. Heard the President announce the appointment of C. W. Hacker as Chairman of the Trip Committee following the resignation of W. A. Rothery from this post.
4. Approved another foray to the Northern Neck in June 1969.

#### ROANOKE VALLEY BIRD CLUB RECEIVES CONSERVATION AWARD

On 19 October 1968 the Roanoke Valley Bird Club, a local chapter of the Virginia Society of Ornithology, received an award as the Virginia Conservation Organization of the Year. The award, sponsored by the Virginia Wildlife Federation and the National Wildlife Federation, was presented to the club president, Mrs. Carole Massart, by Senator William B. Spong at a banquet at the Jefferson Hotel in Richmond, Virginia.

Dr. Ira Gabrielson of Arlington, head of the Wildlife Management Institute in Washington, D. C., received the Governor's Trophy for the top conservationist in the state.

Other award winners were the following:

- Mr. William R. Stubbs, Lexington—Wildlife Conservationist of the Year.
- Mr. Sherman F. Gold, Abingdon—Soil Conservationist of the Year.
- Mr. A. H. Paessler, Richmond—Water Conservationist of the Year.
- Mr. Everett Tighlman, Hynson, Oak Grove—Forest Conservationist of the Year.
- Mr. Edwin E. Rodger, Charlottesville—Conservation Educator of the Year.
- Mr. Mark W. Clayton, Natural Bridge—Youth Conservationist of the Year.
- The Honorable Samuel E. Pope, Drewryville—Legislative Conservationist of the Year.
- Mr. William N. Cochran, Roanoke—Communication Conservationist of the Year.

## NEWS AND NOTES

**VSO INCORPORATED.** On 28 June 1968 the Virginia Society of Ornithology was incorporated as a nonprofit organization under the laws of Virginia. As indicated above, approval of this action by the old Executive Committee and the new Board of Directors was given at meetings in Charlottesville on 9 November 1968. It was anticipated that after a period of time, application would be made to the Internal Revenue Service for tax-exemption.

**VSO MEMBERS WRITE FOR CASTANEA.** Dr. Ruskin S. Freer, a charter member of the VSO and former President, has written another paper for the botanical journal, *Castanea*. "Plants of the Central Virginia Blue Ridge: Supplement II" appeared in volume 33, pages 163-193 (1968). Prior papers in this series by Dr. Freer were "A Preliminary Check List of Plants of the Central Virginia Blue Ridge" (*Castanea*, 15: 1-37, 1950) and "Flora of the Central Virginia Blue Ridge: Additions to the Check List" (*Castanea*, 23: 96-109, 1958). Another paper in the same journal by Charles E. Stevens was entitled "A Remarkable Disjunct Occurrence of *Cornus canadensis* in the Virginia Blue Ridge" (*Castanea*, 33: 247-248, 1968).

**BREEDING RECORDS FROM BACK BAY.** P. A. Buckley found 2 juvurnal American Bitterns at Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge on 28 May 1968, one of the few breeding records of this bird for Virginia. Other records reported from here by D. R. Ambrosen were a Pied-billed Grebe nest on 20 June 1968 and an adult King Rail with 4 young on 1 June 1968.

**CATTLE EGRET NEAR CHARLOTTESVILLE.** A Cattle Egret, rare in Albemarle County, Virginia, was seen just north of Charlottesville on 25 May 1968 by J. J. Murray, Jr.

**WHITE IBIS IN ALBEMARLE COUNTY.** During the White Ibis flight into Virginia in 1968 (*Raven*, 39: 28-29, 1968) 5 immature birds flew into a pond in the northeastern corner of Albemarle County on 28 June and were seen by Granger H. Frost, Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Miles, and Mr. and Mrs. William Waterman.

**WHISTLING SWAN WINTERS AT HUNTING CREEK.** Jackson M. Abbott reported that an immature Whistling Swan remained at Hunting Creek, Fairfax County, Virginia, from 19 November 1967 to 19 February 1968.

**WILLET IN LATE WINTER.** Although a few Willets are reported regularly on the Eastern Shore Christmas bird counts, there are few records later in the winter to indicate whether or not they survived. Marcia Lakeman and Marcia Nelson reported one at South Point, Chincoteague Island, Virginia, on 23 February 1968.

**LEAST SANDPIPERS INLAND IN WINTER.** T. Roger Stone found 2 Least Sandpipers at Lake Harrison, southwestern Charles City County, Virginia, on 28 January and 7 on 24 February 1968. This bird is quite rare in midwinter so far inland.

