

The Raven

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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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VIRGINIA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS—1970-71 SEASON

F. R. SCOTT

Virginia's Christmas counts this year exhibited a "quantum jump" in virtually all comparisons with previous count seasons. Although the number of counts submitted—25—remained the same* as last year, 16 more species were reported, 206 versus 190, an all-time record. Some 301 different observers (276 last year), some participating in four or more counts, gave convincing evidence of the increasing popularity of this annual exercise. Coverage was also the best on record, with 1332 party-hours recorded, nearly 200 above the 1969 total of 1148.

Four species are apparently new this year to the cumulative list of species seen on Virginia Christmas counts. These are the Great Cormorant, Yellow-throated Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, and Black-throated Blue Warbler, and the cumulative list of all state Christmas counts now stands at 257 species. (The Japanese Green Pheasant was first listed as a distinct species from the Ring-necked Pheasant in 1969.)

Twenty-five counts were submitted to *The Raven* and are tabulated here. Three other counts—Danville, Powhatan, and Shenandoah National Park—were submitted for publication to *American Birds* but not *The Raven*, and three more—Washington, D. C., Seneca, Md., and Bristol, Tenn.—overlapped into Virginia and will also appear in *American Birds* but not *The Raven*. By necessity, this summary includes only those counts printed herein. Another count—Sangerville, Va.—was submitted to *The Raven* but had to be rejected since it coincided with the territory of the Rockingham County count, which had priority. The most interesting species seen on the Sangerville count (December 29) was a Vesper Sparrow, noted carefully by Mozelle Henkel and YuLee Larner.

Individual count totals were excellent, with five counts reporting over 100 species. These were Cape Charles, 173 species; Chincoteague, 153; Back Bay, 140; Little Creek, 132; and Mathews, 105. The total for Cape Charles was seven species over the previous record Virginia Christmas count, and several other counts also registered record totals. Cape Charles also had the best coverage of any state count this year with 153 party-hours, followed by Fort Belvoir with 136, Chincoteague with 127, and Back Bay with 100. Other counts with excellent coverage included Lynchburg with 81 party-hours and Blacksburg and Brooke both with 75.

In general the weather was quite good for the count. Temperatures were mostly moderate, and rain was somewhat of a problem on only the four counts held on 22 December (Augusta, Brooke, Hopewell, and Peaks of Otter). Snow hit the western part of the state on 31 December, and those counts held in that area after that date had to contend with a ground snow cover varying from 4 inches at Glade Spring to 10 inches at Charlottesville and Sweet Briar. This undoubtedly reduced coverage of these areas but also probably made birds more active and concentrated and therefore easier to count. The warm fall and early winter prior to the count period surely had a profound influence on the species totals for the various counts.

The count tabulation given in Table 1 is more or less in order of distance inland from the coast. Counts 1-9 were all on the Coastal Plain, with 1-4

TABLE 1. The 1970-71 Christmas bird counts in Virginia. The underlined figures indicate an unusual species or an unusual number of individuals for that particular count. Items marked with an asterisk (*) are commented on further under count summaries.

| | 1. Chincoteague | 2. Cape Charles | 3. Little Creek | 4. Back Bay | 5. Newport News | 6. Mathews | 7. Hopewell | 8. Brooke | 9. Fort Belvoir | 10. Charlottesville | 11. Warren | 12. Darlington Heights | 13. Sweet Briar | 14. Lynchburg | 15. Clarke Co. | 16. Big Flat | 17. Rockingham Co. | 18. Augusta Co. | 19. Waynesboro | 20. Lexington | 21. Peaks of Otter | 22. Roundke | 23. Blacksburg | 24. Glade Spring | 25. Nickelville |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|------------|-------------|-----------|-----------------|---------------------|------------|------------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Date | 12/28 | 12/27 | 12/31 | 12/29 | 12/26 | 1/3 | 12/22 | 12/22 | 12/26 | 1/3 | 12/27 | 12/28 | 1/3 | 1/2 | 12/27 | 12/30 | 12/30 | 12/22 | 12/26 | 12/29 | 12/22 | 1/3 | 12/29 | 1/2 | 12/27 |
| Common Loon | <u>641</u> | 25 | 34 | 38 | 2 | 52 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Red-throated Loon | 108 | 31 | 91 | 677 | 4 | 6 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Red-necked Grebe | 7 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Horned Grebe | 231 | 76 | 69 | 72 | 51 | 111 | 7 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | 1 | 4 | ... | ... |
| Pied-billed Grebe | 43 | 25 | 42 | 33 | 26 | 3 | ... | 2 | 2 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 4 | 8 | ... | ... |
| Gannet | 1 | 5 | 110 | 395 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Great Cormorant | ... | ... | ... | 1* | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Double-crested Cormorant | 28 | 71 | 58 | 76 | 3 | ... | ... | 27 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Great Blue Heron | 196 | 101 | 72 | 31 | 8 | 45 | 38 | 40 | <u>48</u> | 2 | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... |
| Green Heron | ... | ... | ... | 1* | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Little Blue Heron | <u>22</u> | 13 | 6 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Cattle Egret | ... | 1* | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Common Egret | 57 | 17 | 29 | 4 | ... | 1* | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Snowy Egret | <u>14</u> | 40 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Louisiana Heron | <u>26</u> | 20 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Black-crowned Night Heron | <u>108</u> | 95 | 51 | <u>208</u> | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| American Bittern | 8 | 11 | ... | 4 | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Glossy Ibis | 4* | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Whistling Swan | 162 | 31 | ... | 5386 | ... | 4 | 2* | 27 | ... | ... | 2* | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Canada Goose | 2667 | 3110 | 71 | 6000 | 2 | 129 | 5800 | 700 | 11 | 62 | 14 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 | ... | ... |
| Brant | 12,000 | 8724 | 1000 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Snow Goose | 4600 | 7 | 235 | 35,000 | ... | ... | 18 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Blue Goose | 3 | ... | ... | 10 | ... | ... | 105 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Mallard | 589 | 150 | 210 | 2759 | 82 | 25 | 2204 | 24 | <u>430</u> | 165 | 90 | ... | ... | 9 | 53 | ... | 41 | ... | 6 | 4 | ... | 115 | 6 | 100 | ... |
| Black Duck | 4218 | 1250 | 237 | 3066 | 33 | 11 | 1110 | 27 | <u>1239</u> | 161 | 15 | ... | ... | ... | 10 | ... | 12 | ... | 31 | 2 | ... | 3 | 6 | 20 | ... |
| Gadwall | 346 | 130 | 21 | 457 | 15 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... |
| Pintail | 908 | 18 | 1 | 2245 | 8 | ... | 620 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Green-winged Teal | 1979 | 146 | 47 | 408 | ... | ... | 400 | ... | 10 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 | ... | ... |
| Blue-winged Teal | 9 | 2 | 6 | 7 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| American Widgeon | 63 | 610 | 7 | 16,600 | 707 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | <u>269</u> | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 | 3 | ... | ... |
| Shoveler | 843 | 40 | 28 | 46 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Wood Duck | ... | 2 | 34 | ... | ... | ... | 1021 | ... | 1 | 16 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Redhead | 9 | ... | ... | 7 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... |
| Ring-necked Duck | ... | 4 | 35 | ... | 5 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Canvasback | ... | ... | 193 | 25 | 731 | 18 | ... | 18 | 9 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | ... | ... |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|------|------|-----|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Greater Scaup | 39 | 2 | 3 | 17 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Lesser Scaup | 12 | 5 | 18 | 2 | 130 | 13 | 1 | 80 | 25 | ... | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... | ... |
| Scaup (sp.?) | 31 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 13 |
| Common Goldeneye | 171 | 110 | 57 | 8 | 107 | 219 | ... | 31 | 12 | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Bufflehead | 715 | 1692 | 52 | 14 | 67 | 668 | 9 | 10 | 128 | 1 | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 16 |
| Oldsquaw | 1132 | 43 | 42 | 9 | 2 | 22 | ... | 14 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Common Rider | ... | 1* | 2* | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| King Rider | ... | ... | 11* | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| White-winged Scoter | 228 | 43 | 15 | 21 | ... | 11 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Surf Scoter | 1288 | 652 | 667 | 131 | 27 | 217 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Common Scoter | 245 | 227 | 96 | 51 | 3 | 5 | ... | ... | 2* | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Scoter (sp.?) | ... | 25 | 360 | 928 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8* | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Ruddy Duck | 180 | 13 | 32 | 13 | 130 | 140 | 11 | 145 | 295 | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 |
| Hooded Merganser | 50 | 155 | 82 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 3 | ... | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | 3 | 6 |
| Common Merganser | ... | 6 | ... | 35 | ... | ... | 66 | 250 | 209 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Red-breasted Merganser | 103 | 298 | 20 | 83 | 41 | 38 | ... | 26 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Turkey Vulture | 260 | 203 | ... | 37 | 1 | 25 | 8 | 8 | ... | 15 | 91 | 20 | 3 | ... | 13 | 161 | 19 | 26 | ... |
| Black Vulture | 2 | ... | 21 | 27 | ... | ... | ... | 41 | ... | 3 | 111 | 2 | ... | 6 | ... | 23 | ... | 4 | ... |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | 7 | 15 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 4 | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 3 | ... | 3 | ... |
| Cooper's Hawk | 1 | 4 | 2 | 2 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Red-tailed Hawk | 24 | 28 | 11 | 11 | 3 | 3 | 13 | 8 | 11 | 5 | 16 | 6 | 2 | 11 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | 1 | 5 | 7 | 11 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Broad-winged Hawk | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1* | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Rough-legged Hawk | 4 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1* | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Golden Eagle | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1* | ... | ... | ... |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bald Eagle | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 2 | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Marek Hawk | 51 | 41 | 1 | 39 | 3 | 10 | 2 | 6 | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Osprey | ... | 1* | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Peregrine Falcon | ... | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1* | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1* | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Pigeon Hawk | 1 | 1 | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | 1* | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sparrow Hawk | 45 | 73 | 43 | 105 | 31 | 26 | 5 | 13 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 8 | ... | 5 | 1 | ... | 14 | ... | 4 |
| Ruffed Grouse | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 25 | 1 | ... | 1 | 5 |
| Bobwhite | 148 | 146 | 99 | 58 | 79 | 20 | 42 | 50 | 94 | 103 | 77 | 36 | 4 | 41 | 10 | ... | 102 | 5 | 69 |
| Japanese Green Pheasant | ... | 4* | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Turkey | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | ... | 1 | 10 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| King Rail | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Clapper Rail | 14 | 39 | 3 | ... | 1 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Virginia Rail | ... | 3 | ... | 4 | ... | 3 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Sora | ... | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Common Gallinule | ... | 3 | 1 | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| American Coot | 80 | 110 | 78 | 19,800 | 40 | ... | 4 | ... | 11 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 29 | ... | 1 | ... |
| American Oystercatcher | 148 | 313 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 60 |
| Semipalmated Plover | 6 | 8 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Piping Plover | ... | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Killdeer | 150 | 401 | 52 | 46 | 108 | 57 | 31 | 3 | 15 | 1 | 7 | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... | 33 | 17 | 19 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 20 |
| Black-bellied Plover | 335 | 356 | 17 | 1 | 22 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Ruddy Turnstone | 63 | 139 | 5 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| American Woodcock | 16 | 44 | 2 | 10 | ... | 3 | 1 | 3 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1* |
| Common Snipe | 14 | 15 | 2 | 22 | 3 | ... | 27 | 2 | ... | ... | 3 | ... | 4 | ... | ... | 6 | ... | 3 | 4 |
| Whimbrel | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 |

| | 1. Chincoteague | 2. Cape Charles | 3. Little Creek | 4. Back Bay | 5. Newport News | 6. Mathews | 7. Hopewell | 8. Brooke | 9. Fort Belvoir | 10. Charlottesville | 11. Warren | 12. Darlington Heights | 13. Sweet Briar | 14. Lynchburg | 15. Clarke Co. | 16. Big Flat | 17. Rockingham Co. | 18. Augusta Co. | 19. Waynesboro | 20. Lexington | 21. Peaks of Otter | 22. Roanoke | 23. Blacksburg | 24. Glade Spring | 25. Nickelsville |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|------------|-------------|-----------|-----------------|---------------------|------------|------------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|
| Date | 12/28 | 12/27 | 12/31 | 12/29 | 12/26 | 1/3 | 12/22 | 12/22 | 12/26 | 1/3 | 12/27 | 12/28 | 1/3 | 1/2 | 12/27 | 12/30 | 12/30 | 12/22 | 12/26 | 12/29 | 12/22 | 1/3 | 12/29 | 1/2 | 12/27 |
| Willet | ... | 10 | ... | ... | ... | 2* | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Greater Yellowlegs | 54 | 68 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Lesser Yellowlegs | 15 | 37 | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Knot | 520* | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Purple Sandpiper | ... | 3 | 65 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Least Sandpiper | 28 | ... | ... | ... | 1* | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Dunlin | 5649 | 11,188 | 88 | 49 | 103 | 48 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Short-billed Dowitcher | 3* | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Long-billed Dowitcher | 1* | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Dowitcher (sp.?) | 14* | 9 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Semipalmated Sandpiper | 13 | 202 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Western Sandpiper | 15 | 17 | ... | ... | ... | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Marbled Godwit | ... | 36 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Sanderling | 1132 | 812 | 23 | 195 | 167 | 69 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| American Avocet | 4* | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Great Black-backed Gull | 228 | 1140 | 725 | 512 | 84 | 14 | 13 | 310 | 123 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Herring Gull | 4451 | 8289 | 4900 | 2000 | 1379 | 492 | 327 | 470 | 1495 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Ring-billed Gull | 690 | 1277 | 4750 | 1500 | 670 | 781 | 1196 | 80 | 2031 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Black-headed Gull | 1* | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Laughing Gull | ... | 5 | ... | 4 | 1 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Bonaparte's Gull | 102 | 230 | 280 | 538 | 371 | 29 | ... | ... | 102 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7* | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Forster's Tern | 19 | 105 | 23 | 177 | 12 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Common Tern | 2* | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Royal Tern | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Black Skimmer | 1 | 14 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Mourning Dove | 370 | 263 | 413 | 338 | 246 | 109 | 138 | 110 | 371 | 134 | 618 | 67 | 77 | 216 | ... | ... | 645 | 60 | 66 | 154 | ... | 389 | 108 | 124 | 3 |
| Barn Owl | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Screech Owl | 5 | 21 | 12 | 28 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | 3 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Great Horned Owl | 1 | 8 | 4 | 7 | ... | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 2 |
| Barred Owl | ... | ... | 7 | 8 | ... | 2 | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Long-eared Owl | ... | 1* | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Short-eared Owl | 1 | 5 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Saw-whet Owl | ... | 1* | ... | 1* | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Belted Kingfisher | 37 | 31 | 18 | 13 | 11 | 22 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | ... | 10 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 9 | 3 | ... |
| Yellow-shafted Flicker | 205 | 289 | 108 | 200 | 70 | 112 | 113 | 56 | 47 | 21 | 12 | 12 | 11 | 19 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 16 | 13 | 1 | 7 |
| Pileated Woodpecker | 7 | ... | 7 | 23 | 3 | 1 | 11 | 17 | 7 | 17 | 11 | 13 | 8 | 19 | 7 | 4 | 10 | ... | 5 | 17 | 2 | 19 | 9 | 2 | 1 |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker | 26 | 17 | 25 | 86 | 15 | 21 | 56 | 70 | 79 | 23 | 36 | 21 | 24 | 39 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 14 | 14 | 9 | 18 | ... | 1 |
| Red-headed Woodpecker | 12 | 6 | 30 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 18 | 17 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 7 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | 5 | 6 | 8 | 23 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 17 | 15 | 9 | 15 | 6 | 11 | 22 | ... | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | 3 | 1 | 5 | 3 | ... | ... |
| Hairy Woodpecker | 11 | 21 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 1 | 13 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 11 | ... | ... |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|------|------|-----------|------|-----|------|------|------|-----|
| Downy Woodpecker | 53 | 28 | 36 | 92 | 21 | 27 | 50 | 26 | 69 | 37 | 40 | 14 | 16 | 55 | 9 | 17 | 12 | 14 | 13 | 28 | 32 | 27 | 122 | 19 | 3 |
| Western Kingbird | ... | 1* | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Eastern Phoebe | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 3 |
| Horned Lark | 81 | 121 | 1 | ... | 13 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 45 | 4 | ... | 52 | 38 | ... | ... | ... | 15 | 51 | 19 | ... | 30 | ... | ... | ... |
| Tree Swallow | 2482* | 10 | ... | ... | 43 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Blue Jay | 90 | 39 | 163 | 132 | 99 | 101 | 99 | 370 | 476 | 170 | 121 | 157 | 88 | 269 | 14 | 6 | 47 | 44 | 43 | 82 | 35 | 223 | 188 | 36 | 3 |
| Common Raven | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 8 | ... | 2 | 2 | 1 | 10 | 1 | 42 | ... |
| Common Crow | 6298 | 58 | 283 | 147 | 118 | 164 | 111 | 210 | 455 | 342 | 491 | 206 | 74 | 191 | 145 | 4 | 8 | 1554 | 372 | 206 | 107 | 334 | 451 | ... | 500 |
| Fish Crow | 497 | 49 | 21 | 10 | 13 | 2 | ... | 10 | 8 | 65 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 | 60 | 8 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Black-capped Chickadee | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 66 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2* | 4 | ... | ... |
| Carolina Chickadee | 138 | 246 | 86 | 187 | 79 | 81 | 97 | 85 | 330 | 111 | 143 | 62 | 36 | 458 | 18 | 70 | 6 | 39 | 48 | 73 | 57 | 128 | 154 | 16 | 7 |
| Tufted Titmouse | 74 | 30 | 25 | 55 | 24 | 23 | 56 | 65 | 273 | 61 | 53 | 25 | 29 | 325 | 10 | 29 | 30 | 29 | 34 | 55 | 43 | 140 | 131 | 23 | 20 |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | 1 | 2 | 5 | 16 | ... | ... | 11 | ... | 16 | 13 | 14 | 4 | 13 | 23 | 4 | 11 | 11 | 9 | 15 | 20 | 28 | 25 | 84 | 8 | 5 |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 2 | 3 | ... | ... | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 9 | 13 | ... | ... |
| Brown-headed Nuthatch | 94 | 85 | 26 | 41 | ... | 6 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Brown Creeper | 52 | 32 | 22 | 31 | 11 | 9 | 8 | 8 | 24 | 6 | 12 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 11 | ... | ... | 10 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 15 | 1 | ... |
| House Wren | 6 | 19 | 4 | 7 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2* | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Winter Wren | 23 | 42 | 12 | 40 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 11 | 1 | 6 | 5 | ... | 10 | 2 | 8 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 6 | 12 | 2 | 2 |
| Bewick's Wren | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1* | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Carolina Wren | 86 | 151 | 48 | 114 | 27 | 67 | 107 | 53 | 97 | 36 | 26 | 9 | 9 | 55 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 14 | 14 | 28 | 8 | 6 |
| Long-billed Marsh Wren | 5 | 14 | 3 | 19 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Short-billed Marsh Wren | 4 | 12 | 2 | 11 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Mockingbird | 41 | 132 | 79 | 113 | 109 | 181 | 65 | 110 | 161 | 85 | 57 | 52 | 61 | 122 | 2 | 3 | 57 | 39 | 42 | 79 | 14 | 191 | 87 | 27 | 7 |
| Catbird | 11 | 48 | 4 | 95 | 2 | 5 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... |
| Brown Thrasher | 9 | 22 | 18 | 49 | 11 | 21 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... |
| Robin | 362 | 150 | 466 | 988 | 3 | 192 | 65 | 100 | 168 | 19 | 40 | 67 | 18 | 44 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 213 | 7 | ... | 3 |
| Hermit Thrush | 16 | 17 | 1 | 30 | ... | 7 | 12 | 6 | 18 | 6 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... |
| Swainson's Thrush | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1* | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Eastern Bluebird | 2 | 59 | 2 | 13 | 3 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 3 | 20 | 25 | 32 | 1 | 7 | ... | 8 | 4 | ... | 1 | 13 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 9 | 11 |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet | 434 | 96 | 18 | 85 | 8 | 41 | 32 | 23 | 80 | 46 | 114 | 1 | 1 | 25 | 6 | 35 | 16 | ... | 14 | 9 | 3 | 31 | 20 | 2 | 2 |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet | 32 | 47 | 15 | 32 | 23 | 16 | 30 | 9 | 51 | 10 | 17 | 1 | ... | 37 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | 6 | 5 | ... | ... |
| Water Pipit | 510 | 1086 | 45 | 64 | ... | 3 | ... | ... | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Cedar Waxwing | 39 | 58 | 106 | 50 | 60 | 124 | 79 | 80 | 230 | 30 | 6 | 34 | 10 | 11 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 | 26 | ... | ... | ... |
| Loggerhead Shrike | 1 | 2 | ... | 6 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 15 | 13 | 2 | 3 | 2 | ... | 3 | ... | 1 | 2 | ... | 6 | 2 | 3 | 7 |
| Starling | 2397 | 4986 | 2276 | 2100 | 3247 | 2374 | 3603 | 5500 | 4672 | 1675 | 1095 | 471 | 364 | 511,500 | 38 | ... | 4026 | 3952 | 1,000,000 | 5702 | 123 | 2771 | 3516 | 1600 | 54 |
| Yellow-throated Vireo | ... | ... | ... | 1* | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Philadelphia Vireo | ... | 1* | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Black-and-white Warbler | 1* | 2* | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Orange-crowned Warbler | 2 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Black-throated Blue Warbler | ... | 1* | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Myrtle Warbler | 1636 | 3859 | 706 | 9335 | 1190 | 806 | 48 | 33 | 134 | 15 | 30 | 22 | 3 | 5 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | 6 | ... | ... | 5 | ... | ... |
| Pine Warbler | 16 | 7 | 4 | 13 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Prairie Warbler | ... | 1* | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Palm Warbler | 34 | 259 | 7 | 23 | ... | 7 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Ovenbird | ... | 1* | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Waterthrush (sp.?) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1* | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Yellowthroat | 6 | 9 | 2 | 34 | ... | 1 | 2* | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Yellow-breasted Chat | ... | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Wilson's Warbler | ... | ... | ... | 1* | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| House Sparrow | 465 | 475 | 465 | 473 | 533 | 188 | 90 | 120 | 331 | 73 | 57 | 111 | 135 | 142 | 1 | ... | 402 | 213 | 263 | 180 | 15 | 195 | 424 | 140 | 50 |

| | 1. Chincoteague | 2. Cape Charles | 3. Little Creek | 4. Back Bay | 5. Newport News | 6. Nathans | 7. Hopewell | 8. Brooke | 9. Fort Belvoir | 10. Charlottesville | 11. Warren | 12. Darlington Heights | 13. Sweet Eriar | 14. Lynchburg | 15. Clarie Co. | 16. Big Flat | 17. Rockingham Co. | 18. Augusta Co. | 19. Waynesboro | 20. Lexington | 21. Peaks of Otter | 22. Roanoke | 23. Blacksburg | 24. Glade Spring | 25. Nickelsville |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|------------|-------------|-----------|-----------------|---------------------|------------|------------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|
| Date | 12/28 | 12/27 | 12/31 | 12/29 | 12/26 | 1/3 | 12/22 | 12/22 | 12/26 | 1/2 | 12/27 | 12/28 | 1/3 | 1/2 | 12/27 | 12/30 | 12/30 | 12/22 | 12/26 | 12/29 | 12/22 | 1/3 | 12/29 | 1/2 | 12/27 |
| Eastern Meadowlark | 959 | 1078 | 84 | 717 | 469 | 214 | 123 | 220 | 63 | 58 | 331 | 173 | 57 | 83 | 35 | ... | 150 | ... | 11 | 35 | 22 | 88 | 76 | 24 | 1 |
| Yellow-headed Blackbird | 1* | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Red-winged Blackbird | 3741 | 16,295 | 2686 | 16,200 | 1100 | 159 | 2219 | 1500 | 513 | 9 | 348 | 81 | ... | 173,910 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1000 | ... | ... | 2 | 54 | 3 | 1 |
| Baltimore Oriole | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Rusty Blackbird | 27 | 22 | 14 | 57 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 98 | ... | 85 | ... | 1 | 5115 | ... | ... | 25 | ... | 1300 | ... | ... | ... | 2050* | 3 | ... |
| Boat-tailed Grackle | 726 | 1586 | 4 | 7 | ... | 20 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Common Grackle | 2765 | 324 | 83 | 3360 | 1484 | 450 | ... | 4750 | 154 | ... | 120 | 7 | 3 | 204,600 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 600 | 2 | ... | ... | 26 | 42 | ... |
| Brown-headed Cowbird | 3360 | 2793 | 378 | 1258 | 402 | 80 | 1717 | ... | 43 | 50 | 327 | 3 | 50 | 127,875 | ... | ... | 1 | 23 | 1000 | ... | ... | 43 | 128 | 5 | ... |
| Cardinal | 427 | 507 | 244 | 386 | 167 | 324 | 282 | 400 | 507 | 195 | 182 | 187 | 86 | 251 | 35 | 30 | 60 | 56 | 49 | 184 | 35 | 243 | 282 | 56 | 60 |
| Evening Grosbeak | 16 | 8 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Purple Finch | ... | 9 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 1 | ... | 3 | 13 | 19 | ... | ... | 31 | ... | 1 | ... | 4 | 2 | 11 | ... | 4 | 9 | ... | ... |
| House Finch | ... | 18 | 3* | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 22 | ... | 1* | ... | ... | 9 | ... | ... | ... | 6 | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Pine Siskin | ... | 2 | 30 | ... | ... | 10 | ... | ... | 18 | ... | 2 | 8 | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | ... | ... |
| American Goldfinch | 98 | 159 | 38 | 74 | 48 | 109 | 178 | 45 | 113 | 81 | 60 | 150 | ... | 34 | 1 | 5 | 12 | 11 | ... | 40 | 28 | 33 | 167 | 35 | 7 |
| Red Crossbill | ... | 2* | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2* | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 52* | ... | ... |
| White-winged Crossbill | ... | 2* | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Rufous-sided Towhee | 148 | 263 | 156 | 429 | 71 | 128 | 27 | 34 | 56 | 19 | 4 | 15 | 2 | 66 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 15 | 12 | 14 | 1 |
| Ipswich Sparrow | 6 | 3 | ... | 21 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Savannah Sparrow | 197 | 503 | 583 | 1204 | 53 | 12 | 17 | 3 | ... | 34 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Grasshopper Sparrow | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2* | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Sharp-tailed Sparrow | 17 | 55 | 14 | 1 | 1 | 13 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Seaside Sparrow | 3 | 42 | 14 | ... | 2 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Vesper Sparrow | 7 | 61 | 2 | 11 | 48* | 5 | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4* | ... | ... | ... |
| Slate-colored Junco | 333 | 139 | 411 | 649 | 602 | 276 | 318 | 650 | 815 | 313 | 366 | 829 | 91 | 766 | 55 | 72 | 56 | 25 | 104 | 322 | 153 | 1385 | 629 | 35 | 60 |
| Tree Sparrow | ... | 7 | 5 | 10 | 1* | ... | ... | 22 | 44 | 13 | 5 | ... | ... | 17 | 3 | ... | 9 | 3 | 2 | 13 | ... | 4 | 6 | 1 | ... |
| Chipping Sparrow | 35 | 52 | 24 | 41 | 11 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2* | ... | ... | ... |
| Field Sparrow | 269 | 236 | 157 | 442 | 153 | 99 | 57 | 135 | 180 | 124 | 375 | 114 | 10 | 90 | ... | 1 | 1 | 25 | 1 | 40 | 16 | 26 | 53 | 24 | 21 |
| White-crowned Sparrow | ... | 1 | 8 | 6 | ... | ... | 25 | 2 | ... | 21 | 90 | 6 | 31 | 12 | ... | ... | 61 | ... | 3 | 13 | ... | 9 | 122 | 70 | 8 |
| White-throated Sparrow | 966 | 1931 | 662 | 1671 | 465 | 141 | 592 | 700 | 612 | 314 | 162 | 333 | 84 | 631 | 167 | 40 | 37 | 24 | 19 | 107 | 30 | 239 | 140 | 19 | 31 |
| Fox Sparrow | 37 | 217 | 162 | 226 | 18 | 9 | 3 | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | 15 | ... | 15 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 12 | 1 | 1 | 8 |
| Lincoln's Sparrow | ... | 1* | 1* | 1* | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Swamp Sparrow | 334 | 414 | 127 | 811 | 21 | 42 | 33 | 8 | 14 | 10 | 7 | ... | ... | 8 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 | 1 |
| Song Sparrow | 501 | 593 | 203 | 948 | 160 | 156 | 134 | 110 | 147 | 249 | 220 | 164 | 17 | 147 | 24 | ... | 36 | 5 | 7 | 61 | 6 | 97 | 249 | 48 | 23 |
| Snow Bunting | ... | 2 | ... | 1 | 6 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Total Species | 153 | 173 | 132 | 140 | 99 | 105 | 79 | 81 | 92 | 74 | 74 | 51 | 43 | 62 | 41 | 32 | 64 | 38 | 60 | 53 | 38 | 68 | 79 | 48 | 36 |
| Total Individuals | 80,063 | 83,842 | 32,984 | 144,314 | 16,568 | 10,380 | 23,781 | 18,155 | 17,990 | 5170 | 6258 | 3485 | 1497 | 1,027,421 | 690 | 426 | 6841 | 5932 | 1,005,297 | 7628 | 833 | 7384 | 10,808 | 2580 | 923 |
| Total Party-hours | 127 | 153 | 53 | 100 | 57 | 59 | 39 | 75 | 136 | 42 | 52 | 27 | 23 | 81 | 9 | 11 | 32 | 18 | 33 | 25 | 18 | 61 | 75 | 18 | 8 |
| Number of Observers | 38 | 35 | 18 | 32 | 17 | 15 | 8 | 12 | 39 | 6 | 7 | 12 | 12 | 30 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 11 | 12 | 10 | 7 | 24 | 22 | 4 | 2 |

being on the coast proper and 5 and 6 being on the western edge of Chesapeake Bay. Counts 10-14 were on the Piedmont, and 15-25 were from the Blue Ridge westward. Details on each count are given at the end of this summary.

The 641 Common Loons and 7 Red-necked Grebes at Chincoteague were record numbers for this count, and the Great Cormorant at Back Bay was a first for a Virginia Christmas count. The 27 Double-crested Cormorants at Brooke were an unusual number for this inland locality. Herons were in excellent numbers along the coast, record numbers at Chincoteague including 22 Little Blue Herons and 36 Louisiana Herons. Back Bay had the only Green Heron reported, and a Cattle Egret was seen at Cape Charles, the fifth count record for the state. Black-crowned Night Herons were in good numbers on the coast, 108 at Chincoteague and 208 at Back Bay being records. Four Glossy Ibis at Chincoteague constituted the fourth Virginia count record.

Whistling Swans were reported inland at Hopewell and Warren, where they are highly unusual, as well as at Brooke, where they are a bit more normal along the Potomac River. Rockingham, Roanoke, and Blacksburg as usual had the best waterfowl numbers west of the Blue Ridge. All three reported one or two Redheads each, and the 269 American Widgeon at Rockingham were exceptional. Oldsquaws were found on all but one of the Coastal Plain counts, 1132 at Chincoteague and 14 inland at Brooke being record numbers for these counts. Common Eiders at Cape Charles and Little Creek were the fourth and fifth records for a state count, while the 11 King Eiders at Little Creek were only the second such report.

Turkey Vultures seemed abundant on the Eastern Shore with record numbers of 260 at Chincoteague and 203 at Cape Charles. These birds seem to fluctuate enormously in this area from year to year. A Broad-winged Hawk at Lynchburg was only the second recent and reliable count report for a Virginia Christmas count. Brooke had the only inland report of a Rough-legged Hawk, and a Golden Eagle was found at Rockingham County. Both Cape Charles and Clark County reported Ospreys, and the Peregrine Falcon was found on three counts, 2 at Cape Charles, one at Back Bay, and one inland at Fort Belvoir. A Pigeon Hawk at Brooke was unusual inland.

Cape Charles, with its excellent island and marsh coverage, had the best overall shorebird numbers, including 313 American Oystercatchers, 401 Killdeer, 44 American Woodcock, 11,188 Dunlin, and 36 Marbled Godwits. Standouts at Chincoteague were an amazing 520 Knots and 4 American Avocets, the latter only the second state count report. Inland, an American Woodcock was found at Blacksburg, and Common Snipe were noted on five counts west of the Blue Ridge. At Brooke the 310 Great Black-backed Gulls were a record count for this inland area. Chincoteague had a Black-headed Gull, only the second report for a state Christmas count. Waynesboro had the only gulls west of the Fall Line, 7 Bonaparte's Gulls. Fort Belvoir reported a record 102 Bonaparte's Gulls, and since both these and the Waynesboro birds occurred on the same day—26 December—it would appear that these reports are evidence for a possibly widespread overland migration of these birds. Three Common Terns were found at Chincoteague, where the only Royal Tern was reported, and Black Skimmers were noted at both Chincoteague and Cape Charles.

Warren and Rockingham County had exceptional numbers of Mourning Doves, recording 618 and 645, respectively. Owls were reported locally in good numbers, with 21 Screech Owls and 8 Great Horned Owls at Cape Charles, 7

Barred at Little Creek, and 28 Screech, 7 Great Horned, and 8 Barred at Back Bay. A Long-eared Owl was reported at Cape Charles and single Saw-whet Owls at Cape Charles and Back Bay. A total of 98 Red-headed Woodpeckers were found on 12 of the 25 counts, best numbers being 30 at Little Creek, 18 at Brooke, and 17 at Fort Belvoir. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were in excellent numbers in the state, with 164 reported on 20 counts, including 23 at Back Bay and 22 at Lynchburg. Blacksburg supplied the highest Downy Woodpecker count, a remarkable 122.

Cape Charles produced a Western Kingbird, the fourth record for a state Christmas bird count, and Chincoteague had an amazing concentration of 2482 Tree Swallows, surely a record winter count for Virginia. Although the Black-capped Chickadee is a common permanent resident even at low altitudes in the Shenandoah Valley in western Rockingham and Augusta Counties, it is rarely seen—and then only in winter—in the eastern parts of the Valley or in the adjacent Blue Ridge in these counties or farther south even though many competent observers have specifically looked for it for many years. Thus the 66 recorded on the Rockingham County count seem normal, if a bit high, whereas the 3 reported from Roanoke were most unusual. It would be most useful if Roanoke records could be substantiated by specimens or at least by careful wing and tail measurements of trapped birds. Thirty-eight Red-breasted Nuthatchers were recorded on 10 of the 25 counts this year, only 11% of the number found last year, and House Wrens were pretty well confined to the coastal counts, only Warren of the inland ones reporting the species.

The only unusual thrush seen was a Swainson's at Fort Belvoir. The Eastern Bluebird total was 306 found on 23 counts, or 23 per 100 party-hours, well up from last year's 153, or 13 per 100 party-hours. A remarkable number of unusual vireos and warblers were found. First state count records were a Yellow-throated Vireo at Back Bay and a Philadelphia Vireo and Black-throated Blue Warbler, both at Cape Charles. Black-and-white Warblers at Chincoteague and Cape Charles were the fourth and fifth Virginia count records, a Prairie Warbler and an Ovenbird at Cape Charles were both second count records, and the Wilson's Warbler, found this year at Back Bay, had been reported only twice before on a Virginia Christmas count. The waterthrush at Charlottesville was thought to be a Louisiana, but no details were submitted with the record. The Northern Waterthrush has been recorded once before on a state count, but there appears to be no previous winter report of the Louisiana. A Yellow-headed Blackbird at Chincoteague was only the second time this species has been found on a state count, the first being in 1968 at Little Creek.

After two successive years of excellent northern finch flights, there were relatively few reported this season. Only 39 Evening Grosbeaks were found on six counts and 77 Pine Siskins on eight counts. This compares with last year's totals of 1200 Evening Grosbeaks and 2019 Pine Siskins. Red Crossbills were found on only four counts this year (versus nine in 1969), though the 62 reported at Blacksburg was a record count there. The 2 White-winged Crossbills at Cape Charles were unusual. This species appears to have been recorded on a Virginia Christmas count only five times previously, once in 1960 and on four different counts in 1965. The House Finch was found on seven counts, with a record 22 at Fort Belvoir, as this species continues to increase its winter population in the state. Good numbers of Ipswich Sparrows were found along the coast as observers spend more time and effort in looking for the bird. Back

Bay's count of 21 was a record. Charlottesville reported 34 Savannah Sparrows and 2 Grasshopper Sparrows, the former an extraordinary winter count for the upper Piedmont and the latter only the fifth count record in recent years. Vesper Sparrows were found on all six counts near the coast with a record 61 at Cape Charles and 48 at Newport News. Inland observations included 2 at Fort Belvoir and 4 at Roanoke. Chipping Sparrows were found inland at Lynchburg and Roanoke as well as in their more normal wintering areas along the coast, and Cape Charles reported an amazing 317 Fox Sparrows. Single Lincoln's Sparrows were seen at Cape Charles, Little Creek, and Back Bay.

1. CHINCOTEAGUE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE (all points within a 15-mile diameter, center 2 miles north of center of Chincoteague as in previous 16 years; open farmland 13%, insular pine woodland 9%, mainland woodland 19%, scrub pine and myrtle thickets 6%, fresh-water marshes and impoundments 7%, salt marshes 25%, sheltered bays 15%, dunes 2%, sand flats and beaches 4%).—Dec. 28; 5:45 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Clear most of day; temp. 26° to 34°; wind NW, 10-30 m.p.h.; ground bare, fresh-water marshes and ponds partially frozen. Thirty-eight observers in 13 parties. Total party-hours, 127 (112 on foot, 11 by car, 4 by boat); total party-miles, 320 (111 on foot, 184 by car, 25 by boat). Observers: David Adamson, Robert L. Ake, H. T. Armistead, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Bell, M. M. Browne, J. H. Carter, III, Robert Cherrix, Mrs. Gladys H. Cole, C. D. Cremeans, W. L. Del Grande, Paul G. DuMont, Philip A. DuMont, Malcolm Garner, Mrs. H. S. Gilbert, L. C. Goldman, L. L. Hood, Betty Lancaster, Edmund LeGrand, H. E. LeGrand, Jr., E. M. Martin, E. T. McKnight, G. M. Meade, J. B. Meade, Mrs. Dorothy Mitchell, Gale Monson, C. S. Robbins, G. C. Robbins, H. G. Ross, Grace M. Russell, William Russell, Isaac C. Sanchez, F. R. Scott (compiler), Jarad Sparks, P. W. Sykes, Jr., John Terborgh, C. R. Vaughn, J. S. Weske. The Glossy Ibis, which had been in the area all fall, were seen by McKnight, Adamson, and Martin, while the Meades and Scott recorded the high numbers of Knots along 8 miles of beach. Of the 18 dowitchers found, 2 of the Short-bills were identified by Browne and Sykes and one by Adamson, and the Long-bill was identified (by note) by Will Russell. Will Russell, Armistead, and Sparks found the avocets, which were later seen by many others. The Black-headed Gull, an adult in winter plumage, was seen in flight with Bonaparte's and Ring-billed Gulls by the DuMonts, and Sanchez noted the Common Terns, each of which had a complete black ring around the back of its head. Although the Tree Swallow was reported by eight parties, the bulk of them—2400—were estimated by Sparks, Armistead, and Will Russell congregating in the bayberries and over the salt marshes at the south end of Assateague Island. Gladys Cole and G. C. Robbins found the Black-and-white Warbler, whereas the Yellow-headed Blackbird, an immature male, was identified carefully by Mrs. Gilbert.

2. CAPE CHARLES (all points within a 15-mile diameter, center 1.5 miles SE of Capeville P. O. at south end of Dunton Cove; open bay 25%, salt marsh 20%, sheltered bay and mudflats 17%, open farmland 15%, open ocean and beach 10%, pine and mixed woodland 10%, towns 2%, fresh water 1%).—Dec. 27; 4:10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Clear; temp. 28° to 39°; wind SW to NW, 0-30 m.p.h.; ground bare, fresh water partially frozen. Thirty-five observers in 7 parties. Total party-hours, 153 (128 on foot, 20 by car, 5 by boat); total party-miles, 384 (124 on foot, 235 by car, 25 by boat). Observers: Robert L. Ake, Henry T. Armistead (cocompiler), Ruth A. Beck, Micou M. Browne, Mitchell A. Byrd, Jay H. Carter, III, Charles Cremeans, William Del Grande, Philip A. DuMont, Paul G. DuMont, Luther C. Goldman, Charles W. Hacker, Jonathan Higman, Larry L. Hood, Robert S. Kennedy, Edmund K. LeGrand, Harry E. LeGrand, Jr., Elwood M. Martin, Gale W. Monson, Richard H. Peake, Jr., W. F. Rountrey, Grace Russell, William C. Russell (cocompiler), Isaac Sanchez, F. R. Scott, Jarad W. Sparks, Ruth C. Strosnider,

C. Byron Swift, III, Paul W. Sykes, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Ray P. Teele, John W. Terborgh, John S. Weske, Bill Williams, Townley Wolfe. Seen in area count period, but not on count day: Black Vulture. The Cattle Egret was found by Hood and Sanchez, the Common Eider by Peake, and the Osprey by Carter, Hacker, and Wolfe. The pheasants were reported as Ring-necks but were changed by the editor to Japanese Green Pheasants since this is the species introduced into this area. Will Russell saw the Long-eared Owl twice at a pine roost, and the Saw-whet Owl was heard calling by Ake, Peake, and Sykes. Cremeans and Monson watched the Western Kingbird both at rest and in flight, and the Philadelphia Vireo was carefully identified by Browne who noted all field marks. He has seen, banded, collected, and skinned birds of this species. Paul DuMont saw one of the Black-and-white Warblers, the other being found by Grace Russell and Weske. Will Russell observed the male Black-throated Blue Warbler, while the Prairie Warbler was seen by Carter and Hacker and the Ovenbird by Terborgh. The Lincoln's Sparrow and Red Crossbills were noted by Will Russell and the White-wings by Higman.

3. LITTLE CREEK (all points within a 15-mile diameter, center 3.8 miles NE of Kempsville in Virginia Beach, to include Cape Henry, Lynnhaven Inlet, Little Creek, eastern portion of Norfolk City, Stumpy Lake; farmland 8%, pine woodland 10%, deciduous woodland 16%, salt marsh, beach, rivers, bay and ocean 21%, suburbs 45%).—Dec. 31; 4 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Overcast; temp. 34° to 46°; wind NW to NE, 0-35 m.p.h.; ground bare, small bodies of water frozen in early a.m., light rain 1 p.m. to end of count. Eighteen observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours, 53 (47 on foot, 6 by car); total party-miles, 182 (21 on foot, 161 by car). Observers: Robert L. Ake, J. E. Ames, Elizabeth Bell, Hugh Bell, Floy C. Burford, Wavell W. Fogleman, Gisela A. Grimm, Virginia Hank, David L. Hughes, Betty Lancaster, Emily V. Moore, Dorothy Mitchell, Sydney Mitchell, Richard H. Peake, Jr., F. C. Richardson, W. F. Rountrey, Dorothy Silsby, Paul W. Sykes, Jr. (compiler) (Cape Henry Bird Club and guests). The eiders were all in one flock and were examined for about 20 minutes by Fogleman and Sykes. The two Common Eiders were brown-plumaged, whereas 4 of the King Eiders were in brown plumage and 7 were immature males. The House Finches, which had been present at a feeder for about a week, were noted by Burford, Grimm, Hank, and Moore, and Peake identified the Lincoln's Sparrow.

4. BACK BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE (all points within a 15-mile diameter, center 1.5 miles east of Back Bay, to include all of refuge and much of mainland of Virginia Beach; farmland 20%, pine woodland 10%, deciduous woodland 20%, beach and dunes 5%, marshes and brackish bay 25%, ocean 20%).—Dec. 29; 4:45 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Overcast; temp. 31° to 32°; wind NW, 0-11 m.p.h.; ground bare, small ponds frozen. Thirty-two observers in 12 parties. Total party-hours, 100 (86.5 on foot, 11 by car, 1 by boat, 1.5 by plane); total party-miles, 451 (61 on foot, 298 by car, 2 by boat, 90 by plane). Observers: Robert L. Ake, M. M. Browne, Floy C. Burford, Jay H. Carter, III, Andy P. Damalas, Connie Barden, Paul G. DuMont, Philip A. DuMont, Jack Fentress, Wavell W. Fogleman, Robert Gilmore, Anna D. Grimm, Gisela A. Grimm, Virginia W. Hank, David L. Hughes, H. Lee Jones, Edmund K. LeGrand, Harry E. LeGrand, Jr., Emily V. Moore, Harold Olson, Robert D. Pacific, Dwight E. Peake, Richard H. Peake, Jr., H. Douglas Pratt, F. C. Richardson, W. F. Rountrey, Elizabeth Stephens, Paul W. Sykes, Jr. (compiler), Margaret L. Toth, Romie L. Waterfield, Deborah A. White, Rebecca O. White (Cape Henry Bird Club and guests). Carter and Harry LeGrand carefully observed the Great Cormorant directly overhead in flight, and the Green Heron was noted feeding by Browne and Dwight Peake. Richard Peake and Hughes heard the Saw-whet Owl giving its characteristic call notes in response to a Screech Owl call, and Burford and the Grimms carefully studied all the field marks of the Yellow-throated Vireo. The Wilson's Warbler, a male, was seen by Burford and Anna Grimm and the Lincoln's Sparrow by Richard Peake and Hughes.

5. NEWPORT NEWS (all points within a 15-mile diameter, bounded by Chesapeake Bay, Hampton Roads, James River, Grafton; woodland 30%, fields 10%, fresh-water ponds 10%, waterfront 20%, residential areas 30%).—Dec. 26; 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Cloudy, then clear; temp. 35° to 45°; wind NW, 15-25 m.p.h.; ground bare, water open. Seventeen observers in 7 parties. Total party-hours, 57 (40 on foot, 17 by car); total party-miles, 226 (35 on foot, 191 by car). Observers: R. Ake, R. Beck, E. Bell, H. Bell, M. Byrd, C. Hacker, S. Hacker, B. Holt, D. Mitchell, S. Mitchell, A. Rawles, M. Rawls, D. Smith, W. P. Smith (compiler), T. Sniffen, D. West, B. Williams. Seen in area count period, but not on count day; Evening Grosbeak. The Least Sandpiper and Vesper Sparrows were recorded by Byrd and the Tree Sparrow by C. Hacker.