**MARBLED GODWITS IN SPRING.** A Marbled Godwit was seen at South Point, Chincoteague Island, Virginia, on 11 May 1968 by Donald Simonson and John Higman. At Fisherman Island, Virginia, P. A. and F. G. Buckley reported 1 on 9 and 15 May, 4 on 29 May, and 1 on 19 June 1968.

**BLACK-NECKED STILTS AT CHINCOTEAGUE.** Black-necked Stilts were reported twice at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, Virginia. C. O. Handley, Jr., saw 1 on 21 April 1968, and Elwood W. Martin found 3 on 12 May 1968.

**GLAUCOUS GULL AT CRANEY ISLAND.** A Glaucous Gull was noted at Craney Island Disposal Area in Hampton Roads, Virginia, on 27 February 1968 by Mitchell A. Byrd and his ornithology class.

**LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL AT ARLINGTON.** Donald Simonson found a Lesser Black-backed Gull at Roaches Run Sanctuary, Arlington County, Virginia, on 11 January 1968 and was able to compare it closely with nearby Herring and Ring-billed Gulls and 2 Great Black-backed Gulls. Both Simonson and John Higman saw it again on 12 January.

**ROSEATE TERNS AT CHINCOTEAGUE.** Jackson M. Abbott reported 2 Roseate Terns at Chincoteague, Virginia, on 3 August 1968.

**EARLY AND LATE CASPIAN TERNS ALONG THE POTOMAC.** Three Caspian Terns seen by Jackson M. Abbott at Coles Point, Westmoreland County, Virginia, on 20 March 1968 may constitute the earliest spring record for the state. Abbott also saw 2 late ones moving up the Potomac River at Dyke marsh, Fairfax County, on 15 June 1968.

**CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW IN ALBEMARLE COUNTY.** Robert Merkel reported a singing Chuck-will's-widow near Charlottesville, Virginia, on 11 May 1968. This is a very scarce bird in Albemarle County.

**RED-HEADED WOODPECKERS WINTER.** At least 7 Red-headed Woodpeckers spent the winter of 1967-68 at Sweet Briar, Amherst County, Virginia. According to Gertrude Prior, this was the first time they had wintered here in 10 years.

**TRAILL'S FLYCATCHER IN ALBEMARLE COUNTY.** A singing Traill's Flycatcher was found near Red Hill, Albemarle County, Virginia, on 22 June 1968 by C. E. Stevens. This was the same place one was found in 1967.

**BANK SWALLOW COLONY IN FAIRFAX COUNTY.** Jackson M. Abbott reported 100 pairs of Bank Swallows at nest holes in a colony along Accotink Creek at Fort Belvoir, Fairfax County, Virginia, on 11 May 1968. This colony, originally found by Abbott on 21 June 1967, is one of only three known in Virginia, the other two being at Stratford, Westmoreland County, and Shirley, Charles City County.

**BOAT-TAILED GRACKLES NESTING INLAND.** Some 32 Boat-tailed Grackles and 6 nests were found on 6 April 1968 on a small spit of land opposite the Naval Weapons Station in York County, Virginia (M. A. Byrd). This colony, first discovered by Byrd in June 1967, lies about 3 miles northwest of Yorktown along the York River and is in the first nesting colony discovered in Virginia west of Chesapeake Bay.

**EVENING GROSBEAK CONCENTRATION.** The winter of 1967-68 turned out to be a rather poor year for Evening Grosbeaks, in spite of an anticipated flight, and there were relatively few reported in Virginia. Williamsburg, however, seemed to be an exception, and Mitchell A. Byrd had the only sizable concentration of these birds in the mid Atlantic states. They were first noted in the Queens Lake subdivision of York County on 26 January 1968 and increased to a maximum of 100 between 14 and 30 March. They were last noted here on 3 May 1968.

**HOUSE FINCH IN SUMMER.** A male House Finch was present at the home of Mrs. Hugh A. Bell between 10 June and 12 July 1968. Mrs. Sydney Mitchell trapped and banded the bird on 9 July. This appears to be the second summer record for Virginia (see P. A. and F. G. Buckley, *Raven*, 39: 39, 1968).

**CHIPPING SPARROWS WINTER.** A number of Chipping Sparrows spent the winter at Newport News, Virginia, last year. Mrs. Sydney Mitchell reported banding 35 individuals between 1 November 1967 and 11 March 1968.

**CORRIGENDA.** The officers listed inside the covers of the June and September 1968 issues of *The Raven* were carried over in error from the previous issues. The correct ones are given in this issue.

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