6. MATHEWS (all points within a 15-mile diameter, center ½ mile east of Beaverlett P.O., to include Gwynn's Island, New Point Comfort, portions of Mobjack and Chesapeake Bays; open farmland 20%, open bays and rivers 30%, beaches 5%, salt marshes 15%, pinewoods 20%, mixed woods 10%).—Jan. 3; 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Clear, some haze; temp. 25° to 40°; wind NNW, 2-8 m.p.h.; some snow cover, creeks frozen a.m. Fifteen observers in 7 parties. Total party-hours, 59 (31 on foot, 28 by car); total party-miles, 292 (35 on foot, 257 by car). Observers: John Bishop, Pat Carey, Peggy Gill, Brent Heath, Claire Jones, Virginia Maguiggan, Mary Pulley, Elinore Respess, David Roszell (compiler), Elizabeth T. Roszell, Jonathan Roszell, William Slate, Helen Walker, Gerald Wass, Marvin Wass. Seen in area count period, but not on count day: Common Snipe. Bishop and Elizabeth Roszell found the Common Egret, and the Willets were also seen by Elizabeth Roszell.

7. HOPEWELL (all points within a 15-mile diameter, center in Curles Neck as in last 16 years, to include Presquile National Wildlife Refuge, Fort Harrison, Curles Neck, Harrison Lake, Hopewell, Dutch Gap; open farmland 27%, brushy fields 8%, marshes and river shore 17%, deciduous wooded swamp 10%, woodland 38%).—Dec. 22; 5:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Overcast, with fog and drizzle; temp. 39° to 50°; wind S to SW, 0-8 m.p.h.; ground bare, water open. Eight observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours, 39 (30 on foot, 5 by car, 4 by boat); total party-miles, 208 (22 on foot, 171 by car, 15 by boat). Observers: Paul D. Daly, Mrs. Ann Miranian, Abner Robertson, Mr. and Mrs. David K. Roszell, F. R. Scott (compiler), David W. Sonneborn, Mary Tompkins. Daly and the Roszells found the Whistling Swans, and the Yellowthroats were seen by Sonneborn.

8. BROOKE (all points within a 15-mile diameter, center on road 3 miles ESE of Brooke, to include Potomac River from Widewater to Maryland Point Light-house and Virginia upland nearly to Fredericksburg; tidal water 20%, marsh 6%, deciduous wooded swamp 9%, fields 15%, hedgerows 4%, mixed forest edge 23%, deciduous woods 17%, pine woods 5%, slash 1%).—Dec. 22; 6 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Rain a.m., cloudy p.m.; temp. 40° to 45°; wind nearly calm; ground bare, water open. Twelve observers in 10 parties. Total party-hours, 75 (65 on foot, 10 by car); total party-miles, 160 (31 on foot, 129 by car). Observers: Roy Bailey, A. A. Baker, Henry Bell, III, L. D. Bonham, R. G. Luedke, E. T. McKnight (compiler), T. B. Nolan, J. C. Reed, R. L. Smith, D. B. Stewart, A. M. White, D. R. Wiesnet. The Rough-legged Hawk was seen at rest and in flight by Nolan, and Stewart saw the Pigeon Hawk.

9. FORT BELVOIR (all points within a 15-mile diameter, center on Pohick Church; tidal water 30%, deciduous woods 20%, pine woods 5%, pasture and fields 8%, brush land (cut-over timber) 8%, town suburbs 28%, marsh 1%).—Dec. 26; 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. Clear; temp. 20° to 32°; wind NW, 10-35 m.p.h.; ground bare in E portion, ½-in. snow in W portion; water mostly unfrozen. Thirty-nine observers in 19 parties. Total party-hours, 136 (99 on foot, 37 by car); total party-miles, 425 (78 on foot, 347 by car). Observers: Jackson Abbott (compiler), Edward J.

Bierly, Edward and Eleanore Buckler, Robert Caswell, Charles Cremeans, Bill Del Grande, Tim Desmond, Philip A. and Paul G. DuMont, Larry Dunkeson, Ted Eliot, Daniel Feaser, Harriet Gilbert, Robert Harvey, Charlotte Hoover, Nancy Joy, Mrs. Cecil Kilmer, Kathleen Klimkiewicz, Ernest and Norma Klussman, Bob Lamberton, George LaKata, Will McDowell, Helen Meleney, Gale Monson, Jean Morse, Chris Petrow, Art and Lois Pieper, E. F. Rivinus, Marc Sagan, Saul Shiffman, George Sigel, Vee Weggel, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Weisman, Ellen Wise, Josephine Wood. Seen in count area during period, but not on count day: Horned Grebe, Turkey Vulture, Ruffed Grouse, Fox Sparrow. Both the Common Scoters and the unidentified ones were noted by the DuMonts, and Ed Buckler identified the immature Peregrine Falcon. The Swainson's Thrush was also carefully studied by both DuMonts.

10. CHARLOTTESVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter, center near Ivy as in previous years).—Jan. 3; 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Partly cloudy; temp. 7° to 45°; wind S, 0-5 m.p.h.; 10-in. snow, ponds mostly frozen. Six observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours, 42 (40 on foot, 2 by car); total party-miles, 89 (40 on foot, 49 by car). Observers: Bruce Davenport, Kenneth Lawless, Robert Merkel, Eileen Stephens, C. E. Stevens (compiler), Tom Wieboldt. The waterthrush, originally thought to be a Louisiana, was found by Merkel, and Stevens saw the Grasshopper Sparrows among a group of Savannah and other sparrows flushed from a grassy weedfield.

11. WARREN (all points within a 15-mile diameter, center near Keene as in previous years).—Dec. 27; 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Clear; temp. 16° to 34°; wind W, 0-30 m.p.h.; ground bare, ponds mostly frozen. Seven observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours, 52 (47 on foot, 5 by car); total party-miles, 161 (58 on foot, 103 by car). Observers: Bruce Davenport, Kenneth Lawless, Peter Mehrling, Robert Merkel, C. E. Stevens (compiler), Fred and Lina Whiteside. Seen in area count period, but not on count day: Great Horned Owl. This is the second winter for the Whistling Swans, which were seen by Merkel and the Whitesides. The House and Bewick's Wrens were observed by Lawless, and Merkel found the House Finch, a new species for this count.

12. DARLINGTON HEIGHTS (all points within a 10-mile diameter, center Darlington Heights P. O.; open fields 30%, stream edge 10%, mixed woodland 10%, hedgerows 10%, woodland edge 23%, pine woodland 15%, lakes 2%).—Dec. 28; 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Clear, temp. 19° to 38°; wind, 0-5 m.p.h. Twelve observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours, 27 (21 on foot, 6 by car); total party-miles, 114 (14 on foot, 100 by car). Observers: Scottie Bailey, John Chambers, Jr., Vera Copple (compiler), Bill Dickenson, Edith Driskill, Hall Driskill, Margaret Dudley, James Harris, Paul McQuarry, Gene Moore, Myriam Moore, Margaret Watson.

13. SWEET BRIAR (all points within a 3-mile diameter, center Sweet Briar College; fields and pastures 40%, mixed deciduous woods 35%, buildings and barns 20%, lakes 5%).—Jan. 3; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Overcast; temp. 25° to 40°; wind calm; 10-in. snow cover, lakes frozen. Twelve observers in 5 parties, including 2 parties at feeders only. Total party-hours, 23 (18 on foot, 1 by car, 4 at feeders); total party-miles, 15 (10 on foot, 5 by car.) Observers: Carolyn Bates, Vicky Bates, Mary Blackwell, Jeanette Boone, Ernest Edwards, Mabel Edwards, Kay Macdonald, Gene Moore, Myriam Moore, Wyatt Murphy, Gertrude Prior (compiler), Harriet Rogers. Seen in area count period, but not on count day: Purple Finch, American Goldfinch.

14. LYNCHBURG (all points within a 15-mile diameter, center Lynchburg College, to include James River, College Lake, Timber Lake, Pine Hill Lake, Blackwater, Ivey, Judith, and Opossum Creeks, Wooldridge, Capron, and Burnbrae Farms, Blue Ridge Farms Subdivision, Rivermont and Riverside Parks; mixed woods 22%, pine

woods 8%, wooded residential areas 23%, creeks and river bottoms 28%, lakes and ponds 1%, fields and pastures 18%).—Jan. 2; 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Clear; temp. 20° to 46°; wind W, 4-13 m.p.h.; 8-in. snow cover, ponds and lakes frozen. Thirty observers in 10 parties. Total party-hours, 81 (75 on foot, 6 by car); total party-miles, 184 (44 on foot, 140 by car). Observers: Victor Adderton, Laura Anthony, Alfred Bishop, Jeanette Boone, John Cacciapaglia, James Carter, Jewel Carter, Audree Dodd, David Freer, Ruskin Freer, Ann Frye, Richard Goff, William Hooks, Campton Jordan, Robina Jordan, William Lee, Paul McQuarry, Wilda Menagh, Gene Moore, Myriam Moore (compiler), Phyllis Murphy, Wyatt Murphy, Lee New, Betty Padley, Gertrude Prior, W. Conrad Richardson, Rosalie Rosser, Hans Seyffert, M. B. Tillotson, Grace Wiltshire. Seen in area count period, but not on count day: Great Blue Heron, Killdeer, American Woodcock, Barred Owl. The Broad-winged Hawk, an adult, was seen by Anthony and Wiltshire. It was apparently migrating as it passed high overhead in a southeasterly direction. The broad light tail bands were clearly seen.

15. CLARKE COUNTY (all points within a 15-mile diameter, center 1 mile south of Rt. 7 on Shenandoah River; river and creek borders 80%, open farmlands 10%, upland deciduous woods 10%).—Dec. 27; 7:30 a.m. to 4:40 p.m. Partly cloudy; temp. 25° to 38°; wind NW, 2-20 m.p.h.; light fresh snow cover, running water open. Four observers in 1 party. Total party-hours, 9 (7.5 on foot, 1.5 by car); total party-miles, 31 (8 on foot, 23 by car). Observers: Juan Manuel Marroquin, Delia Scholes, Kathryn Scholes, Robert Scholes (compiler). The Osprey was seen by 3 of the 4 observers at 50 yards cruising up the river.

16. BIG FLAT MOUNTAIN (all points within a 15-mile diameter, center on Pasture Fence Mountain as in previous years; mostly in Shenandoah National Park).—Dec. 30; 6:20 a.m. to 5:10 p.m. Clear; temp. 18° to 30°; wind W, 0-10 m.p.h.; ground bare. Two observers in 1 party. Total party-hours, 11 (10 on foot, 1 by car); total party-miles, 37 (17 on foot, 20 by car). Observers: C. E. Stevens (compiler), W. F. Minor.

17. ROCKINGHAM COUNTY (all points within a 15-mile diameter, center at Ottobine, to include 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 ft.).—Dec. 30; 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Clear; temp. 10° to 31°; wind calm; ground clear, most waters frozen. Nine observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours, 32 (10 on foot, 22 by car); total party-miles, 339 (19 on foot, 320 by car). Observers: Lawrence Carpenter, Max Carpenter (compiler), John E. Derby, Jr., Hollen Helbert, Harry Jopson, W. L. Mengebier, Lee Norford, Richard H. Smith, Nelson F. Swink, Jr. Seen in area count period, but not on count day: Horned Lark. The adult Golden Eagle was seen by Derby and the Red Crossbills by Lawrence Carpenter and Mengebier.

18. AUGUSTA COUNTY (all points within a 15-mile diameter, center Verona, to include Fort Defiance, Staunton, Frank's Mill; deciduous woods 30%, fields and pastures 40%, farmyards, orchards, and gardens 15%, towns 15%).—Dec. 22; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Overcast with some rain a.m., cloudy p.m.; temp. 37° to 57°; wind NW, 2-10 m.p.h.; waters open. Eleven observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours, 18 (8 on foot, 10 by car); total party-miles, 131 (13 on foot, 118 by car). Observers: Mozelle Henkel, Kurt Kehr, Josephine King, Sarah Lerner, YuLee Lerner, Isabel Obenschain, John Mehner (compiler), Randolph Shields, Jr., Ruth Snyder, James Sprunt, Arthur Williams. A Goshawk was removed from the list because of a total lack of any substantiating details.

19. WAYNESBOBO (all points within a 15-mile diameter, center Sherando, to include Waynesboro, Stuarts Draft, South River, Big Levels Game Refuge, Lake Sherando, western Nelson County).—Dec. 26; 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Clear; temp.

16° to 32°; wind S to SE, 15-30 m.p.h.; ground bare, small ponds frozen. Twelve observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours, 33 (13 on foot, 20 by car); total party-miles, 223 (22 on foot, 201 by car). Observers: Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Bracken, Mrs. George C. Gianakos, Mrs. John Henkel, Mr. and Mrs. M. W. Larner, Mrs. Thomas Mehler, Mrs. G. Noel Milford, Mrs. Richard Obenschain, Mrs. Farren H. Smith, Mrs. Mark Snyder (compiler), Charles E. Stevens. The Bonaparte's Gulls were found soaring over a pond near the Waynesboro airport by the Larners, Henkel, Obenschain, and Snyder.

20. LEXINGTON (all points within a 15-mile diameter, center Washington and Lee University as in previous years, to include Maury River, South River, Brushy Hills, Kerr's Creek, and Big Spring Pond; deciduous woods 15%, evergreen woods 15%, riverbottom and ponds 20%, fields and pastures 20%, brush 25%, town 5%).—Dec. 29; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Partly cloudy; temp. 16° to 30°; wind W, 0-5 m.p.h.; ground clear, still water frozen. Ten observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours, 25 (16 on foot, 9 by car); total party-miles, 108 (19 on foot, 89 by car). Observers: Mrs. Malcolm D. Campbell, Sr., Mrs. Malcolm D. Campbell, Jr., Benjamin S. Clark, Jr., John P. Hubbard, Royster Lyle, Jr., J. J. Murray, Sr., J. J. Murray, Jr., Robert O. Paxton (compiler), Mrs. Edward F. Turner, Joshua Womeldorf.

21. PEAKS OF OTTER (all points within a 15-mile diameter, center Peaks of Otter Visitor Center, to include Apple Orchard Mountain, Blue Ridge Parkway, Buchanan, Falling Water Cascade, Goose Creek, Harkening Hill, Highway 43, Sharp Top; mixed deciduous woods 80%, fields 12%, conifers 6%, towns 1%, streams and ponds 1%; elevation 860 to 3875 ft.).—Dec. 22; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Cloudy with rain in a.m.; temp. 39° to 54°; wind SE, 2-10 m.p.h.; ground bare, water open. Seven observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours, 18 (13 on foot, 5 by car); total party-miles, 116 (17 on foot, 99 by car). Observers: Garst Bishop, Robert Bruce, Dennis Carter (compiler), Almon English, Ruskin Freer, John Grey, Paul McQuarry.

22. ROANOKE (all points within a 15-mile diameter, center Wasena Bridge; mixed deciduous and coniferous woods, 56%, open fields 30%, suburbs 6%, streams and ponds 8%).—Jan. 3; 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Partly cloudy; temp. 28° to 40°; wind calm; 9-in. snow cover, most waters open. Twenty-four observers in 13 parties. Total party-hours, 61 (24 on foot, 37 by car); total party-miles, 299 (18 on foot, 281 by car). Observers: Charles Ames, W. P. Arthur, Georgina and Robert Bruce, Doris Clark, Foy Clark, Gary Davis, Nora Davis, Mike Dowdy, Norma Harper, Raymond Harper, Don Huffman, Mrs. P. A. Jordan, Perry Kendig, Carole Massart, Ernest Moore, Hazel Moore, Sally Nelson, Bill Opengari, Jane Opengari, Susan Satchwell, Julian Tinsley, Jr. (compiler), Jerry Via, Mrs. Homer Waid. Seen in area count period, but not on count day: Ruddy Duck, Screech Owl, Evening Grosbeak. The Black-capped Chickadees were reported by Robert Bruce, the Chipping Sparrows by Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Moore, and the Vesper Sparrows by Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Harper. No other information, however, was submitted concerning the observations of these birds, which at best would be considered rare in winter in this area.

23. BLACKSBURG (all points within a 15-mile diameter, center near Linkous Store; pasture and plowed land 15%, towns and suburbs 10%, oak woodlots 3%, mixed pine and oak woods 50%, river and creek bottoms 22%).—Dec. 29; 6:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Cloudy, clearing 3 p.m.; temp. 18° to 32°; no wind; up to 1-in. snow cover, ponds frozen, streams open. Twenty-two observers in 9 parties. Total party-hours, 75 (61 on foot, 14 by car); total party-miles, 283 (54 on foot, 229 by car). Observers: Billy Akers, Tom Brickwell, Don Cochran, Clara Dickinson, Don Gnegy, Maynard Hale, Charles Handley, Jr., Darelyn Handley, Martha Kline, David Kubas, Baldwin Lloyd, Burd McGinnes, Henry Mosby, John Murray (compiler), Myron Shear, Ronald Shear, Joyce Simpkins, Ellison Smyth, Mary Linda Smyth, Connie Stone, Jim Whelan, Clifton Wills. Seen in area count period, but not on count day:

Horned Lark, Cedar Waxwind. The American Woodcock was flushed by Gnegy and Whelan and was the first record for this count, although there are other winter records. Of the Rusty Blackbirds, 3000 were estimated by the Smyths, and 50 were seen by Cochran and Hale, while Murray observed the Red Crossbills.

24. GLADE SPRING (all points within a 15-mile diameter, center at junction of routes 750 and 609; open fields and hedgerows 45%, mixed deciduous and pine woods 30%, river bottomland 15%, residential areas 5%, marshes and ponds 5%).—Jan. 2; 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Cloudy, clearing in p.m.; temp. 20° to 50°; no wind; 4-in. snow cover, ponds mostly frozen, streams open. Four observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours, 18 (14 on foot, 4 by car); total party-miles, 52 (14 on foot, 38 by car). Observers: Mr. and Mrs. Turner N. Clinard, Paul Dulaney (compiler), Jane D. White.

25. NICKELSVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter, center Nickelsville, to include ridges and creeks between Clinch Mt. and Clinch River; deciduous woods 20%, residential 20%, fields, shores, and roadsides 60%).—Dec. 27; 5:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. Overcast; temp. 22° to 26°; wind S, 10 m.p.h.; scattered snow patches on roads and fields. Two observers in 1 party. Total party-hours, 8 (2 on foot, 6 by car); total party-miles, 36 (4 on foot, 32 by car). Observers: Thomas Finucane (compiler), E. E. Scott.

115 Kennondale Lane, Richmond, Virginia 23226

GREAT CORMORANT IN CHESAPEAKE BAY

PAUL W. SYKE², JR.

On returning to Norfolk from the Chincoteague Christmas bird count on the afternoon of 28 December 1970, Edmund K. LeGrand and Harry E. LeGrand, Jr., discovered an immature Great Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax carbo*, perched on a rock at the south tunnel island (Island No. 3) of the Baltimore Channel of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel. About 15 minutes later, Robert L. Ake, Micou M. Browne, Jay H. Carter, III, and I, together with the LeGrand brothers, observed the bird perched on a rock facing us in direct sunlight. We observed the bird at 200 feet for about 3 minutes with a 30x scope and 7x and 8x binoculars, after which it flew past us heading southward. The throat area and belly were white, and the large size was quite noticeable.

P. O. Box 2077, Delray Beach, Florida 33444

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS IN SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA

RICHARD H. PEAKE

In discussing his observation of a Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*) in Washington County on 5 November 1967, J. Wallace Coffey ("Noteworthy Records from Southwest Virginia," *Raven* 39:17-18) points out the lack of

published records of the Rough-legged Hawk from Southwest Virginia. On account of the scarcity of published records, two sight records are presented below.

On the afternoon of 9 November 1969, while approaching Burkes Garden, Tazwell County, the writer saw a large *Buteo* hovering like a Kestrel over a small woodland clearing. Leaving the car, I was fortunate enough to have the hawk pass almost directly over me. Through 7x35 binoculars I saw clearly a light brown head set against a dark belly as well as the so-called black "wrist marks" in the wing.

While traveling north on Interstate 81, about two miles from the Rural Retreat exit and just within Wythe County, on 26 November 1970, I spied a large hawk sitting on a fence post. As the car approached, the bird took flight, passing low and directly over the car. The markings and flight were those of a light-phase Rough-legged Hawk. Stopping immediately, my son, Dwight, and I were able to observe the *Buteo* flying about 200 yards away on the other side of the highway. The bird lit in a nearby tree, and for about 10 minutes we made a leisurely study of it, through 7x35 binoculars, at rest and in flight at distances varying from 100 to 300 yards. We noted all the field marks of the species including the Kestrel-like hovering of this *Buteo*.

Clinch Valley College, Wise, Virginia 24293

BLACK-HEADED GULL ALONG CHESAPEAKE BAY BRIDGE-TUNNEL

PAUL G. DuMONT

While watching ducks and gulls from the Fishing Pier of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, Virginia, Sunday afternoon, 29 November 1970, I identified an adult Black-headed Gull, *Larus ridibundus*, in winter plumage. I watched it flying back and forth over the rock-rubble breakwater and adjacent waters on the north side of the island for 5 minutes at distances of 50 to 500 yards.

The red bill and leg, blackish ventral primary, and clear white dorsal primary colors were noted. The white outer ventral primary feather showed, and the head and neck were white except for the black ear spot. Compared to Ring-billed and Bonaparte's Gulls flying nearby, the Black-headed was closer to a Bonaparte's in size and general shape but was still larger and heavier. It had a quieter, more graceful flight with slower, less frequent wing beats; it did more gliding and arcing and less cutting and veering.

The 8th AOU Checklist (1957) lists the Black-headed as a straggler south only to New York. Since then it has been seen frequently south to Cape May, New Jersey, and less frequently along the Delaware and Maryland coasts. There are some Virginia sightings, mostly from the Cape Henry area, but one was at Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge. I have seen this gull in Delaware, New Jersey, and Europe.

VSO BACK BAY TRIP 1970

C. W. HACKER

The VSO trip to Back Bay on 5 and 6 December 1970 was one of the better ones of recent years. The weather was clear and seasonable; the waterfowl were in larger-than-usual numbers, as were the birders. About 70 members, in nearly as many automobiles, assembled at the refuge headquarters for a briefing by Mr. Pacific, the assistant refuge manager. The present policies and practices on the refuge were explained in an informative manner. An interesting point was that the extensive plantings of prior years are being replaced with controlled native growths. Nutrias, with their burrowings, are still a menace to the dike system. An energetic golden retriever, housed on the refuge, had great sport pursuing nutrias thru two-foot water.

During the morning hours members rambled along the dikes in several small, widely separated groups. Temperature, wind, and light were ideal. Canadas, swans, and ducks, in large numbers on Back Bay, were easily seen. Snows, feeding in the impoundments, flushed from time to time and flew off in all directions for some magnificent viewing by all participants. A bittern, here and there, rose from beside the roadway and flew for a reasonable distance before dropping into the grasses. Ducks were overhead intermittently through the morning. This was the best of the past several years. The ducks were more numerous both in species and individual count. The Canadas and swans were at a better viewing distance in greater numbers. The snows were overhead over a longer time span.

At lunchtime, Romie Waterfield made his usual appearance with the refuge truck and transported most of the party back to the headquarters. A leisurely lunch on the leeward side of the outbuildings was a welcome respite for weary legs. The hour was highlighted by a bittern that flew onto a bare spit and assumed the characteristic beak-in-sky pose despite the lack of camouflaging reeds.

The afternoon hours were spent on the beach and dunes where the wind was brisker and cooler. Snow Buntings were not to be found. Several parties were fortunate to sight the Ipswich Sparrow. Over the water numerous Gannets gradually moved into a reasonable viewing range. Otherwise, there was little to be seen on the sea. The large amount of vehicular traffic on the beach is a part of the changing scene and a source of irritation to the refuge management. All in all, it was a satisfying day for birders. A check at the close resulted in a list of 90 species.

On Sunday Ed Ames led the customary trip to Craney Island after an uneventful caravan trip through Norfolk and Portsmouth. For the first time in years there was no rain, but a northerly, high wind, combined with low temperatures, kept the weather on the miserable side. The customary Purple Sandpipers and the elusive Snow Buntings were not to be found and the usual waterfowl were not spectacular. To compensate for all of this, however, a flock of 23 Avocets at the first stop put on a breath-taking display for all to observe. Later, after a long walk into a frightful headwind, two Short-eared Owls were raised. These two species alone made for an eventful trip and no doubt added "firsts" to many individual lists.

NEWS AND NOTES

COMPILED BY F. R. SCOTT

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERONS NESTING. Several nesting colonies of this species were noted during 1970. Two colonies on Mockhorn Island, Northhampton County, first visited 18 April by Mitchell A. Byrd, Robert Kennedy, and Joe Torres, were later estimated to contain 100 pairs. In Hampton, W. P. Smith reported six active nests, with the eggs hatching in three by 1 June. This colony produced two to four young per nest. Two colonies were also found in Norfolk, with about 12 nests at Hermitage Foundation Museum (Robert L. Ake) and eight active nests in another heronry (Mrs. C. W. Darden). This last colony produced 24 young.

FULVOUS TREE DUCK AT CHINCOTEAGUE. Paul Woodward and others found three Fulvous Tree Ducks at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge on 16 May 1970. According to J. C. Appel, refuge manager, these birds remained here until 30 May.

COMMON EIDER SUMMERING. A Common Eider was noted at Craney Island, Portsmouth, Virginia, on 2 and 16 June and 23 July 1970 by Mrs. F. C. Burford and others.

GROUSE AGAIN ON PIEDMONT. A few Ruffed Grouse were found in northwestern Appomattox County on 2 May 1970 by C. E. Stevens, and near Clifton, Fairfax County, J. W. Eike saw a half-grown young on 14 June 1970.

WOODCOCK BREEDING. C. E. Stevens found an adult American Woodcock with large young on 2 May 1970 in northwestern Appomattox County.

NESTING SHOREBIRDS ON COAST. During a study of heronries on the Eastern Shore during 1970, Mitchell A. Byrd and Robert Kennedy recorded a number of nesting shorebirds. Seven nests with eggs of the American Oystercatcher were found, three near Wachapreague on 17 April, two on Dawson Shoals on 24 May, and two on Cedar Island on the same date. Piping Plover nests were found twice on Cedar Island, one with two eggs on 3 May and one with four eggs on 24 May. A Wilson's Plover nest with three eggs was also found on Cedar Island 24 May, and another one, also with three eggs, was located on Shipshoal Island on 30 June, a rather late date. In an apparent "colony" of Willets near Gargathy Inlet on 30 May, Byrd and Kennedy counted 34 nests with eggs of this species, and a late Willet nest with four eggs was found on Wreck Island on 7 July.

ROSEATE TERNS IN SPRING. Roseate Terns were reported twice during the spring of 1970, one at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge on 9 May (C. W. Carlson) and one at Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge on 30 May (R. L. Ake).

ROYAL TERNS NESTING. Mitchell A. Byrd and Robert Kennedy located three Royal Tern colonies totaling 5000 pairs on Shipshoal Island during the spring and summer of 1970. Hatching and fledging success of these birds was excellent.

The Raven

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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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HAWKS OVER PETERS MOUNTAIN

J. C. TINSLEY, JR.

The Roanoke Valley Bird Club, on 26 September 1970, participated in the annual nationwide hawk count, using as its point of observation the Hanging Rock Fire Tower, located atop Peters Mountain, in Monroe County, West Virginia.

A small group of members of the Club met on the appointed date at the Esso Service Station in New Castle, Virginia. The group consisted of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Harper, Charles Ames, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Opengari, Todd Stockstill, and myself. Our journey took us from New Castle along Virginia Route 311 to the small community of Paint Bank, Virginia, where we turned left on County Route 600. Some 10 miles out of Paint Bank we turned right onto a one-lane gravel road that snaked its way up the mountain for 3.4 miles to reach the site where we were to leave our cars.

Gathering our birding paraphernalia and lunches, we began the 20 to 30 minute trek up the beautiful mountain trail leading to the Hanging Rock Fire Tower, atop Peters Mountain, with an elevation 3812 feet above sea level. This tower was to be our home for the next six and a half hours. Upon arriving at our destination, we were greeted by Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Moore and Mrs. Sally Nelson. After saying some brief "hellos," we settled down to the business at hand—hawk migration.

Our vantage point was virtually shrouded with outcroppings of Greenbrier limestone, which is oolitic. It varies from 50 to 250 feet thick in the eastern part of West Virginia, thickening to 1800 feet along the Ohio-West Virginia-Kentucky border, where it begins an upward turn to form the great Cincinnati Arch. This rock formation is probably one of the most important natural gas producing formations in the eastern United States.

The time was 10 a.m. The wind was out of the northwest with a velocity of 20 miles per hour, gusting up to 25 miles per hour; the sky was partly cloudy. These meteorological conditions were in our favor, since they are preferred by migrating hawks.

As we stood on the walkway which surrounds the small, rustic fire tower, we were awed at the beautiful, commanding view which is afforded by its location. Gazing at the valley floor many feet below, one cannot help but feel honored to witness such a beautiful spectacle.

The first hawks to be observed were Broad-wings (*Buteo platypterus*). The distinguishing mark of this species is the banded tail with black and white bands of equal width. Broad-wings comprised the greater portion of the hawks during the count because they predominate in the migration of diurnal birds of prey during the month of September. In addition to the 30 Broad-wings tallied during the first half-hour, the following were seen: 4 Sharp-shinned Hawks (*Accipiter striatus*), 7 Cooper's Hawks (*Accipiter cooperii*), 2 Red-tailed Hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*), and 2 Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura*). The latter, though not a hawk, has the flight characteristics of one and is a real artisan in the skillful use of the thermals which rise from the valley floor, making flight seem easy and beautiful.

The hawks migrate over long, continuous ridges, conserving as much energy as possible. Peters Mountain is just such a ridge, extending in a southwesterly

direction from near Covington, Virginia, to Peterstown, West Virginia, a distance of 61 miles, near where the New River breaks through the mountains. Its average elevation is 3333 feet above sea level. That portion which lies in Virginia, nearly a third of its length, is within the confines of the Thomas Jefferson National Forest.

With wings half-folded, the hawks glide past the observers so fast that the watchers must be constantly alert to prevent any from slipping past unidentified or uncounted. It has been said that the majority of the hawks travel by using air currents and may travel at speeds from 20 to 40 miles per hour; they may cover as much as 250 to 350 miles between dawn and dusk.

Hawks resort to buoyant air currents to aid their southward trek. Thermals develop when the hot sun warms air near the surface of the earth, causing it to ascend toward the cool atmosphere above. The rising columns of air are usually capped with snowy heaps of clouds, called cumuli. As the wind strikes the mountainside and is ricocheted upward, the hawks can glide for miles along the face of a ridge with only a few flaps of their wings to correct their course.

On the morning of the count the hawks could be observed to drop out of the sky, seemingly from nowhere, and would pass high above our vantage point, making identification very difficult in many instances.

There seemed to be a heavy movement of hawks between the hours of ten and eleven-thirty in the morning. From eleven-thirty until one, the flights all but ceased as the hawks probably stopped their journey to seek food. The number increased again from one until two in the afternoon. For some strange reason, the movement of hawks ceased again until four in the afternoon, at which time we observed 29 Broad-wings, 1 Red-tailed, 1 Cooper's, and 2 Marsh Hawks (*Circus cyaneus*).

A species whose movement did not fluctuate with the time of the day was the Turkey Vulture. This, the "common buzzard" of the east, was flying constantly about our vantage point, and we no doubt observed the same individual many times. We were honored by the presence of both species of "buzzard," the one already mentioned and the Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*). The latter apparently migrated south because it was seen to come from the northeast and to disappear in the southwest.

The real find of the day came between one-thirty and two in the afternoon when I noticed a very large hawk-like bird soar past the tower. It was finally identified as a Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*). If anyone has ever observed an eagle in flight, it is readily apparent that there is a definite difference in the flight pattern of the eagle and that of most other hawks. The eagle makes extensive use of air currents, using these as a sort of elevator. Where other diurnal birds seem to use the entire wing length in flight, the eagle seems to fly by flapping the outer half of its tremendous wings. The eagle also seems to soar in circles with very short radius, whereas the other hawks seem to soar in a circular pattern with a much larger radius. According to one bird guide, the Golden Eagle has in the last few years become fairly common during the fall flight of birds of prey down the Appalachian Mountain range.

By five o'clock all movement had stopped, so we departed on our separate ways after enjoying a thoroughly venturesome day of tallying birds of prey.

We recorded 3 Common Ravens (*Corvus corax*) during the day. This large scavenger, which looks like an overgrown crow, nests locally throughout the

Appalachians. The nest, a profusion of sticks lined with fur, hair, or moss, with a width of from 3 to 4 feet, is usually placed on a ledge at varying heights. The Raven is not a hawk, but belongs to the family Corvidae (crows and jays). Since a record is worth noting, it was tallied along with the hawks.

The Raven's large size, hawk-like flight, shaggy throat feathers (a good mark at close range), and voice distinguish it from similar forms. The voice is a guttural croak, or, as I noted it, a "crow with a cold." During the autumn the Raven is prone to drift south along major hawk flyways, seeking better feeding grounds. The individuals we observed were probably on a southward pilgrimage for just such a purpose.

We were astounded by the number of hawks that we saw on this one day; but if we had occupied our precarious perch in 1492, when Columbus dropped anchor in this hemisphere, we would sit in profound awe as we watched the thousands of hawks on their southward trek. For many years—and even today—hawks are mercilessly slaughtered by persons who are ignorant of the vital role they play in nature's intricate system of checks and balances. With the passage of laws protecting most birds of prey, wholesale slaughter has generally ceased, but destruction of these feathered huntsmen has continued. The Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks are quite destructive to songbirds and poultry, but, if farmers and hunters would stop designating entire species as "good" or "bad" and eliminate individuals only when it is justifiable to do so, this would help greatly in conserving our endangered birds of prey.

The following table shows the number and percentage of each species recorded at the lookout:

| | | |
|--------------------------|-----|-------|
| Broad-winged Hawk | 280 | 85.6% |
| Cooper's Hawk | 11 | 3.3% |
| Red-tailed Hawk | 8 | 2.4% |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | 4 | 1.2% |
| Sparrow Hawk | 3 | 0.9% |
| Marsh Hawk | 2 | 0.6% |
| Golden Eagle | 1 | 0.3% |
| Osprey | 1 | 0.3% |
| Unidentified | | 1.5% |
| Other | | 3.9% |

2432 Westover Avenue, Roanoke, Virginia 24015

THE PEAKS OF OTTER FORAY OF JUNE 1970

F. R. SCOTT

The VSO-sponsored foray to the Peaks of Otter area was held 10-14 June 1970 with 25 members and friends of the Society in attendance. This was the fifth in the recent series of forays designed to study the breeding birds of a particular area of the state. The detailed planning of the foray was handled by Ruskin S. Freer with help from many other persons.

The area covered by this foray was mainly along the Blue Ridge Parkway in

Bedford, Botetourt, and Rockbridge Counties, Virginia, from Bearwallow Gap on the southwest to Petites Gap in extreme southeastern Rockbridge County on the northeast. Several trips were also made to the nearby lowlands of the above three counties and one to the James River lowlands at Big Island (Bedford County) and Otter Creek (Amherst County). Three trips were also made farther north near the Parkway to the Cole Mountain and Elk Pond Mountain area of Amherst County, about 4 miles SSE of Irish Gap. Headquarters for the foray was the Peaks of Otter Lodge.

The elevation along the Parkway in the principal foray area ranged from about 1900 feet at Powell Gap to 3950 feet on the slope of Apple Orchard Mountain, though north of here it descended rapidly to about 650 feet at the crossing of the James River near Big Island. The lowlands (as used in this report) varied from about 580 feet below Big Island to about 1300 feet. Mountain peaks covered included Sharp Top (3862 feet), Flat Top (3994 feet), Apple Orchard Mountain (4225 feet), and Cole Mountain (4000 feet). The Peaks of Otter Lodge, right off the Parkway, was at 2500 feet. The drainage in this area, on both sides of the Blue Ridge, is wholly to the Atlantic Ocean via the James River to Chesapeake Bay or the Roanoke River to Albemarle Sound.

The following annotated list of the birds observed during the foray totals 100 species and was compiled from 20 field lists submitted by the foray field parties plus a few incidental observations. The list is obviously incomplete, since no four-day foray of this size could ever expect to produce a definitive list of the June birds of an area this size. It is a start, however, that hopefully other observers will build on. Coverage of the lowlands was very incomplete, and there was no coverage of surrounding towns and villages. Hence the absence of certain species from the list (*e.g.*, many waterbirds, some hawks and owls, Whip-poor-will, Horned Lark, Loggerhead Shrike, and Summer Tanager) should not be construed to mean that these do not occur at all. And as usual in a short foray of this sort, birds at a low point in their song cycles will appear to be less common than they actually are.

Although numerous field notes from the foray area have appeared in the literature, no extensive literature search has been made. Two publications deserve mention, however, an annotated list of the birds of Campbell, Amherst, and Bedford Counties (Freer, 1939) and a similar work on Rockbridge County (Murray, 1957).

The following observers are identified in the annotated list by last name only: Robert L. Ake, John Cacciapaglia, Ruskin S. Freer, John H. Grey, Jr., David L. Hughes, Katherine Macdonald, Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Mitchell, John W. Murray, Gertrude Prior, F. R. Scott, Charles E. Stevens, Robert J. Watson, and Mr. and Mrs. James Wiltshire.

Green Heron. A few were seen in the lowlands, and one was also found at the small lake at the Peaks of Otter Lodge on 12 June (Freer).

Wood Duck. Two were found near Big Island on 11 June (Scott and Watson).

Turkey Vulture. Common, with a peak count of 13.

Black Vulture. There were three reports of single birds plus a flock of 6 near the town of Bedford.

Red-tailed Hawk. Fairly common, especially along the ridges, with 11 birds reported by 7 parties.

Broad-winged Hawk. Two reports of single birds, one at Petites Gap on 14 June (Ake and Hughes) and one on the same day near Elk Pond Mountain, Amherst County (Stevens).

Ruffed Grouse. Fairly common above 2500 feet. Broods of young were seen near Petites Gap on 11 June (Murray), Harkening Hill on 13 June (Cacciapaglia *et al.*), Cole Mountain on 13 June (Stevens) and 14 June (Ake and Hughes), and Elk Pond Mountain on 14 June (two broods—Stevens).

Bobwhite. Common in the lowlands with a peak count of 48. A few were noted at higher elevations up to at least 3500 feet on Cole Mountain.

Ring-necked Pheasant. One record. Two adults and 6 young were seen on Cole Mountain on 14 June (Ake and Hughes). This species was not listed by Freer (1939), and whether or not there is a truly wild population here is unknown.

Turkey. One record. An adult and 4 young just able to fly were seen on Elk Pond Mountain on 14 June (Stevens).

Killdeer. A few were noted in the lowlands.

Mourning Dove. Common in the lowlands with a few up to 3500 feet.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Fairly common throughout, but more so in the lowlands.

Black-billed Cuckoo. Uncommon, with 8 birds reported by 5 field parties, all above 2500 feet.

Barred Owl. Three records, all above 2500 feet. On Elk Pond Mountain an adult plus a fledged young was seen on 14 June (Stevens).

Chimney Swift. Common at all elevations.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Fairly common throughout with a peak count of 9.

Belted Kingfisher. Fairly common in the lowlands.

Yellow-shafted Flicker. Common at all elevations. A pair was feeding fledged young near Apple Orchard Mountain on 11 June (Prior *et al.*).

Pileated Woodpecker. Fairly common at all elevations.

Red-bellied Woodpecker. Fairly common in small numbers in the lowlands up to at least 3500 feet with a peak count of only 5.

Red-headed Woodpecker. One record. Two were seen at Onion Mountain Overlook on 12 June at 3200 feet (Mitchells).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Recorded only on Cole Mountain, with 6 on 13 June (Stevens) and 5 on 14 June (Ake and Hughes), all between 3400 and 3900 feet. This isolated colony was first located on 6 July 1933 when Freer and J. J. Murray found at least 3 adults here (Freer and Murray, 1933; Freer, 1939).

Hairy Woodpecker. Fairly common above 2500 feet.

Downy Woodpecker. Common throughout with a peak count of 8. Adults were feeding young out of the nest near Elk Pond Mountain on 14 June (Stevens).

Eastern Kingbird. Fairly common in the lowlands with a few birds reported around the Peaks of Otter Lodge at 2500 feet. The peak count was 8.

Great Crested Flycatcher. Fairly common at all elevations.

Eastern Phoebe. Common in the lowlands with a few found up to 3500 feet. A peak count of 32 was recorded on 13 June along Jennings Creek, Botetourt County (Mitchells *et al.*). An occupied nest was found at Otter Creek on 11 June (Watson) and two more the same day at Cave Mountain Lake, Rockbridge County (Freer and Wiltshire).

Acadian Flycatcher. Common in the lowlands with a peak of 21. A few were found around the Peaks of Otter area up to 3000 feet.

Least Flycatcher. One record. A singing bird was found on 14 June at 3650 feet on the south side of Rocky Mountain, Amherst County (Stevens).

Eastern Wood Pewee. Common at all elevations with a peak count of 25.

Rough-winged Swallow. A few were recorded in the lowlands, and it was seen twice along the Parkway above 2500 feet.

Barn Swallow. Common in the lowlands and in the Peaks area at 2500 feet, with a maximum count of 53. One was also recorded on Cole Mountain on 14 June over 3400 feet (Ake and Hughes). Twenty-nine nests, mostly with young, were counted under the Parkway bridge over the James River on 11 June (Scott and Watson), and at the Peaks of Otter Lodge one nest with young was found on 10 June and three more on 14 June (Scott).

Purple Martin. Reported twice. Two were seen along lower Jennings Creek on 13 June (Mitchells *et al.*), and an occupied colony was noted in Bedford on 14 June (Scott).

Blue Jay. Fairly common at all elevations up to at least 3800 feet.

Common Raven. One to 3 birds were reported by 7 parties along the ridge above 2500 feet, including single birds in Amherst County at Cole and Elk Pond Mountains.

Common Crow. Common at all elevations.

Carolina Chickadee. Common in the lowlands and fairly common at least up to 3800 feet.

Tufted Titmouse. Common at all elevations at least to 3800 feet. Adults with fledged young were seen at Cave Mountain Lake, Rockbridge County, on 11 June (Freer and Wiltshires).

White-breasted Nuthatch. Fairly common with most records above 2500 feet. An adult was feeding fledged young along Jennings Creek on 13 June (Mitchells *et al.*).

House Wren. One record, a bird along Jennings Creek (Route 618) on 13 June (Mitchells *et al.*). It has apparently declined away from towns and villages.

Carolina Wren. Common in the lowlands with only a few up to 3000 feet.

Mockingbird. Common in the lowlands. One bird was also noted on Cole Mountain on 13 June at 3300 feet (Stevens).

Catbird. Common at all elevations at least to 3800 feet. Fledged young were seen near Elk Pond Mountain on 14 June (Stevens), and an adult was feeding fledged young on Cole Mountain the same day (Ake and Hughes).

Brown Thrasher. Common at all elevations. Fledged young were noted near Elk Pond Mountain on 14 June (Stevens).

Robin. Common throughout the lowlands and in the Cole Mountain area, but only a few were reported elsewhere above 2500 feet on the ridges. One fledged young was seen near the James River Visitor Center on 11 June (Scott).

Wood Thrush. Very common throughout at least to 3600 feet and fairly common to 4000 feet, with a peak count of 46 between 2500 and 3950 feet. Freer (1939) implied that it was scarce above 3000 feet. A fledged young was noted near Sunset Field (3470 feet) on 11 June (Cacciapaglia and Grey) and another on Flat Top on 12 June (Cacciapaglia and Murray).

Veery. Very common above 3000 feet with a peak count of 105 in the Elk Pond Mountain area on 14 June (Stevens).

Eastern Bluebird. Uncommon but recorded at all elevations, with only 13 birds found by 9 parties.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Fairly common below 3000 feet but not recorded higher.

Cedar Waxwing. Two records. One was seen along the James River at the Parkway Visitor Center on 11 June (Scott), and a pair was seen on Apple Orchard Mountain on 12 June (Prior and Macdonald). The scarcity of this bird here was a surprise.

Starling. Common in the lowlands with a few seen up to 3500 feet. An adult was feeding young in the nest at the Johnson Farm near Peaks of Otter Lodge (2800 feet) on 14 June (Scott).

White-eyed Vireo. Four reports of single birds, all in the lowlands.

Yellow-throated Vireo. Uncommon, with only 10 birds reported by 8 parties. Found up to at least 3200 feet.

Solitary Vireo. Fairly common above 3000 feet with a peak count of 9.

Red-eyed Vireo. Common at least to 3500 feet, with relatively few reports above this. A nest with 2 young was located on Flat Top on 12 June (Cacciapaglia and Murray).

Warbling Vireo. Recorded only in the Big Island area along the James River where 6 singing birds were found on 11 June (Scott and Watson).

Black-and-white Warbler. Fairly common at all elevations with a peak count of 18. Adults were feeding fledged young near Petites Gap on 13 June (Ake and Hughes) and on Harkening Hill on 14 June (Scott).

Prothonotary Warbler. Recorded only very close to the James River between the Visitor Center and Coleman Falls where 6, of which 4 were singing males, were found on 11 June (Scott and Watson). Freer (1939) did not list the species.

Worm-eating Warbler. Uncommon with 12 birds recorded by 6 parties from 700 feet at Otter Creek up to 3600 feet on Apple Orchard Mountain. An adult was feeding fledged young at Middle Creek Camp near Jennings Creek, Botetourt County, on 13 June at 1200 feet (Mitchells *et al.*).

Golden-winged Warbler. One report. Two singing males were found in the Jennings Creek area of Botetourt County at about 2000 feet on 13 June (Mitchells *et al.*).

Parula Warbler. Common in the lowlands with a peak of 17 in the Jennings Creek area on 13 June (Mitchells *et al.*). Only a few found at higher elevations.

Yellow Warbler. Fairly common in the lowlands with a peak count of 15. None were found at higher elevations. An adult was feeding a fledged young along the James River on 11 June (Scott).

Black-throated Blue Warbler. Common above 2800 feet. A female was feeding young in a nest on Flat Top on 12 June (Cacciapaglia and Murray).

Black-throated Green Warbler. Two records. Single singing birds were located at Wilkerson Gap (2525 feet) on 11 June (Freer and Wiltshires) and on Harkening Hill (3300 feet) on 14 June (Scott). Freer (1939) considered it a fairly common summer resident at higher elevations.

Cerulean Warbler. Locally fairly common to common in the principal foray area between 2500 and 2900 feet, especially on Flat Top, where 14 (13 singing) were recorded on 13 June (Watson). A few were found as low as 700 feet along the James River and as high as 3700 feet. None were recorded on any of the Amherst County trips. An adult was feeding fledged young along the Parkway near Flat Top (milepost 84) at 2700 feet on 12 June (Mitchells).

Blackburnian Warbler. Uncommon at higher elevations down to 1200 feet along Jennings Creek, with 16 birds reported by 9 parties.

Chestnut-sided Warbler. Very common above 2500 feet with a peak count of 54. Seen as low as 1200 feet on Jennings Creek on 13 June (Mitchells *et al.*), perhaps a low-altitude breeding-season record for Virginia. Young out of the nest were found near Elk Pond Mountain on 14 June (Stevens).

Blackpoll Warbler. Five singing birds reported by 3 parties, all assumed to be late transients. Two birds were found on Harkening Hill on 11 June (Mitchells), one near Peaksville on 13 June (Scott), and 2 along Jennings Creek on 13 June (Mitchells *et al.*).

Pine Warbler. One record. Two singing birds were found in Arnold Valley,

Rockbridge County, at 1300 and 1800 feet on 12 June (Grey, Scott, and Watson). Murray (1957) termed this a scarce summer resident in Rockbridge County, though Freer (1939) thought it was a common summer resident in pine woods (presumably on the Piedmont east of the mountains), a habitat poorly represented in the foray area.

Prairie Warbler. Common in the lowlands. Not recorded above 2000 feet.

Ovenbird. Common at all elevations with a peak count of 47. Two broods of young being fed by adults were found on 11 June, one along Otter Creek (Watson) and the other across the James River along Battery Creek (Scott and Watson). A third brood being fed by adults was observed at Middle Creek Camp near Jennings Creek on 13 June (Mitchells *et al.*).

Northern Waterthrush. One record, presumably a very late migrant. One was both heard singing and seen near Curtis, Bedford County, on 13 June (Freer, Grey, and Scott).

Louisiana Waterthrush. Common in the lowlands with a peak of 19 along Jennings Creek on 13 June (Mitchells *et al.*). Found as high as 2600 feet near Peaks of Otter. An adult feeding fledged young was seen at Middle Creek Camp near Jennings Creek on 13 June (Mitchells *et al.*).

Kentucky Warbler. Uncommon with 23 reported by 9 parties, mostly near Peaks of Otter and below 3000 feet.

Yellowthroat. Fairly common up at least to 3200 feet.

Yellow-breasted Chat. Common up at least to 3000 feet.

Hooded Warbler. Common up to 3500 feet with a peak count of 21.

Canada Warbler. Common above 2800 feet with a peak count of 25. A nest with 2 eggs was located on Elk Pond Mountain on 14 June (Stevens).

American Redstart. Common at all elevations, but mainly above 1500 feet.

House Sparrow. Common in the lowlands.

Eastern Meadowlark. Common in the lowlands with a peak of 32. None found above 1800 feet.

Red-winged Blackbird. Common in the lowlands with a few up to 2500 feet at Peaks of Otter Lodge.

Orchard Oriole. Fairly common in the lowlands with a peak of only 6. An adult was feeding a fledged young at the Battery Creek Locks along the James River on 11 June (Scott).

Baltimore Oriole. Five birds reported by 4 parties, all in the lowlands.

Common Grackle. Abundant in the lowlands with a few up to 2500 feet at Peaks of Otter Lodge. Many fledged young were seen along the James River on 11 June (Scott).

Brown-headed Cowbird. Common at all elevations with a peak of 27 along the Parkway. Fledged young were noted three times, one with some Ovenbirds

at Otter Creek on 11 June (Watson), one being fed by a Rufous-sided Towhee on Flat Top on 12 June (Cacciapaglia and Murray), and one with some young Catbirds near Elk Pond Mountain in 14 June (Stevens).

Scarlet Tanager. Common at all elevations with a peak count of 24.

Cardinal. Common in the lowlands with a few up to 2600 feet. A fledged young was seen along the James River at Battery Creek Locks on 11 June (Scott).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Common above 2800 feet with a peak count of 21.

Blue Grosbeak. Fairly common in the lowlands with a maximum count of 8. There were also 3 singing males in the Peaks of Otter Lodge at 2500-2600 feet.

Indigo Bunting. Common at all elevations up at least to 3500 feet.

American Goldfinch. Common throughout the area covered at all elevations.

Rufous-sided Towhee. Very common at all elevations. An adult was feeding fledged young on Flat Top on 13 June (Watson).

Gasshopper Sparrow. Two reports. Six singing birds were found in the Peaksville-Sedalia area on 13 June (Freer, Grey, and Scott) and one near Jennings Creek also on 13 June (Mitchells *et al.*).

Vesper Sparrow. One record. A singing bird was located near Sedalia on 13 June (Freer, Grey, and Scott).

Slate-colored Junco. Common above 3000 feet. A nest with 5 eggs was found on Cole Mountain on 14 June (Ake and Hughes), 3 fledged young were noted near Apple Orchard Mountain on 11 June (Prior *et al.*), and an adult was feeding fledged young on Flat Top on 13 June (Watson).

Chipping Sparrow. Common in the lowlands at least up to 2800 feet. Adults were feeding fledged young in Arnold Valley on 12 June (Grey, Scott, and Watson) and near Sedalia on 13 June (Freer and Scott).

Field Sparrow. Common in the lowlands with a few birds up at least to 3800 feet.

Song Sparrow. Common in the lowlands. A few were also found at Peaks of Otter Lodge at 2500 feet and on Cole Mountain about 3500 feet.

Literature Cited

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1939. The birds of Lynchburg, Virginia, and vicinity. Bulletin of Lynchburg College, Vol. VII, No. 1, January, 27 pp.

[Freer, Ruskin S., and J. J. Murray]

1933. Nesting of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in Amherst County. Raven, 4(7): 6-7, July.

Murray, Joseph James

1957. The birds of Rockbridge County, Virginia. Virginia Avifauna No. 1, Virginia Society of Ornithology, December, 59 pp.

THE 1971 VSO ANNUAL MEETING

ROBERT J. WATSON

Mary Baldwin College and the Augusta Bird Club served as joint hosts for the 1971 annual meeting of the Virginia Society of Ornithology, which was held in Staunton, Virginia, on 7-9 May.

Dr. Mitchell A. Byrd, President of the VSO, opened the meeting at 8 o'clock on Friday evening, 7 May, in the Pearce Science Center at Mary Baldwin College. Dr. Craven E. Williams, Vice President of the College, tendered a welcome. Greetings from the Augusta Bird Club were offered by Mrs. M. W. Lerner in the absence of the club president, Dr. John F. Mehner, who was temporarily ill.

Dr. Byrd called on the Secretary, Robert J. Watson, to present for action a proposed amendment to the bylaws that had been approved by the Board of Directors. Mr. Watson thereupon submitted the following revision of Article I, Section II, and moved that it be approved:

Section II. There shall be three classes of members as follows:

(a) Junior Members—Any member who is enrolled and attending a recognized school or college and who has not reached the age of 23 years shall be a Junior Member. Junior Members shall not be entitled to hold office. Dues for Junior Members shall be \$1 per year.

(b) Honorary Members—Any person who in the opinion of the Board of Directors has accomplished outstanding achievement in the science of ornithology in Virginia shall, upon nomination by the Board of Directors and election by a majority of the members present and voting at any regular meeting, be an Honorary Member. No dues shall be required of Honorary Members.

(c) Regular Members—All other members shall be Regular Members. Regular Members shall be classified on the basis of dues paid, as follows:

- (1) Active Members—Dues of \$3 per year.
- (2) Sustaining Members—Dues of \$5 per year.
- (3) Contributing Members—Dues of \$10 or more per year.
- (4) Life Members—Dues of \$100 paid in a single sum or over a period not to exceed five years.

The motion was carried. Its effect is to increase dues for Active and Sustaining Members and to create a new Contributing Membership.

Mr. Charles W. Hacker presented the report of the Nominating Committee, which had consisted of himself as chairman, with Dr. J. W. Murray and Mr. W. A. Rothery as the other members. The following were nominated:

President: Dr. Mitchell A. Byrd, Williamsburg

Vice President: Dr. J. J. Murray, Jr., Charlottesville

Secretary: Robert J. Watson, Arlington

Treasurer: Mrs. Margaret Watson, Darlington Heights

Editor: Frederic R. Scott, Richmond

Board of Directors, Class of 1974:

Perry Kendig, Salem

Mrs. Carey A. Stone, Jr., Radford

Mrs. Warren M. Smith, Richmond

A motion to approve the slate submitted by the Nominating Committee was unanimously carried.

Mr. Hacker announced that a trip to Skyland was planned for 26-27 June 1971. Dr. J. J. Murray, Jr., Vice President of the VSO, then introduced Dr. Harry M. Jopson of Bridgewater College, who presented a film, "A Virginia Naturalist in East Africa."

The first speaker at the Saturday afternoon session, which opened at 1:45 p.m. on 8 May in the Pearce Science Center, was Mr. Robert Kennedy of William and Mary College, whose subject was "The Status of the Osprey in Virginia." A total of 194 Osprey nests in seven areas of coastal Virginia produced an average of 1.12 young per nest during the 1970 season, according to Mr. Kennedy. This figure is slightly below the average of 1.2 that is needed to maintain the species. Experiments are underway to increase the output of young by removing the first clutch of eggs and hatching them in incubators, then placing the nestlings into Osprey foster homes, so to speak.

Mr. Robert E. Gilmore, Manager of the Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge, discussed the problems of "A National Wildlife Refuge in the City." The Back Bay Refuge was established in 1938 for the purpose of protecting wildlife and natural habitat. But beginning about 1960, population pressure from nearby Virginia Beach caused an influx of people, many of whom wished to use the refuge for purposes utterly incompatible with the original objective. Efforts by the Fish and Wildlife Service to limit the numbers of visitors have been overruled by higher authority in the interests of promoting a multiplicity of uses. The speaker thanked the VSO for supporting him in the past, and, seeking to end on an optimistic note, expressed hope that it would be possible to draw and maintain a line between general public use and protection of wildlife habitat.

The next three speakers described research projects undertaken under the auspices of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and were presented by Mr. Glenn R. Dudderar, of VPI. "The Importance of Understory to Breeding Birds," by Robert Harper, was based on an analysis of 5-acre campground plots in national forests. These plots produced from 3.5 to 22 nesting pairs apiece. The population density varied directly with the amount of understory foliage, which provides nesting sites and escape cover, plus a significant portion of food even for those birds that do not nest in the understory. The number of different species, which varied from four to 16 on each plot, was related to diversity of foliage. A 50-50 mixture of coniferous and deciduous foliage provided the maximum variety.

In "Habitat Analysis of Suburban Birds," Mr. E. Franklin Smith drew attention to the fact that although 70% of the American people are expected to live in urban areas by 1985, little is known about managing suburban habitat to favor birdlife. To remedy this ignorance, he had undertaken a study of nesting birds on eight sample plots in and near Reston, in Fairfax County, Virginia, between April and August 1970. Some of these plots contained a fairly dense human population, while others had no artificial structures at all. Human population density was inversely related to the size of the bird population and directly to the proportion of Starlings and House Sparrows on each plot.

Joseph C. Shugars had studied the "Displacement Behavior of the Eastern Wild Turkey" to determine the extent to which Turkeys, live-trapped and re-

leased elsewhere, would spread into desirable habitat. Twenty-four birds, fitted with telemetry equipment, had been released on a study area in October 1970. Results were clouded by the subsequent failure of many of the transmitters. Such data as was available showed that the Turkeys apparently extended their range in a northeasterly direction, for reasons that were unclear, since the habitat in that area seemed little better than in adjacent regions.

Mr. Dennis L. Carter, interpretive specialist with the Blue Ridge Parkway, spoke on "Bird-finding in National Park Service Areas." Most of the national parks, according to the speaker, now have available publications describing their bird life. There is a checklist available for Shenandoah National Park, but none for the Blue Ridge Parkway; however, Mr. Carter is striving zealously to supply this need. He urged all VSO members to report their bird records for the Parkway.

Dr. Robert W. Nero, of the Department of Mines and Natural Resources, Manitoba, Canada (currently visiting professor of biology at Mary Baldwin), presented a motion picture record of "Displays in the Redwing and in the Yellow-headed Blackbird." He accompanied the film with a running commentary explaining the significance of each type of behavior shown.

"The Behavioral Ecology of the Fish Crow" was discussed by Mr. Dwight Chamberlain, of the University of Maryland. He listed various behavior traits that distinguish this species from the Common Crow. The Fish Crow has a somewhat different manner of flight; it reacts to the distress calls of the Starling, whereas the Common Crow does not; it nests in groups rather than singly, at a later date than the Common Crow, and apparently at a somewhat higher elevation. Fish Crows will aggregate to the assembly calls of the Common Crow; whether the reverse is true has not as yet been ascertained. The Fish Crow seems to be extending its range by adapting to nonmaritime habitats.

At the conclusion of the scheduled presentations, the audience was treated to another film by Dr. Nero, this one recording, in detail and at extraordinarily close range, the nesting behavior of a pair of Great Gray Owls in Minnesota.

The banquet took place at the Ingleside Red Carpet Inn, on the northern outskirts of Staunton. Dr. Byrd announced that the newly organized Cumberland Bird Club, with headquarters in Wise, had applied for affiliation as a VSO Chapter and that its application would be considered by the Board of Directors. He also took note of a resolution by the Richmond Natural History Society urging the VSO to establish liaison with the wetlands study commission created by the General Assembly; this will likewise be handled by the Board.

Mr. Ray Harm, nationally known wildlife artist and outdoorsman, made the principal address, which was extemporaneous, witty, and highly entertaining. He described his childhood in Randolph County, West Virginia; the love of nature that was his heritage from his father; his varied career before he found his vocation as an artist; and his training and methods of work. A vehement denunciation of strip mining by the speaker drew spontaneous applause.

At the conclusion of his address, members took the opportunity to view at close range some of Mr. Harm's paintings and sketches while a few last items of business were dealt with. Dr. Byrd asked Dr. Ruskin S. Freer, one of the founding fathers of the Society, to stand and be recognized for his many contributions to the VSO over the years. Resolutions extending thanks to all those responsible for the meeting, submitted by Mr. Ben Warfield, were warmly and unanimously approved. Mrs. James W. Wiltshire, chairman of the Member-

ship Committee, noted that the speaker had expressed a desire to join the VSO and announced that an active membership for 1971 would be conferred upon him by the Committee.

Attention should be drawn to the fact that attendance at the 1971 meeting was the highest in the Society's history. Approximately 190 persons registered for the meeting; there were about 110 present on Friday evening and 165 at the banquet.

An excellent series of field trips, planned by Mrs. John Henkel, was provided for those attending the meeting on the mornings of 8 and 9 May. Mr. Dennis L. Carter led the trips to the Blue Ridge Parkway; James Sprunt, to Ramsey's Draft; Mr. and Mrs. M. W. Larner, to Natural Chimneys; and Kurt Kehr, to farm areas near Staunton. The total count for both days was 133 species. Special features of the trips included a Northern Waterthrush and numerous other warblers, Baltimore and Orchard Orioles building nests, and a Woodcock nest containing four eggs.

2636 Marcey Road, Arlington, Va. 22207

VSO FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1970

CASH BALANCE 1 JANUARY 1970

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------|------------|
| General Fund | \$ 773.91 | |
| Endowment Fund | 550.00 | |
| Publication Fund | 2,501.00 | \$3,824.91 |

CASH RECEIPTS

| | | |
|---|----------|----------|
| Membership dues and subscriptions | 1,716.00 | |
| Contribution | 10.00 | |
| Sales of patches | 31.00 | |
| Sales of publications | | |
| Birds of Rockbridge County | \$38.50 | |
| Reprints and back issues | 20.25 | 58.75 |
| Annual meeting fees | 111.12 | |
| Interest | 150.68 | 2,077.55 |

CASH DISBURSEMENTS

| | | |
|---|----------|----------|
| <i>The Raven</i> | 1,060.39 | |
| Newsletter | 270.26 | |
| Membership renewal notices | 121.06 | |
| Stationery for VSO officers | 28.98 | |
| Slides for VSO programs | 25.00 | |
| Annual meeting programs | 41.60 | |
| Printing (Birds of Rockbridge County) | 171.60 | |
| Secretary | 70.46 | |
| Affiliations | 155.50 | |
| Treasurer | 72.09 | 2,016.94 |

CASH BALANCE 31 DECEMBER 1970

| | | |
|------------------------|----------|------------|
| General Fund | 626.02 | |
| Endowment Fund | 720.00 | |
| Publication Fund | 2,539.50 | \$3,885.52 |

Total 1970 membership: 632, including 481 active, 105 sustaining, 30 junior, 4 life, and 12 chapter members.

MARGARET H. WATSON, Treasurer

1971 MATTAMUSKEET TRIP

C. W. HACKER

On the evening of 29 January 1971 VSO members representing most areas of the state arrived at Mattamuskeet Lodge after driving through untold miles of swamp land. The aroma of collards cooking foretold the customary good country meals waiting in the dining room. Later, after too much food, the evening was spent swapping current bird lore from everyone's home area. As usual, about 50 members were in attendance.

Saturday morning opened clear, relatively mild, and exceedingly windy. Again there was a shortage of help at the refuge so it was necessary to use private cars. During the confusion of doubling up, getting the cars in line, an obliging woodcock nonchalantly poked around the parking area as unconcerned as a barnyard fowl. The tripmaster always is pleased when the highlight of the day appears early in the trip. Refuge Manager John Davis conducted the motorcade over the refuge roads in an unusually enlightening manner. The VSO has always received commendable attention at Mattamuskeet, but Mr. Davis made this the most interesting visit of all. The first stop was at a concentration point in the spring herring run. Details of the magnitude of the run left members agape. Next, a stop was made at the goose-trapping area for a study of the method used for securing geese for banding. Mattamuskeet Refuge topped all other refuges in the number of geese banded. Following the banding area, the trip continued over refuge roads, mostly levee-type and some new to the VSO. The highlights included flocks of Blue Geese, Wilson's Snipe everywhere, bitterns, swans, a pond of Common Egrets, a Virginia Rail, and countless Pintail ducks. The final stop before lunch seemed oddly nondescript, until Mr. Davis announced that it was one of only two places where Blue Jays are found in Hyde County.

Following lunch at the lodge, the manager had to leave on an emergency chase of poachers, and the group drove, unescorted, to the western area of the refuge. Here the events were somewhat less exciting, a virgin pine forest, some nest sites of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker, a Pileated Woodpecker flying across the road. Except for the tripmaster's car breaking down miles from the nearest road, the afternoon was probably dull.

Saturday night the group was entertained with a wildlife film presented by the refuge, a provocative film shown by Dave Rozell, and slides by the Mitchells and Silsbys. Needless to say, there was plenty to see.

On winter trips it is difficult to have two good days in succession. Sunday was no exception. After an all-night downpour, the morning was only slightly better. Plans for some final birding were discarded in favor of an early start towards home. The roads back to the Virginia line were characterized by Robins, hundreds to the mile, along the highway shoulders. The birds appeared to be waiting for a tempering of the winter season to the north to signal a migratory movement.

The ducks at Mattamuskeet last year were the best in ten years, and this year there were three times more than last. Since the area is naturally forested, much agricultural effort must be expended to maintain open areas where water-

fowl food will abound. The large banding program, too, requires hard work. The VSO trip coincides with the season when refuge personnel are arising at 4 a.m. to trap geese. It is fortunate that they can spare a day of their time to make us a fine trip.

300 York Warwick Drive, Yorktown, Virginia 23490

NEWS AND NOTES

COMPILED BY F. R. SCOTT

IN APPRECIATION. The Editor is indebted to Robert J. Watson for assistance in preparing this issue of *The Raven* for publication.

PIED-BILLED GREBES NESTING. M. A. Byrd and R. S. Kennedy found an adult Pied-billed Grebe incubating on a nest at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge on 24 July. They also observed a brood of four young there on the same day.

SOOTY SHEARWATERS AT BACK BAY. R. L. Ake reports finding a dead Sooty Shearwater on the beach at Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge on 30 May 1970. There were also many flying offshore during the day. There was a strong easterly wind at the time.

BROWN PELICAN OBSERVED. On 2 August 1970 Charles E. Stevens observed a Brown Pelican at Virginia Beach, Virginia. It was flying south at the time.

WHITE IBIS AGAIN INVADE VIRGINIA. White Ibis were recorded in at least seven localities in Virginia during the summer and fall of 1970, mostly in the southeastern part of the state and apparently all immature birds. The records at hand include one at Virginia Beach on 26 June (R. L. Ake), 11 on Queens Creek, York County, on 29 July (M. A. Byrd and R. S. Kennedy), one to three at Stumpy Lake, Virginia Beach, 14 July to 22 August (R. L. Ake, Mrs. F. C. Burford, and D. L. Hughes), and four at Craney Island, Portsmouth, on 1 August (R. L. Ake, J. E. Ames, and W. W. Fogleman). Farther inland, one was observed in Amherst County on 11 July (Mrs. R. E. Ricketts, *vide* R. S. Freer), another was seen at Curles Neck, eastern Henrico County, on 20 September (F. R. Scott), and one was found at Burke Lake, Fairfax County, on 8-9 October (Lillian Haverland, *vide* Gale Monson).

HARLEQUIN DUCK AT NORFOLK. The male Harlequin Duck originally reported at Willoughby Spit, Norfolk, Virginia, in April 1969 (*Raven*, 40: 58, 1969) has apparently become a year-round resident in the area. Among the many recent records of the bird were observations on 28 June 1970, when Dan and Lois Keeney saw it both in flight and at rest, and on 6 December 1970 (R. L. Ake).

MARSH HAWKS IN SUMMER. Summer records of the Marsh Hawk from Virginia's Eastern Shore in 1970 included a pair at Saxis on 13 June (H. T. Armistead), one on Ship Shoal Island on 28 June (M. A. Byrd and R. S. Kennedy), and two females on Hog Island on 6 July (Byrd and Kennedy).

INTERESTING NESTING REPORTS FOR 1970. Among the many Virginia nesting birds reported during 1970 were the following: 11 Clapper Rail nests with eggs on the Gull Marshes near Cobb Island, Northampton County, on 14 July (M. A. Byrd and R. S. Kennedy); 250 pairs of Gull-billed Terns nesting on Assawoman Island, Accomack County, on 17 June (Byrd and Kennedy); an adult Horned Lark with three young at Langley Field, Hampton, on 25 June (R. L. Ake); two Loggerhead Shrike nests, one with five young at Dulles airport, Loudoun County, and the other with four young a few miles away, both on 23 May (W. S. Clark); and a late pair of Chipping Sparrows feeding three fledged young near Clifton, Fairfax County, on 19 August (J. W. Eike).

UPLAND PLOVERS POSSIBLY NESTING. Five Upland Plovers at Dulles airport, Loudoun County, Virginia, on 6 June 1970 (W. S. Clark) and one near Berryville, Clarke County, Virginia, on 27 June 1970 (J. W. Oberman) may have been nesting birds. Reports of 1970 fall migrants in Virginia included a maximum of 22 at Langley Field, Hampton, on 4 August (R. L. Ake) and a peak of 39 at Wallops Station, near Chincoteague, on 11 August (C. R. Vaughn). Thirteen seen at this last locality on 3 October (M. A. Byrd) were quite late.

GODWITS REPORTED IN 1970. Two Marbled Godwits found on Parra-more Island, Virginia, on 14 June 1970 (H. T. Armistead) were by far the most interesting record of this species for the year. Other records for 1970 included one at Craney Island on 1 August (R. L. Ake), one at Langley Field, Hampton, 17-24 August (Ake), and one first at Chincoteague Refuge on 9 August (F. R. Scott *et al.*). There were several other records at Chincoteague during the fall. The only report of a Hudsonian Godwit was one (and perhaps two) at Chincoteague Refuge on 7 November (C. W. Carlson), a very late date.

BARN OWLS NESTING. Seven different Barn Owl nests were located in duck blinds in Virginia during June 1970 by M. A. Byrd and R. S. Kennedy. A nest on Smith Island and one on Mockhorn Island, Northampton County, both had three eggs on 1 June. Only one young survived the Smith nesting, while the eggs disappeared from the Mockhorn nest. On 6 June the York River was surveyed between Yorktown and West Point, and five nests were found containing, respectively, three eggs, six eggs, one young, four young, and five young. On subsequent examination of these nests, it appeared that only five young actually fledged.

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW IN FALLS CHURCH. Dan F. Keeney was awakened 13 May 1970 by the loud singing of a Chuck-will's-widow outside his home in Falls Church. He managed to get a glimpse of the bird as it flew away. This is well out of the normal range of this bird.

UNUSUAL WARBLERS IN WILLIAMSBURG. Mitchell A. Byrd and Robert Kennedy found three Golden-winged Warblers and two Cerulean Warblers in Williamsburg on 29 April 1970. Both of these are quite unusual for southeastern Virginia.

ORIOLES IN WAYNESBORO IN WINTER. An adult male Baltimore Oriole in beautiful breeding plumage was present in Waynesboro, Virginia, from 3 January to 12 February 1969, according to Ruth Snyder. Again in 1971 an apparent immature Baltimore Oriole was seen here between 2 and 10 January, with two birds on the latter date.

DICKCISSEL IN WAYNESBORO. Ruth Snyder observed a Dickcissel in and near her yard in Waynesboro on four dates between 2 March and 10 April 1970.

LATE EVENING GROSBEAKS. Although Evening Grosbeaks were generally last seen in Virginia during the spring of 1970 between 8 and 13 May, there were several exceptionally late records. A female was present at Fort Hunt, Fairfax County, from 3 to 28 May (J. M. Abbott), a female was seen in Williamsburg on 29 May (M. A. Byrd), and a pair was noted in Norfolk on 2 June 1970 (F. C. Burford and Emily Moore).

SAVANNAH SPARROWS AT DULLES. W. S. Clark found two pair of Savannah Sparrows at Dulles airport, Loudoun County, on 6 June 1970. They were apparently nesting, though no concrete nesting evidence was found.

WHITE-THROAT IN JUNE. Mrs. K. P. Lapeyre reported that a White-throated Sparrow remained around her home in Hopewell, Virginia, at least to 16 June 1970.

The Raven

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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), \$3.00 for active members, \$5.00 for sustaining members, \$10.00 for contributing members, \$100.00 for life members.

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SKUA AND OTHER BIRDS NOTED DURING PELAGIC TRIP OFF CAPE HENRY

ROBERT L. AKE

On 22 May 1971 at 5:30 a.m. a party of twenty left the D & M Marina, Lynnhaven Inlet, Virginia Beach, Virginia, aboard the Big D. The weather was clear and the sea was not rough. Before an hour had passed the first pelagic species, a Sooty Shearwater, was seen. Shortly thereafter the first of many Wilson's Petrels was sighted. A few Royal Terns, Laughing Gulls, and Common Loons appeared along the way. A large strong-flying, gull-like bird overtook the ship and was identified as a Pomarine Jaeger. Although a subadult, it flew near enough for its chunky build and heavy bill to be clearly seen. At the Chesapeake Light tower a small flock of ten Wilson's Petrels was feeding. About 20 miles out a Common Loon in almost full breeding plumage was calling on the water. Either because it was molting or because it was engorged with fish, it could not get off the water, although it labored to do so.

At a distance of 35 miles from shore a large swiftly flying dark bird appeared ahead of us and flew toward the boat. It passed closely on our port side, its heavy wings flashing large white patches. It was a Great Skua. It lighted on the water, and our captain swiftly turned the boat around for a closer look. The skua took off and gave us a good display of its great flying power as it rapidly disappeared from view.

A few minutes later the captain announced over the loudspeaker that there were two small birds ahead on the water. As we approached them, their red color became apparent and we recognized them to be Red Phalaropes. Four others were seen.

It was at this point that we reached our farthest distance from land, 40 miles. The time was then 11 o'clock. As if to mark this distance with some record, three Greater Yellowlegs and a Black-bellied Plover flew by. Several Barn Swallows were also seen in this area.

On the return trip many Wilson's Petrels and several Sooty Shearwaters were seen. A nearly adult plumaged Parasitic Jaeger was also sighted. In addition to two Common Terns, nine terns of the genus *Sterna* but unknown species were noted. Several of them were quite white and they could have been Roseate Terns, but this identification could not be confirmed.

We arrived back at the marina at 4 p.m., and it was agreed that the boat trip had been both immensely enjoyable and highly informative.

A complete species list follows:

| | |
|--|----|
| Common Loon, <i>Gavia immer</i> | 5 |
| Sooty Shearwater, <i>Puffinus griseus</i> | 6 |
| Wilson's Petrel, <i>Oceanites oceanicus</i> | 51 |
| Black-bellied Plover, <i>Squatarola squatarola</i> | 1 |
| Greater Yellowlegs, <i>Totanus melanoleucus</i> | 4 |
| Red Phalarope, <i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i> | 6 |
| Pomarine Jaeger, <i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i> | 1 |
| Parasitic Jaeger, <i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i> | 1 |
| Skua, <i>Catharacta skua</i> | 1 |

| | |
|--|---|
| Herring Gull, <i>Larus argentatus</i> | 2 |
| Laughing Gull, <i>Larus atricilla</i> | 7 |
| Common Tern, <i>Sterna hirundo</i> | 2 |
| Unidentified tern, <i>Sterna</i> species | 9 |
| Royal Tern, <i>Thalasseus maximus</i> | 8 |
| Barn Swallow, <i>Hirundo rustica</i> | 2 |

Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Virginia 23508

BREEDING OF THE BLACK-NECKED STILT IN VIRGINIA

PAUL G. BYSTRAK

On 16 July 1971 my wife and I were driving back from the beach at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge when I noticed a peculiar creature on the edge of a small pool in one of the impoundments. We pulled off the road about 35 yards from the pool, and I examined the creature through binoculars. Consisting of a ball of fluffy down on incredibly long, knobby-kneed legs, it was obviously some sort of unusual baby bird. My suspicions as to its identity were confirmed when an adult Black-necked Stilt, *Himantopus mexicanus* (Mueller), came flying out of the adjacent marsh and landed next to the youngster. The adult was piping loudly and plaintively and twice did a "broken-wing routine." Because of the novelty of the situation we watched the birds for about 5 minutes until the parent led its youngster into the marsh grass. I understand that a few Black-necked Stilts are now nesting in Delaware, but this is the first Virginia record.

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BLACK-HEADED GULL IN FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA

JACKSON M. ABBOTT

On Saturday, 8 May 1971, at about 3:00 p.m. I was standing on the Virginia shore of the Potomac River at Fort Hunt in eastern Fairfax County watching several species of water birds migrating upstream. I noticed a small gull a few yards offshore flying towards me from the south. I immediately thought, "Bonaparte's Gull," but its flight was more gull-like than the tern-like flight of a Bonaparte's. I kept looking at it through 7x50 binoculars as it flew by me about 20 yards away. I clearly saw its dark red bill (black in the Bonaparte's), darkish under surface on the primaries, and a faint "rosy" bloom on the white breast. It was a winter-plumaged adult Black-headed Gull, *Larus ridibundus* Linnaeus, a species I have seen many times in Europe, Massachusetts, and at Ocean City, Maryland. The bird was closely followed by an immature-plumaged Bonaparte's Gull, which offered almost instant comparison.

This is the first well-inland record for the Black-headed Gull in the Chesapeake Bay region. The species should be looked for in flocks of Bonaparte's Gulls migrating up our rivers, since in Europe the Black-headed Gull is commonly seen well inland along rivers.

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WINDOW LEDGE AS NESTING SITE FOR MOURNING DOVE

ROBERT J. WATSON

On 2 April 1971 a colleague of mine in the National Defense (Pentagon) Building, where I am employed, told me that he had seen the nest of a Mourning Dove, *Zenaidura macroura* (Linnaeus), on the ledge of a window in the building. I investigated, suspecting confusion with the Rock Dove, *Columba livia* Gmelin, but discovered that he was correct. The window that bore the nest was located on the second floor of the building, facing toward the inner court of the Pentagon. This is an open space about 200 yards in diameter, landscaped with trees, grass, and shrubbery, and surrounded on all sides by the building. The distance from the nest to the ground below was about 16 feet.

At the time I first saw the nest, one of the adults was sitting on it. Subsequently I visited it on 5, 6, 7, and 8 April, each time when a bird was brooding. On every occasion the sitting bird permitted the closest possible approach from the inside of the building. No doubt reflections in the glass helped to conceal my proximity. Not having the heart to flush the bird, I did not learn how many eggs were in the nest.

On Monday morning, 12 April, I found the nest deserted, though apparently intact. The remains of a single white egg were found hanging on a bush below. Evidently it had rolled off the window ledge. A high wind that prevailed on Saturday, 10 April, may have contributed to its fall.

Three months later, on 14 July 1971, while crossing the Pentagon inner court, I was surprised to observe a Mourning Dove nest under construction in a large American elm, *Ulmus americana*, growing near the center of the court. The nest was in the crotch of a limb about 15 feet above ground and the same distance from the tree trunk. It was clearly visible from below, though showing the usual flimsy Mourning Dove construction.

When I discovered this nest, the bird was still carrying material to it. The next day there was no sign of construction, but the tail of a sitting bird, projecting beyond the rim of the nest, could be seen. On Monday, 19 July, I found the nest badly disarranged, the remnants dangling downward from the limb, with the birds nowhere in sight. Apparently it had been demolished by a severe thunderstorm over the weekend. No traces of eggs could be seen.

The Pentagon Building is located within the confines of Arlington County, Virginia. When I mentioned the window ledge nest to Miss Jessica Giusti, who lives in Arlington, she recalled that in the spring of 1970 she had seen a Mourning Dove nest on a second-story window of a residence near her home. This nest was also unsuccessful and produced no young.

Obviously these three Mourning Dove nests, so close to human habitation, cannot be considered a typical sample. Nevertheless the complete failure of all three seems noteworthy. Sometimes one wonders at the abundance, or perhaps even the survival, of a bird that constructs such an insubstantial nest and lays so few eggs.

2636 Marcey Road, Arlington, Virginia 22207

PILEATED WOODPECKER ANTING

DWIGHT PEAKE AND RICHARD H. PEAKE, JR.

On 13 June 1971, while conducting a Breeding Bird Survey in Dickenson County, Virginia, the writers observed a Pileated Woodpecker, *Dryocopus pileatus* (Linnaeus), anting. The bird landed on a tree in the middle of a field and ascended five or six feet. Then it cocked its head as though it had spotted something on the ground. Giving a few murmured calls, the Pileated flew to the ground and began picking up objects from several anthills. With these the woodpecker preened the feathers under its wings and on its back for about five minutes. It then returned to the tree and finally flew off.

This bird appeared to be molting, especially on the back. According to A. C. Bent (1939) adult Pileated Woodpeckers "have a complete molt between June and September." Although Potter (1970) lists no known anting episode for the Pileated Woodpecker among those recorded for wild birds in North America, the situation described appears to fit exactly her conclusion that intense "anting activity is most likely to occur when heavy or prolonged rainfall coincides with the seasonal molt." Heavy rain had fallen earlier in the morning of the observation, light rain was falling at the time, and heavy rainfall had occurred during the preceding weeks.

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NOTES ON RED CROSSBILLS NEAR BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA

JOHN W. MURRAY

Red Crossbills, *Loxia curvirostra* Linnaeus, are seen occasionally near Blacksburg, Virginia, with most of the records occurring during winter. Prior to the summer of 1970 there were seven records on local Christmas bird counts and

eight other records from January through June. Smyth (*Auk*, 29: 520, 1912) found a flock in Blacksburg on 12 June 1909 which stayed several days. Prior to 1970 there were no records between June and December.

On 4 June 1970 I found a flock of 20 Red Crossbills perched in a dead tree in Poverty Hollow, about four miles northwest of Blacksburg. They flew, and while they were in flight, a group of similar size flew near them. This observation was so unusual that I made numerous trips to check on them and found them in the general area on 21 dates from 4 June 1970 to 23 January 1971 with at least one date in each month during that interval (June 4, 5, 8, 18, 28; July 5, 12, 19, 26; August 12, 20, 26; September 19; October 4, 10, 24; November 22; December 19, 29; January 9, 23). Mrs. C. A. Stone and J. W. Akers found about 25 crossbills there on 23 January 1971.

On the Blacksburg Christmas bird count on 29 December 1970, I recorded 48 crossbills in this area. I feel this count was conservative, for I spent ten minutes watching them fly in and out of the pine trees at one location and recorded only 15 birds, which was the most I could count at one time. Charles Handley, Jr., recorded 14 on nearby Brush Mountain the same day.

The New River Valley Bird Club visited the area on 4 October 1970 and found six crossbills, some of which had the streaked breasts of immature birds, suggesting that they may have nested in the area, though no nests were found.

A return to the area in the late spring and early summer of 1971 showed crossbills to be present as calls were heard on 9 May, 10 June and 7 July. Three birds were seen on 10 June.

The area where the Red Crossbills were observed is the upper four miles of Poverty Creek valley just west of U. S. Route 460 and is at an elevation of about 2000 to 2100 feet above sea level. It is covered by second-growth forest, predominantly pine and oak with *Pinus virginiana* most common and smaller amounts of *P. pungens*, *P. rigida*, and *P. strobus*. The crossbills seemed to prefer the *P. rigida* and *P. strobus*.

On 29 December 1970 a dead Red Crossbill was found at the edge of U. S. Route 460 and was sent to the Smithsonian Institution for subspecific identification. A letter received from Mrs. Roxie C. Laybourne of the Smithsonian Institution reported that the specimen was identified as an immature female of the race *Loxia curvirostra minor*. This is the subspecies which breeds in the Appalachian Mountains south to the Great Smoky Mountains. The specimen was preserved as a skeleton as it was too badly decomposed for a study skin.

701 York Drive, N.E., Blacksburg, Virginia 24060

LARK SPARROW IN FREDERICK COUNTY, VIRGINIA

JACKSON M. ABBOTT

About noon on 25 July 1971, I was driving north on U. S. Route 522 on the outskirts of Winchester, Virginia. While driving past a large pasture bordered by a weedy fence row, a sparrow flushed from the roadside ahead of the car, flashed white-tipped tail feathers, and perched on the wire fence. As I drove

by I could see the well-marked facial pattern of a Lark Sparrow, *Chondestes grammacus* (Say).

The summer range of this sparrow extends east to the Appalachian Mountains, but they are not often found on the eastern slopes of the Blue Ridge in spring and summer. There are, however, the following records of the Lark Sparrow in spring and summer in this general area for Virginia and Maryland. In July 1948 John W. Taylor found one bird near Front Royal, Warren County, Virginia, and he saw as many as five birds on 4 July 1949 at the same place (*Wood Thrush*, 5: 76, 1949). On 9 May 1970 Wayne Sieck and Stuart K. Searles observed a singing male Lark Sparrow near the entrance to Catoctin State Park, two miles west of Thurmont, Frederick County, Maryland (see *Atlantic Naturalist*, 25: 122, 1970). These scanty records indicate a lack of observation in spring and summer along the eastern slope of the Blue Ridge Mountains. It could well be that the Lark Sparrow is a regular, although probably uncommon-to-rare breeder in that area.

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BLACK-THROATED SPARROW IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA

JAMES W. EIKE

On 19 January 1971 we received a call from Mrs. Warren J. Hewes inviting us to come to her home to assist in verifying a bird new to their feeders. The Hewes' home is on Valley Drive just off Route 29-211 between Kamp Washington and Centreville, a few miles from our home near Clifton, Fairfax County, Virginia. The bird had first appeared at their feeders on 17 January 1971. Our four-hour visit on the 19th did not produce the bird, but we had a very nice visit with Mrs. Hewes, who graciously served us lunch.

On 20 January my wife Claire and I did observe the bird in perfect light at a distance of 15 to 25 feet with 7x and 8x binoculars and with Peterson's *Field Guide to Western Birds* and *Birds of North America* by Robbins, Bruun, and Zim both at hand. It was unmistakably a Black-throated Sparrow, *Amphispiza bilineata* (Cassin), in fine plumage, alert and active, feeding readily with juncos, White-throated, Tree, and Song Sparrows. We observed the bird over a period of one hour at about 4 o'clock. The Hewes had on hand several recognizable color slides.

The sparrow remained at the feeders of the Hewes or a nearby neighbor until 11 April 1971, after which it was not seen. Toward the end of its stay it sang frequently. It was observed by Karl H. Weber of Oakton, who first identified it, Philip A. DuMont, and numerous members of the VSO and the Audubon Naturalist Society. Mr. Hewes (*Atlantic Naturalist*, 26: 78-79, 1971) noted that during the first few days the bird was at the feeding station, the ground was almost completely covered with snow, and nighttime temperatures fell to 10°F and lower on three occasions, but the Black-throated Sparrow "seemed to take this weather in stride."

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MORE VIRGINIA BIRDS ON STAMPS

CHARLES E. NIMMO, JR.

Through the end of December 1962, 48 birds from Virginia's checklist had appeared on postage stamps of the world. They were listed in a previously published article by the author (Nimmo, 1963).

During the past eight years (through December 1970), 38 more birds of Virginia have been pictured on stamps, giving a grand total of 86. Most of the new species have been known to Virginia for many years, but a few of them are relatively recent additions to the state's list. In the latter category, for example, we would include the Fulmar, Magnificent Frigatebird, Brown Booby, and Little Gull.

The United States only contributed one stamp to this new group. The Alabama Statehood commemorative issue of 1969 shows a Yellow-shafted Flicker in the design. Cuba issued the largest number (12) featuring birds of the Commonwealth. These stamps, however, are not currently available to collectors in America. The United States Treasury Department prohibits the importation of postage stamps of North Korea, North Vietnam, Cuba, and Rhodesia. Many collectors feel that the continuing embargo on Cuban stamps is absurd, since stamps from Russia and the iron curtain countries are readily available, and even the ban on stamps of Red China was partially lifted early in 1971.

Before listing the new bird stamps, several corrections should be made to the first list of 1963. The Laughing Gull should be deleted, since the Austrian stamp mentioned definitely pictures the Black-headed Gull which is also included among Virginia's avifauna. In addition, the Royal Tern listed for the Cuban special delivery issue of 1953 must be changed to Roseate Tern. Fortunately, this bird is also on the checklist of the Old Dominion. The Royal Tern will be found on the list of additional birds given below.

Checklist Additions

Fulmar, *Fulmarus glacialis* (Linnaeus). Lundy Island, 1954, 5 puf value (local stamp).

Greater Shearwater, *Puffinus gravis* (O'Reilly). Tristan da Cunha, 1968, 2sh6p value.

Brown Booby, *Sula leucogaster* (Boddaert). Ascension Island, 1963, 1p value.

Anhinga, *Anhinga anhinga* (Linnaeus). Panama, 1967, 1/2¢ value.

Magnificent Frigatebird, *Fregata magnificens* Mathews. British Honduras, 1962, \$1 value.

Great Blue Heron, *Ardea herodias* Linnaeus. Cuba, 1950, airmail, 50¢ value.

Green Heron, *Butorides virescens* (Linnaeus). St. Vincent, 1970, 1¢ value.

Little Blue Heron, *Florida caerulea* (Linnaeus). Montserrat, 1970, \$2.50 value.

White-fronted Goose, *Anser albifrons* (Scopoli). Romania, 1965, 60b value.

Blue-winged Teal, *Anas discors* Linnaeus. St. Pierre & Miquelon, 1963, 6fr value.

- Shoveler, *Spatula clypeata* (Linnaeus). Cuba, 1965, 13¢ value.
- Purple Gallinule, *Porphyryla martinica* (Linnaeus). Paraguay, 1969, 20¢ value.
- Black-necked Stilt, *Himantopus mexicanus* (Mueller). Anguilla, 1968, 25¢ value.
- Lesser Black-backed Gull, *Larus fuscus* Linnaeus. Dubai, 1968, 60d value.
- Little Gull, *Larus minutus* Pallas. Poland, 1964, 1.35z value.
- Common Tern, *Sterna hirundo* Linnaeus. Bulgaria, 1968, 5s value.
- Royal Tern, *Thalasseus maximus* (Boddaert). Anguilla, 1968, 40¢ value.
- Belted Kingfisher, *Megaceryle alcyon* (Linnaeus). Panama, 1967, 13¢ value.
(This bird is incorrectly identified on the stamp.)
- Yellow-shafted Flicker, *Colaptes auratus* (Linnaeus). United States, 1969, 6¢ value.
- Bank Swallow, *Riparia riparia* (Linnaeus). Burundi, 1970, 2fr value.
- Barn Swallow, *Hirundo rustica* Linnaeus. Bulgaria, 1965, 5s value.
- House Wren, *Troglodytes aedon* Vieillot. St. Vincent, 1970, ½¢ value.
- Winter Wren, *Troglodytes troglodytes* (Linnaeus). Burundi, 1970, 3f value.
- Hermit Thrush, *Hylocichla guttata* (Pallas). Canada, 1969, 25¢ value.
- Northern Shrike, *Lanius excubitor* Linnaeus. Burundi, 1970, 2f value.
- Prothonotary Warbler, *Protonotaria citrea* (Boddaert). Cuba, 1965, 5¢ value.
- Blue-winged Warbler, *Vermivora pinus* (Linnaeus). Cuba, 1965, 5¢ value.
- Blackburnian Warbler, *Dendroica fusca* (Mueller). Cuba, 1965, 3¢ value.
- Yellow-throated Warbler, *Dendroica dominica* (Linnaeus). Cuba, 1965, 5¢ value.
- Hooded Warbler, *Wilsonia citrina* (Boddaert). Cuba, 1965, 5¢ value.
- American Redstart, *Setophaga ruticilla* (Linnaeus). Cuba, 1965, 3¢ value.
- Boat-tailed Grackle, *Cassidix mexicanus* (Gmelin). El Salvador, 1963, airmail, 30¢ value.
- Scarlet Tanager, *Piranga olivacea* (Gmelin). Cuba, 1965, 5¢ value.
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak, *Pheucticus ludovicianus* (Linnaeus), Cuba, 1965, 3¢ value.
- Indigo Bunting, *Passerina cyanea* (Linnaeus). Cuba, 1965, 13¢ value.
- Painted Bunting, *Passerina ciris* (Linnaeus). Cuba, 1965, 3¢ value.
- Ipswich Sparrow, *Passerculus princeps* Maynard. Canada, 1969, 10¢ value.
- White-throated Sparrow, *Zonotrichia albicollis* (Gmelin). Canada, 1969, 6¢ value.

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VSO BLUE RIDGE FIELD TRIP

C. W. HACKER

The annual VSO Blue Ridge field trip was held 25 and 26 June 1971, one week later than usual in order to avoid a known busy week at Skyland. Even so, late registrants had to be turned away due to a lack of accommodations. In spite of the growing popularity of Skyland on the part of the general public, 45 of our members were present at various sections of the two-day outing. Fortunately, the increased patronage has been accompanied by better accommodations, an increased awareness of the needs of the guests, and improved service.

Saturday morning opened with only a slight threat of a rain shower which everyone ignored. After breakfast and a great amount of doubling riders in cars, the caravan proceeded to the picnic area at Big Meadows for the hike to Dark Hollow Falls. This trail had been avoided for some few years because it has been the favorite of large numbers of tourists. Since numbers have become commonplace on all of the trails, it was decided to give up attempts to find quiet circuit hikes. The trip through the swamp area presented the changing scene. Shrubs have taken over the trail borders with the result that the field flowers are few and far between.

The descent down the falls trail was by way of a well-worn path with hikers going in both directions. Unfortunately, the birdlife was not as common. Not a Canada Warbler was to be seen, and only one Blackburnian Warbler. But what the trail couldn't provide in numbers was compensated for by quality. Veeries

were in song to the bottom of the falls. At the 2500-foot level a Winter Wren was lustily singing as though to drown the sound of the cascading stream. In the same area a Louisiana Waterthrush was seen foraging for food. Patient observation was repaid by seeing the bird carry an insect to a nest under some overhanging roots. Closer examination disclosed three nestlings begging for food. Farther along, two junco nests were found, one eight feet off the ground and one under a rock.

After lunch to the serenade of a Scarlet Tanager, the hike up to Fisher's Gap was just plain hard work. To make the climb even more onerous, hardly a bird put in an appearance.

At the gap everyone was ferried to the wayside at Big Meadows for the usual blackberry sundae. Following this the hardier participants had to have a look at the meadow, and the more tender ones returned to Skyland for relaxation. In the meadow several Vesper Sparrows were to be seen singing on nearby perches for the best display in several years.

Saturday evening at Skyland the group was entertained with Arthur Fast's slides of Guatemala and Walter Smith's bird pictures. These were followed by hurried good-nights, since everyone was ready for a night's rest.

On Sunday morning the plans were for the favorite hike up the Hawksbill trail. Last year's disastrous thunderstorm was replaced this year with a beautiful morning. Also, the hike this year was one of the best. Two Black-throated Green Warbler males always are a welcome sighting. Twelve Canada Warblers were seen, four females paired with males and carrying food and four singing males barely off the trail. A junco nest was found at the edge of the path with one young and three eggs. Again, Veeries were in full song for most of the morning. The trip to the top and back down to the parking lot was followed by the usual roadside snack, farewells, and reluctant departures for the flatlands.

300 York Warwick Drive, Yorktown, Virginia 23490

NEWS AND NOTES

COMPILED BY F. R. SCOTT

IN APPRECIATION. The Editor is indebted to Robert L. Ake for assistance in preparing this issue of *The Raven* for publication.

HIGH LOON NUMBERS. Charles R. Vaughn observed a remarkable concentration of Red-throated Loons off Wallops Island, Virginia, on 10 March 1971. He estimated 5000 birds resting on the water. The birds were in small groups (up to 20) and extended the entire 8-mile length of the island and up to one mile offshore. When in flight, they moved in a southward direction.

ANHINGA AT RICHMOND. An Anhinga was observed at some length swimming in one of the Byrd Park lakes in Richmond, Virginia, on 28 August 1970 (F. R. Scott). This appears to be the first record of this species for the Richmond area.

GREAT CORMORANT ON BRIDGE-TUNNEL. On returning to Norfolk from the Chincoteague Christmas bird count on the afternoon of 28 December

1970, Edmund K. LeGrand and Harry E. LeGrand, Jr., discovered an immature Great Cormorant perched on a rock on one of the islands beside the Baltimore Channel of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel. About 15 minutes later the bird was also observed by R. L. Ake, M. M. Browne, J. H. Carter, III, and P. W. Sykes, Jr., who concurred in the identification. The white belly, pale yellow cheek patch, and large size were quite noticeable in the bright sunlight.

LARGE HERONRY LOCATED. According to Mitchell A. Byrd, the 1970 heron and ibis nesting season was very successful on the Eastern Shore of Virginia for all species. An especially large, apparently previously unknown heronry was located on the edge of Shelly Bay, near Chincoteague. Byrd and others censused this colony in early June, and it was found to contain about 2935 nesting pairs, broken down as follows: Glossy Ibis, 800 pair; Louisiana Heron, 600 pair; Snowy Egret, 550 pair; Cattle Egret, 400 pair; Little Blue Heron, 210 pair; Black-crowned Night Heron, 200 pair; and Common Egret, 175 pair.

ADULT LITTLE BLUES INLAND. In an unprecedented occurrence, adult Little Blue Herons were found inland in Virginia in three localities during the spring of 1971. One was found near Coveseville, Albemarle County, on 26 April (T. F. Wieboldt), three were seen at Fort Belvoir, Fairfax County, on 8 May (R. A. Rowlett *et al.*), and three were observed at Curles Neck, eastern Henrico County, on 23 May (F. R. Scott). Although white-plumaged immature birds are often found inland after the breeding season, adults rarely occur and are virtually unknown so far inland in spring.

CATTLE EGRETS INLAND IN FALL. Since inland fall records of the Cattle Egret in Virginia appear to be so few, it is of interest to note two observations during the late fall of 1970. Paul D. Daly observed 16 at Bermuda Hundred, Chesterfield County, on 2 November, and two were seen near Ruckersville, Greene County, on 7 November (J. W. Eike, B. B. Warfield, and R. J. Watson). These records would be considered late even along the coast.

YELLOW-CROWNS NESTING. Mockhorn Island, an "inner" island in the salt marshes of Northampton County, Virginia, appears to have the largest concentration of nesting Yellow-crowned Night Herons in the state, with 110 pairs estimated there on 18 May 1971 (M. A. Byrd and R. S. Kennedy).

GLOSSY IBIS INLAND. Paul D. Daly reported a flock of 15 Glossy Ibis at Presquile National Wildlife Refuge near Hopewell, Virginia, on 6 July 1970. This is the largest number ever found this far inland in the state. A single Glossy Ibis had also been found inland earlier at Westmoreland State Park, Westmoreland County, Virginia, on 9 May 1970 (D. F. Keeney).

MUTE SWAN NEAR LURAY. Perry F. Kendig reports that he, his wife, and daughter observed a Mute Swan in flight near Luray, Virginia, on 18 April 1971. The bird, flying low with labored flight, crossed I-81 from west to east and then paralleled the road heading northward. The bright orange bill was clearly evident to the observers.

EUROPEAN WIDGEON AT CHINCOTEAGUE. Several European Widgeon spent a portion of the fall of 1970 at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, Virginia. A male was first reported here on 17 and 18 October (Mr. and Mrs. M. D. Hoffman, Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Stevenson, and Mrs. Phyllis

Tomlins), and two males were seen here on 26 October (Tom Thomson). Ralph M. Keel, assistant refuge manager, reported that possibly five were present here the first week of November.

ROUGH-LEG NEAR CHARLOTTESVILLE. A Rough-legged Hawk, rare in inland Virginia, was found near Charlottesville, Virginia, on 29 December 1970 by William F. Minor.

UNUSUAL EAGLE CONCENTRATION. By far the largest concentration of Bald Eagles in Virginia in recent years was recorded by M. A. Byrd and R. S. Kennedy on the James River on 20 May 1971. Between Weyanoke Point and the Harrison Bridge near Hopewell, a distance along the river of about 10 miles, they counted, by boat, 18 different birds. These consisted of nine immature birds in dark brown plumage, one subadult bird, and eight full adults. Byrd speculated that these might be part of the Florida breeding population moving northward after nesting.

WINTER AND EARLY ARRIVING OSPREYS. In addition to the Ospreys reported on the 1970-1971 Christmas bird counts published in *The Raven*, a single bird was seen near Falls Church, Fairfax County, Virginia, on 2 January 1971 by John Hanes and Austin Lawrence (Washington, D. C., Christmas count). On the York River just upstream from Yorktown, an Osprey had returned to its nesting site by 25 February 1971 and had begun nest construction three days later (M. A. Byrd). On Big Cedar Island, Back Bay, Virginia, Romie Waterfield and Ernest Madron noted a bird at its nest first on 24 February 1971.

LIMPKIN AT LYNCHBURG. A Limpkin, a nonmigratory bird more normal in the swamps of the Deep South, appeared at College Lake, Lynchburg, Virginia, on 20 April 1971, and was discovered by Paul E. McQuarry. Up until its last observation by McQuarry on 9 June, it was seen by many members of the Lynchburg Bird Club and others who came from out of town, including Ruskin S. Freer, Mr. and Mrs. James W. Wiltshire, and Mrs. Dorothy Mitchell. A story and a recognizable photograph of the bird appeared in the 10 June issue of the Lynchburg *Daily Advance*. These observations add a new species to the Virginia list. Curiously, another Limpkin appeared from 25 May to 8 June 1971 at Lilypons, Frederick County, Maryland (*Atlantic Naturalist*, 26: 167, 1971). The sudden appearance of these two marsh birds so far north of their normal range may have been at least in part the result of a severe concurrent drought in Florida.

UNUSUAL SPRING SHOREBIRDS. The spring of 1971 brought more than the normal complement of unusual shorebirds to Virginia. Carl W. Carlson and many others observed an American Golden Plover and a Ruff at Chincoteague Refuge on 8 May, and two Willets found by J. M. Abbott at Dyke marsh on 8 May were the first record of this species for Fairfax County. The Stilt Sandpiper, normally very rare in spring, was recorded in three localities. One was noted near Wachapreague on 2 May (R. S. Kennedy *et al.*), and two were seen at Craney Island on 16 May (R. S. Kennedy and T. F. Wieboldt). At Chincoteague Refuge, two were reported on 7 May (P. A. Buckley) and one on 23 May (J. M. Abbott). Marbled Godwits were found twice, one at Metomkin Inlet on 17 May (M. A. Byrd and R. S. Kennedy) and six at the southern end of Chincoteague Island on 23 May (P. G. DuMont).

LATE-NESTING SHOREBIRDS. M. A. Byrd and R. S. Kennedy found two late shorebird nests on the Eastern Shore of Virginia in 1970, both probably renesting attempts. A Wilson's Plover nest with three eggs was located on Shipshoal Island on 30 June, and a Willet was flushed off four eggs on Wreck Island on 7 July.

WINTER WIMBREL INLAND. Certainly a unique inland record for Virginia was the discovery of a Whimbrel on Halfway Creek at the Colonial Parkway in James City County on 5 January 1971 (Ty Hotchkiss and M. A. Byrd).

LATE WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER. A White-rumped Sandpiper at Harrison Lake National Fish Hatchery, in western Charles City County, on 22 November 1970 (F. R. Scott and D. W. Sonneborn) may be the latest fall record for Virginia.

MORE AVOCET RECORDS. American Avocets continued to increase in Virginia in 1970, most notably at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge and Craney Island, Portsmouth. At Craney Island nine were first noted on 20 July (D. L. Hughes), and numbers increased to 26 on 1 August (R. L. Ake and others) and to a peak of 98 on 7 October (Floy C. Burford and Gisela Grimm). Numbers remained high during November but had decreased to 22 on 24 December and 10 on 7 January 1971 (Ake). At Chincoteague four were first found on 24 July 1970 (M. A. Byrd and R. S. Kennedy), and they increased to 15 here on 28 August (J. M. Abbott) and to a maximum of 70 on 22 November (Darelyn and C. O. Handley, Jr.). They then decreased to 27 on 20 December (C. R. Vaughn), but only four could be found here on the Christmas count on 28 December (H. T. Armistead and many others). From two to five were then seen here off and on in February and March 1971 (Vaughn *et al.*). Later in the spring of 1971 four were reported at Chincoteague Refuge on 27 May (*vide* J. C. Appel) and six at Craney Island on 16 May (R. S. Kennedy and T. F. Wieboldt). Elsewhere, the only other report during this period was one on Assawoman Island, Virginia, on 30 June 1970 (Byrd and Kennedy).

BLACK-NECKED STILT AT CHINCOTEAGUE. Two Black-necked Stilts were noted at Chincoteague Refuge on 29 August 1970 (R. S. Kennedy and Bill Williams). Records of this rare species have been increasing in Virginia in recent years.

ROYAL TERNS INLAND. Paul D. Daly noted four Royal Terns on the James River at Presquile National Wildlife Refuge on 10 April 1970. While Caspian Terns are regularly recorded here in migration, this is one of the few records of the Royal this far inland.

DOVEKIE AT WALLOPS ISLAND. Charles R. Vaughn saw a Dovekie alive on Wallops Island on 15 November 1970 but found it dead the following day. The specimen was collected and given to C. S. Robbins to deposit in a museum collection.

EARLY DOVE NEST. A female Mourning Dove was found incubating two eggs on a nest at Fort Hunt, Fairfax County, Virginia, on 25 March 1970 (J. M. Abbott), a very early date.

BARN OWLS AND DUCK BLINDS. During the course of a survey of active Osprey nests, M. A. Byrd and R. S. Kennedy found Barn Owl nests in four out of 12 duck blinds on the James River between Brandon and Jordan

Point, Virginia, on 20 May 1971. One of these contained two eggs and one very small young, one had three eggs, another five eggs, and the last contained four young and one egg. The eggs in the second nest and four in the third nest above were obviously rotten and were collected for analysis. These 12 duck blinds also contained many other bird nests totaling 47 Green Heron nests, of which 12 contained young, 41 Common Grackle nests, of which eight contained young, and one Mallard nest with 12 eggs. On one blind there was a rather interesting combination of the Mallard nest, a Barn Owl nest, and six Green Heron nests, of which two contained young. The largest nesting aggregation on any one blind was one which contained 17 Green Heron nests and 13 Common Grackle nests. In all, eight adult Barn Owls were observed on this tour, including one which flew off an additional nest in a hole in a cypress tree directly below an Osprey nest. This owl nest contained one rotten egg.

On the York River on 26 May 1971, Byrd and Kennedy found an additional four Barn Owl nests in duck blinds and flushed six adult birds from them. These nests contained, respectively, four eggs, two eggs (rotten), five young birds, and two young plus four eggs.

HORNED OWLS NESTING. On an eagle nest survey by air on 10 March 1971 in eastern Virginia, Jackson M. Abbott located four different old eagle nests currently occupied by Great Horned Owls. Two adult owls on nests only $\frac{1}{2}$ mile apart in Stafford County were apparently incubating as was another on a nest near Healys Mill, Middlesex County. The fourth nest, along LaGrange Creek in Middlesex County, held an adult and two young owls.

SAW-WHET OWL NEAR CHARLOTTESVILLE. Robert S. Merkel observed a Saw-whet Owl near Charlottesville, Virginia, on 10 November 1970. There are few previous records of this species from this area.

WESTERN KINGBIRDS ON EASTERN SHORE. Western Kingbirds were found twice on the Eastern Shore of Virginia during 1970. One was present at Kiptopeke Beach on 8 and 9 September (F. R. Scott *et al.*), and two were seen at Atlantic, near Chincoteague, on 14 and 16 November (C. R. and Gail Vaughn).

CREEPERS IN SUMMER. Brown Creepers were observed twice in Virginia well out of their normal range during the breeding season of 1971. On 22 May Ben B. Warfield, with a party of 20, saw a pair going in and out of a crack under the loose bark of a tree overhanging the bank of the Potomac River at Fraser Preserve, Great Falls, Fairfax County. At the Newport News city park a single Brown Creeper was observed on 20 June and two on 4 July (Mrs. D. L. Mitchell and others).

MARSH WRENS INLAND. C. E. Stevens and Bruce Davenport found six Short-billed Marsh Wrens in a wet meadow at Hatton, Albemarle County, on 10 October 1970. This species is recorded inland in Virginia only very irregularly.

SHRIKE NESTS AT DULLES. W. S. Clark located two Loggerhead Shrike nests near Dulles Airport, Loudoun County, Virginia, on 23 May 1970. One nest contained five young and the other four, which were estimated to be about two weeks old. All of the young were banded by Clark. Few Virginia nests of this species have been reported in recent years.

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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), \$3.00 for active members, \$5.00 for sustaining members, \$10.00 for contributing members, \$100.00 for life members.

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A BIRD KILL AT ROCKFISH GAP

RALPH C. BAXTER

My wife and I spent the night of 22 September 1971 in the Waynesboro-Afton Holiday Inn at the northern terminus of the Blue Ridge Parkway at Rockfish Gap (elevation 1909 feet), northwest of Charlottesville, Virginia. This site, directly on the crest of the ridge, lies on the borders of Nelson and Augusta Counties.

At 8:30 p.m. I went to the parking lot and noticed a very heavy fog setting in. Bird migration had also begun by this time, and bird calls could be heard and birds themselves seen, moving through the heavy fog, apparently confused by the bright lights surrounding the Inn. The Holiday Inn and its parking lot, lighted by sodium-vapor lamps, are located at the southern edge of the gap.

The heavy migration continued throughout the night with many birds moving from the northwest (Waynesboro) to the southeast (Charlottesville) through the gap. We were able to count more than 60 peeps per minute. The temperature in the gap was approximately 50 to 60°F. with a strong wind—about 15-20 m.p.h.—blowing up from the Rockfish Valley (from the southeast, opposing the direction of migration). Birds were thus moving into heavy fog and wind and being greatly disoriented by the bright sodium-vapor lamps in the parking lot. By 2:30 a.m. on the 23rd, the fog had become extremely heavy, and the cries of the migrants were so loud and persistent as to awaken numerous guests at the Inn. The movement continued on until about 5 a.m.

The next morning the parking lot was littered with dead birds, many of which seemed to have smashed into cars and into the overhead lights. Some parked truck-tractor rigs nearby were also the objects of collision. Our car (washed the previous day) was covered with many bird droppings. Other cars in the lot were heavily smeared as well. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo had smashed into our car, as had a Yellowthroat.

I found a sweeper busily at work cleaning up the dead birds. We were able to take a partial tally nonetheless. Species found in and around the parking lot included Bay-breasted, Myrtle, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, and Parula Warblers, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Song Sparrow. We estimated that about 200 to 300 birds had been killed in the immediate area of the Inn as a result of collisions, most of them with parked vehicles.

A chat with the custodian indicated that in his four years of employment he had not encountered so many dead birds prior to this incident. He reported that the previous night (21 September) the fog had been equally heavy but that he had found only a few dead birds. The night desk clerk told a waitress that he felt he had been in a movie all night because of the persistent bird cries. Reports also circulated in the Inn restaurant in the morning that birds had consistently tried "to beat their way in" through the windows of the Inn. Mr. West, the Inn manager, had been particularly impressed with the intensity of the migration about 11:30 p.m.

We were also struck with the intensity of the migration and the great numbers of migrants the following morning huddled around the large Holiday Inn sign (including several Yellowthroats and American Redstarts). In the morning where the fog was still heavy in the pass, great numbers of monarch butterflies filled the sunlit fog.

198 Baringer Drive, California, Maryland 20619

GALLINULES AND COOTS NESTING IN MIDDLESEX COUNTY

MITCHELL A. BYRD

During the course of some field work along the Rappahannock River in Middlesex County, Virginia, from 1967 to 1969, some interesting observations were made on breeding Common Gallinules, *Gallinula chloropus*, and American Coots, *Fulica americana*, for which there are few previous state breeding records. The location involved was a commercial duck farm on the shore of the river near Christchurch School about 2.6 miles northeast of Saluda.

One of my students, William Smith, reported to me that he had observed five adult gallinules and a brood of five young at a small peripheral cattail marsh around a freshwater pond here on 7 June 1967. I visited the area on 11 June and saw the five adults, two of which had broods hidden in the cattails; thus the sizes of the broods could not be ascertained. In subsequent years three adult gallinules and two of their nests were located here on 17 May 1968. One of the nests contained ten eggs and the other eleven. Again in 1969 four gallinules were found here on the rather early date of 30 March. The one nest found that year had a clutch of ten eggs on 17 May, and most of the young had hatched out by 25 May.

Although adult coots were often seen at this marsh in May and June (peak, seven adults on 11 June 1967), only one nest was found. This was on 20 May 1968 and contained seven eggs.

Unfortunately, I found I could not continue field work here because of a severe allergic reaction I developed to some substance in the area. It seems obvious, however, that further work here could well lead to other interesting records of breeding marsh birds.

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SOOTY TERN ON FISHERMAN ISLAND

ROBERT L. AKE

On 17 July 1971, in the company of Wavell Fogleman, David Hughes, young Akes, and young Foglemans, I noticed an adult Sooty Tern (*Sterna fuscata*) flying in with the Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*) as we walked along the beach of Fisherman Island east of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel crossing. It was first seen near the point where the Common Tern nesting area meets that of the Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*). There were very few small chicks or eggs remaining in these colonies. Several young Black Skimmers (*Rynchops nigra*) were still flightless. The Sooty Tern flew past a second time, and the dark wings and clearly discerned facial pattern left no doubt as to its identity. There was no neck ring and the white forehead patch did not extend past the eye, so the bird was not a Bridled Tern (*Sterna anaethetus*). The most

interesting point of note is that coastal Virginia had not received a severe storm up to the date of the observation. This leads one to suspect possible nesting, a point worth keeping in mind at least for the next few years.

This sighting is apparently the second recorded occurrence of the Sooty Tern in Virginia, the first being a dead bird found in Hampton on 12 September 1960 (*Raven*, 31:114, 1960; *ibid.*, 32:2, 1961).

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SOOTY TERNS IN VIRGINIA

GILBERT S. GRANT

On the morning of 28 August 1971, I found two immature Sooty Terns (*Sterna fuscata*) flying around the Royal Tern (*Thalasseus maximus*) and Black Skimmer (*Rynchops nigra*) colony at Fisherman Island National Wildlife Refuge, Virginia. My wife and I studied the birds for 10 to 15 minutes in good light with 7x35 binoculars from the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel. They were uniformly dark brown-black with deeply forked tails. Wings appeared longer and narrower than those of Black Terns (*Chlidonias niger*) nearby.

This observation immediately raises the question as to whether these birds bred here, as R. L. Ake, W. Fogleman, and D. L. Hughes found an adult Sooty Tern here on 17 July 1971 (*Raven*, this issue). Bond (*Birds of The West Indies*, 1971) and Pough (*Audubon Water Bird Guide*, 1951) state that only one egg is laid per nest by the Sooty Tern. Therefore, it seems more likely these birds arrived here by some other means. The eye of tropical storm Doria passed through this area about 20:45 on 27 August 1971, the night before my observation at Fisherman Island. The storm originated at about 55°W and 10°N or just east of the Lesser Antilles and traveled in a northwesterly direction. It veered northward over Puerto Rico, skirted over Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, and then traveled northeastward toward New England (National Weather Service at Norfolk Regional Airport, Norfolk, Virginia, *personal communication*). There are numerous accounts in the ornithological literature of hurricane-blown tropical birds found in the United States and Canada. The Sooty Tern breeds throughout the West Indies (Bond, *op. cit.*; Pough, *op. cit.*) and ranges to Bermuda and eastern Florida according to Watson (*Seabirds of the Tropical Atlantic Ocean*, 1966). In addition to the two immatures found in Virginia following passage of the storm system, one was found at Morehead City, North Carolina, on 28 August 1971 (*American Birds*, 26:48), two at Great Gull Island, New York, one at Riis Park, one at Shinnecock, Long Island, and one at Manasquan Inlet, New Jersey (*American Birds*, 26:38). The northernmost sighting was an exhausted bird at Sippowissett (Falmouth), Massachusetts, on 29 August 1971 (*American Birds*, 26:34). This represents the third state record for Virginia.

21 Alabama Avenue, Portsmouth, Virginia 23702

HAWK MIGRATION ALONG MONTEREY MOUNTAIN

MAURICE BROOKS

During the period from 22 to 24 September 1971, when normally many hawks are in passage along the Appalachian ridges, most of the higher ridges in western Virginia and eastern West Virginia were under dense clouds. During portions of the 23rd and during most of the 24th, Monterey Mountain, along U. S. Route 250, three miles west of Monterey, Highland County, Virginia, was open for hawk flights. My wife and I had an excellent observation point just north of the highway, one that allowed wide views in every direction along this narrow crest.

We arrived at the mountain top on the 23rd at about 1:30 p.m. and remained until heavy rain began about 3 p.m. During this period we counted 416 hawks: 409 Broad-winged, two Red-tailed, two Cooper's, two American Kestrels, and one Marsh Hawk. Temperatures were mild, and winds were light from the southwest.

On 24 September we arrived at this vantage point at 9:15 a.m. and found hawks already aloft. Between 9:15 a.m. and 1:35 p.m., when we had to leave the mountain, we listed 703 hawks: one Cooper's, one Marsh, two Red-tailed, four Red-shouldered, 682 Broad-winged Hawks, three Ospreys, and ten American Kestrels.

One of the features of the flights on both days was that the movement of hawks was almost continuous; there were few groups of more than 20, but hawks were almost constantly in sight. There were no long pauses, and even these were enlivened by unusually active groups of Common Ravens, of which we counted 11 birds in one group.

We had not previously looked for hawks on Monterey Mountain. Perhaps this was a route of opportunity, dictated by heavy cloud cover elsewhere. On the other hand this may be a favorite flight pathway. Observation is easy here, and we expect to return another year.

West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia

SOME FALL RECORDS FROM WISE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

RICHARD H. PEAKE

WESTERN KINGBIRD, *Tyrannus verticalis*

On 22 August 1969 the writer observed a large flycatcher from a distance of about 30 yards, through 7x35 binoculars, near the Wise County fairground. Perched on a solitary tree in a field, the bird would leave its station to catch insects and then return. The yellow belly and the dark tail with white outer tail feathers marked the bird as a Western Kingbird, a species with which the observer is familiar.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER, *Vermivora celata*

Except as a fall migrant, the Orange-crowned Warbler is unrecorded from Wise County, and the species is scarce even in fall. Because the similar Ten-

nessee Warbler, *Vermivora peregrina*, is an abundant fall migrant in the Wise area, it is possible that some Orange-crowned Warblers have been overlooked, but the writer is familiar with both species. The four birds observed before 1971 were in alder thickets on the Clinch Valley College campus, but the three birds observed in 1971 were in a weedy field on Guest Mountain. All birds possessed distinctly yellow undertail coverts. Dates of record for the Orange-crowned Warbler in Wise County are: 12 October 1968 (2); 10 October 1969 (1); 18 October 1969 (1); 5 October 1971 (1); 13 October 1971 (1); and 14 October 1971 (1).

BLACKPOLL WARBLER, *Dendroica striata*

Ian C. Nisbet ("Autumn Migration of the Blackpoll Warbler: Evidence for Long Flight Provided by Regional Survey," *Bird-Banding*, 41: 207-240, 1970) has noted the scarcity of fall records of Blackpolls at inland points in the Southeast. The records of this species from Wise County are in keeping with Nisbet's findings. During the fall of 1968 I recorded this species three times: 21 September (1); 24 September (2); 27 September (3). In the fall seasons of 1969 and 1970 no Blackpolls were recorded in Wise County. The species therefore seems to be scarce and irregular as a fall migrant in this area.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD, *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*

On 9 September 1969 at the Coeburn Overlook on Guest Mountain in Wise County, I heard a call coming from below me. It seemed a blackbird call but was distinctly different from any blackbird sound familiar to me. Finding the bird perched about 100 feet below, I was able to examine it at length through 7x35 binoculars. Its brilliant yellow head and upper breast were set against a black body; the bird was obviously a male Yellow-headed Blackbird. Finally it flushed and flew past me; its white wing patches were distinct as it flew about 50 feet below me and beyond, up the ridge about 1000 feet. Following, I kept the blackbird under observation for about five minutes more.

Clinch Valley College, Wise, Virginia 24293

WHEATEAR SEEN AT TOWNSEND ON EASTERN SHORE

SYDNEY AND DOROTHY MITCHELL

On Sunday, 3 October 1971, it began to rain at noon, so the nets at the Kiptopeke Beach banding station were rolled up and, after eating lunch, we drove over to Townsend before heading to the motel.

There is an old caved-in house at the water's edge here, and a small brownish bird was sitting on the concrete side wall. At first we thought it was a pipit or lark, noticing the white in the tail feathers. As it flew to the ground, the beautiful tail markings were seen. We immediately realized it was a Wheatear, *Oenanthe oenanthe*, as we had seen them in Ireland in 1968 in summer plumage, and now here it was in Northampton County, Virginia, in winter plumage. The bird flew to some nearby rocks, and we saw it in good light as it faced us; it then turned around and we had another good look at the beautiful tail markings.

On Monday, 4 October, David Green from Portsmouth and his nephew from Ohio, Tom Ranney, arrived at the station to help with the banding. When things slowed up, we took them to see the Wheatear and found it standing on the same concrete wall, again in good light.

Trips were made constantly after than but, as far as we know, no one saw the bird again. This appears to be the first sight record of this species for Virginia.

596 Harpersville Road, Newport News, Virginia 23601

RED CROSSBILLS IN HIGHLAND COUNTY

MAURICE BROOKS

During portions of three days, 21-23 September 1971, my wife and I were in Highland County, Virginia. Along Virginia Route 84, west of Vanderpool, we repeatedly saw and heard groups of Red Crossbills, *Loxia curvirostra*. Many of them were flying, giving their characteristic double call notes; but three groups, one of thirteen birds, one of seven, and one of five, fed along the highway, apparently attracted by gravel which may still have held traces of salt.

As we stopped to picnic, the group of five alighted a number of times within a few feet of our table. One was an adult male in high plumage, another an immature male, while the other three showed the yellowish plumage of females or young. In the group of thirteen there were at least three mature males.

During September and October Red Crossbills have been seen on a number of occasions in adjacent Pocahontas County, West Virginia. There is a sparse and scattered crop of Red Spruce cones, and the birds are apparently forced to wander widely in search of food.

West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia

IN MEMORIAM: REVEREND JOHN H. GREY, JR.

John H. Grey, Jr., died suddenly of a coronary attack at Bedford, Virginia, on 9 September 1971. Dr. Grey was born on 19 July 1902 in Lexington, North Carolina. At the age of five, he and his family moved to Bedford, where he grew up. He graduated from Davidson College in North Carolina, and while a student pastor with Dr. J. J. Murray in Lexington, Virginia, he earned his M. A. degree from Washington and Lee University. He later received the Bachelor of Theology degree from Union Theological Seminary in Richmond and a Ph. D. from the University of Edinburgh.

Dr. Grey served as Presbyterian minister in churches in Marion, Concord, North Carolina, Lexington, Raleigh, North Carolina, and Charlottesville before moving to Williamsburg in 1946. For 24 years he was pastor of the Williamsburg Presbyterian Church, returning to Bedford in May 1970, where he worked for the Montgomery Presbytery and was pastor of the Montvale Presbyterian Church while in "semiretirement."

Dr. Grey's early association with Dr. J. J. Murray marked the beginning of his great interest in bird study. While pastor in Raleigh, he was the first editor of *The Chat*, the journal of the Carolina Bird Club, and remained so for eight years. He was one of the pioneers of the Virginia Society of Ornithology and served one term as Vice President, followed by two terms as President of the Society, the latter from 1 July 1947 to 30 June 1949. He was a member of the Executive Committee of the Society for three terms. He had done extensive field work in the state with Dr. Murray, Dr. Alexander Wetmore, and others, and contributed many valuable records. During his ministry he introduced a number of persons to the field of ornithology and was very active in the inner workings of the VSO, constantly pushing for a more systematic approach to the study of the Virginia avifauna. At the time of his death he was actively working on a revision of Dr. Murray's *Check-list of the Birds of Virginia*, a project very close to his heart.

Dr. Grey is survived by his wife, Mrs. Margaret Fourqurean Grey, of Bedford, and a daughter, Mrs. Page Grey Dudley, of Falls Church.

Ruskin S. Freer and James W. Eike

VSO EASTERN SHORE FIELD TRIP

C. W. HACKER

The Wachapreague Hotel on Virginia's Eastern Shore was headquarters for the VSO's annual summer trip to the barrier islands on 21 and 22 August 1971. Saturday and Sunday were favored with pleasant weather with a slight westerly breeze. A week prior to our trip the high tides associated with a northeast storm covered nearly all of the islands and would have washed out any sightseeing activities. On Saturday morning, following a hearty breakfast, the contingent gathered at the dock of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science Eastern Shore office (VIMS). Here confusion was rife. Life jackets were being ferreted out of numerous storage spaces, and lunches, prepared by the hotel for 40 persons, were being put aboard. Shortly, the flotilla steamed off for the marshes. In addition to a huge barge and its towing work boat, the party was accompanied by two landing boats provided by VIMS.

The trip out through the marshes was only fairly interesting, but the trip ashore at Club House Point was one of the usual highlights. Glossy Ibis, an early nester, had long since deserted the area, but hundreds of the several species of herons were still using the heronry as a resting site with the Louisiana Heron outnumbering all others. A scattered few nestling and other unfledged birds were easily located. Leaving the flies and mosquitoes behind, the party moved over to Darson's Shoal at the entrance to Wachapreague Inlet. This relatively new island, washed up from the sea, is the nesting area for large numbers of skimmers and terns. Groups of the party went off in random directions, and in an hour's time the island had been covered from end to end. Skimmers in downy plumage through full adult dress put up a din throughout our stay. When the call was given for the lunch time break, everyone welcomed the opportunity to relax on the sand and enjoy sandwiches and fried chicken.

Following lunch, the party moved to the landward side of Cedar Island. Access to the island involved a long wade through knee deep water followed by a few hundred yards of marsh muck recently exposed by the ebbing of the tide. On reaching firmer ground, individual groups roamed to the four points of the compass in the pursuit of particular interests. One small group proceeded directly to the ocean side for a refreshing dip in the surf. Others diligently searched out the few birds present and were rewarded by the Wilson's and Piping Plovers, Ruddy Turnstone, and the usual peeps. In the absence of a cold front the variety and numbers of birds were rather limited, but everyone seemed content to put more study on fewer species. With the tide still receding an even greater effort was required to reach the boats. At times it appeared that some members would be hopelessly lost in the muck. The long ride back to the hotel was made by a more subdued and weary crowd, but all agreed that it had been a satisfying day.

On Sunday nearly all of the party motored to the tip of the peninsula for a visit to Fisherman Island, a protected area under the management of the Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Cattle Egrets were seen in the fields along the highway, and a real bonus was the presence of eight Upland Plovers near the parking lot where the motor caravan rendezvoused. At the island, Mr. Robert Pacific supplied a refuge truck to ferry the party to the beach. Black-crowned Night Herons and two young Barn Owls were found along the access road. A short distance off the beach a lone, out-of-season Common Scoter was diving for food. In the wave-wetted area of the beach a few shorebirds busily searched for small marine life. Unfortunately, high tides prevented our access to that portion of the island where gulls, terns, and skimmers were in the last stages of nesting.

Once more, the Eastern Shore trip came to a successful conclusion as the participants returned to their individual cars and departed for inland destinations.

300 York Warwick Drive, Yorktown, Virginia 23490

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NEWS AND NOTES

COMPILED BY F. R. SCOTT

IN APPRECIATION. The Editor is indebted to Anton M. Decker for assistance in preparing this issue of *The Raven* for publication.

CORRIGENDUM. The three "Golden-winged Warblers" at Williamsburg on 29 April 1970 (*Raven*, 42: 39, 1971) were actually Blue-winged Warblers, a bird not nearly as unusual in southeastern Virginia as the Golden-wing. This was a typographic error, not a misidentification.

PETRELS IN CHESAPEAKE BAY. M. A. Byrd and R. S. Kennedy recorded Wilson's Petrels twice in Chesapeake Bay, Virginia, in the summer of 1971. Fourteen were counted off Kiptopeke Beach on 29 June and 24 in the mouth of the Rappahannock River on 7 July.

PELICAN AT VIRGINIA BEACH. Robert L. Ake observed an adult and an immature Brown Pelican at Virginia Beach, Virginia, on 24 July 1971, obviously birds from one of the Carolina nesting colonies.

WHITE IBIS IN 1971. In marked contrast to the situation in 1970 (see *Raven*, 42: 38, 1971), only two Virginia reports of White Ibis were received for 1971. Single immature birds were found by R. L. Ake and D. L. Hughes at Norfolk on 1 August and Craney Island, Portsmouth, on 7 August.

EIDERS IN EASTERN VIRGINIA. Both species of eider were found by several observers during the winter of 1970-1971 around the artificial islands along the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel between Kiptopeke and Virginia Beach. The first records here were a Common Eider on 17 October (R. L. Ake) and a King Eider on 29 November 1970 (P. G. DuMont). Numbers increased later in the winter, and the peak count was 12 Common and 21 King Eiders on 19 February 1971 (C. R. Blem, Fred Murray, and D. W. Sonneborn). King Eiders were also found in three localities during the summer of 1971. One was seen at Fisherman Island on 19 June (M. A. Byrd), a first-year male was identified at Little Creek, Virginia Beach, on 22 June (Samuel A. Anderson, III), and one was found on Wreck Island on 16 July (M. A. Byrd, Gary Seek, and Bill Smith).

OSPREY NESTING RESULTS. In an extensive survey of Osprey nests in eastern Virginia in 1971, M. A. Byrd and R. S. Kennedy located 309 active nests. Of these, 131 were not productive, and the other nests fledged a maximum of 213 young, or a mean of 0.69 fledglings per active nest. Similar figures for 1970 indicated 0.96 fledglings per active nest (corrected figure), based on 194 active nests examined. Only the York River and New Point Comfort areas showed increases in the number of young fledged per active nest between 1970 and 1971.

LATE CLAPPER RAIL NESTS. On 23 July 1971 M. A. Byrd, Gary Seek, and Bill Smith located 16 Clapper Rail nests with eggs on Gull Marsh, near Cobb Island, Northampton County, Virginia. This is quite late to find eggs of this species, although a number were found here also in mid July 1970 (*Raven*, 42: 39, 1971).

PURPLE SANDPIPERS NEAR THE COAST. Winter records of the Purple Sandpiper in Virginia continue to pile up, with the best numbers along the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel and at Craney Island, Portsmouth. An early one was found along the bridge-tunnel on 3 October 1970 (R. L. Ake and W. W. Fogleman), and numbers had increased here to 70 by 28 November (M. A. Byrd). At Craney Island, 29 were reported on 6 January 1971 (M. A. Byrd and Bill Williams). A remarkable observation was of a Purple Sandpiper along the bridge-tunnel on 22 August 1971 (T. F. Wieboldt), probably the only summer record for the state.

RECENT PHALAROPE RECORDS. Reports of phalaropes in Virginia have continued to increase in the last couple of years. In the fall of 1970 a maximum of 9 Wilson's and 11 Northern Phalaropes was observed at Craney Island, Portsmouth, on 22 September (Mrs. F. C. Burford, Mrs. C. W. Darden, J. H. Grey, Jr., and J. J. Murray, Sr.), and a single Northern was found well inland in the main channel of the James River at Presquile National Wildlife Refuge on 16

November (P. D. Daly). Mrs. Burford and her son Cooper Barefield saw a flock of 11 Red Phalaropes on the ocean 12 miles east of Wachapreague on 10 October, three of which appeared to be in near breeding plumage. The flock settled on the water near their fishing boat for several minutes before flying off.

The only phalarope reports for spring 1971 occurred on 23 May when P. G. DuMont found four Northern Phalaropes along the Chincoteague Causeway, and J. M. Abbott noted a female Wilson's Phalarope on Chincoteague Refuge. Later in the year a Northern Phalarope was reported at Craney Island on 13 August (G. S. Grant) and two at Chincoteague Refuge on 3 October (C. R. Vaughn), whereas a Wilson's was seen at Wallops Island on 21 August (Vaughn), three were noted at Chincoteague Refuge on 29 August (Abbott), and two were found at the same place on 11 September (Darelyn and C. O. Handley, Jr.).

RECENT UNUSUAL GULLS AND TERNS. There have been several recent records of unusual gulls and terns in Virginia in addition to those reported on the Christmas bird counts. Single Glaucous Gulls were found twice, one on the James River at College creek, James City County, on 9 March 1971 (M. A. Byrd and R. S. Kennedy) and one at Back Bay Refuge on 11 March 1971 (Romie Waterfield). The only Little Gull reported was an adult at Fort Story, Virginia Beach, on 19 February 1971 (C. R. Blem, Fred Murray, and D. W. Sonneborn). J. M. Abbott found an adult plus an apparent immature Roseate Tern at Chincoteague Refuge on 27 August 1971, and a Royal Tern was seen at Dyke marsh, Fairfax County, on 16 April 1971 (R. A. Rowlett), an unusual record this far inland. A Caspian Tern at Lake Taylor, Norfolk, was seen daily between 6 and 17 December 1970 (Mrs. F. C. Burford), an extraordinarily late date for this species, and one near Cheriton on 26 June 1971 (F. R. Scott) was probably a summering bird. Lastly, Abbott noted an unusual spring movement of Black Terns up the Potomac River at Fort Hunt, Fairfax County, between 6 and 15 May 1971 with a peak count of 25 on 8 May.

BLUE JAY MIGRATION. Several observers were able to document heavy diurnal movements of Blue Jays during the spring of 1971 in Virginia. At Fort Belvoir, northward moving jays were first noted on 21 March with a peak of 2000 or more on 1 May (J. M. Abbott). Also on 1 May, a joint field trip of the Lynchburg and Roanoke Valley bird clubs noted "hundreds" passing northward at the Peaks of Otter. The peak flight at Clifton, Fairfax County, apparently occurred on 30 April, when J. W. Eike counted 3200 passing overhead, more than 2500 of these between 6:30 and 7:30 a.m.

LATE WARBLERS IN 1970. There were several reports of late warblers during the fall of 1970 in Virginia. At Richmond, a Black-and-white Warbler was carefully observed in James River Park on 15 November (D. W. Sonneborn), while an Ovenbird, originally trapped and banded on 23 September 1970, was last trapped on 1 December (F. R. Scott). J. M. Abbott found a Cerulean Warbler at Fort Belvoir, Fairfax County, on 5 October and last noted a Yellow Warbler at nearby Fort Hunt on 15 October. A male Black-throated Blue Warbler flew into a window at Clifton, also in Fairfax County, on 22 November (J. W. Eike). The bird was stunned, but after about an hour of rest, it flew off apparently in good health.

SWAINSON'S WARBLER NEAR CHARLOTTESVILLE. Robert S. Merkel found a singing Swainson's Warbler in Albemarle County, Virginia, near Charlottesville, on 8 May 1971. This species has been found apparently summering in this area on occasion before (see *Raven*, 33: 16, 1962).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD AT NORFOLK. A male of this species was present at Norfolk from 1 March to at least 10 March 1971 (Mrs. J. E. Moore, Mrs. F. C. Burford, *et al.*). Many local birders were able to see and photograph this bird at Mrs. Moore's feeder.

MORE DICKCISSELS FOUND. Dickcissels continue to be found irregularly in Virginia. One was located at Chippokes Plantation, Surry County, on 23 April 1970 (Mrs. F. C. Burford and Mrs. Emily Moore), and two singing males were found at Mt. Holly, Westmoreland County, on 31 May 1970 (F. R. Scott). The latter date would seem to indicate possible nesting in the area. One Dickcissel was trapped and banded at Kiptopeke Beach on 1 October 1970 (Sydney Mitchell). The spring of 1971 produced five different records, with one seen at Farmington, near Charlottesville, on 23 March (Eberhard Meade), another at Virginia Beach on 27 March (Betty Lancaster), a singing male at Chesapeake on 2 May, which remained at least a week (R. L. Ake), a singing male and a female near Warsaw on 22 May (F. R. Scott), and a singing male at Curles Neck, Henrico County, on 23 May (Scott). The last location has produced Dickcissels during the nesting season off and on for some 25 years (*Raven*, 22: 75, 1951). The latest report was one at Newport News from 28 to 31 October 1971 (Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Bell).

IPSWICH SPARROW INLAND. An Ipswich Sparrow was carefully studied at Craney Island, Portsmouth, Virginia, on 6 January 1971 by M. A. Byrd and Bill Williams. This species has been seen (and specimens collected) previously away from the immediate coast on the western shore of Chesapeake Bay in Hampton (see *Auk*, 71: 88, 1954).

LE CONTE'S SPARROW ON BRIDGE-TUNNEL. On 24 November 1970 D. W. Sonneborn observed a Le Conte's Sparrow on the northernmost artificial island along the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel. Sonneborn, who was previously familiar with the species, watched it for some time as closely as 10 feet. It was sitting with a Chipping Sparrow and was noticeably smaller than that bird. Among the field marks noted were the white stripe on the crown, the buffy stripe over the eye, the buffy breast, and the streaks on the sides. This appears to be the second state record for this species (see *Raven*, 26: 40, 1955).

LATE HENSLOW'S SPARROWS. Dorothy L. Mitchell trapped and banded a Henslow's Sparrow at Kiptopeke Beach, Virginia, on 5 October 1970, and one was seen in the dried bottom grasses of the empty bed of Stumpy Lake, Virginia Beach, on 13 December 1970 (R. L. Ake).

RECENT LARK SPARROW RECORDS. Lark Sparrows were reported twice in Virginia in the fall of 1970. One was found at Craney Island on 7 October (Mrs. F. C. Burford and Gisela Grimm), and another was seen at Chincoteague Refuge on 1 November (P. G. DuMont).

OREGON JUNCO AT NEWPORT NEWS. A well-plumaged Oregon Junco was present at the Sydney Mitchell home in Newport News, Virginia, between 8 January and 7 March 1971. On 18 January it was trapped, banded, and photographed by Mrs. Mitchell.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW RECORDS. There have recently been four reports of Clay-colored Sparrows in Virginia. In the fall of 1970, one was trapped and banded (and photographed) at Kiptopeke Beach on 3 October (Sydney Mitchell *et al.*), and another was seen at Hunting Creek, Alexandria, on 16 October (J. M. Abbott). A remarkable observation occurred in Augusta County near Staunton on 9 May 1971 when a vigorously singing male was watched for several minutes on the grounds of the Ingleside Hotel (M. A. Byrd, R. S. Kennedy, *et al.*). The last record was of a single bird carefully observed at Back Bay Refuge on 13 November 1971 (M. A. Byrd, Lou Bjostad, J. W. Via, and Bill Williams).

WHITE-THROATS IN SUMMER. There were two reports of White-throated Sparrows in Virginia during the summer of 1971. Paul S. Dulaney had one in his yard at Greenwood, Albemarle County, on 21 June, and another was seen in Norfolk on 27 August (Mrs. F. C. Burford). There is a possibility that the latter record represents an extraordinarily early fall arrival, but if so, it would have been almost a full month early.

SWAMP SPARROW IN AUGUST. Brooke Meanley observed a Swamp Sparrow singing in cattails at Dyke marsh, Fairfax County, Virginia, on 21 August 1970. This would be extraordinarily early for a fall transient; yet there is no evidence of nesting for this species in this area.

HIGH COUNTS OF LONGSPURS. Unusual numbers of Lapland Longspurs were reported from Craney Island, Virginia, in early 1971. The best counts were 15 on 6 January (M. A. Byrd and Bill Williams) and 12 on 7 January (R. L. Ake). The ones on the 6th were in a mixed flock of five Water Pipits and 25 Snow Buntings.

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