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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 \$2.00 for junior members (students), \$5.00 for active members, \$7.50 for sustaining members, \$15.00 or more for contributing members, \$125.00 for life members, and \$9.00 for family members (limited to husband, wife, and their dependent children).

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BIRDS OF THE DISMAL SWAMP, VIRGINIA-NORTH CAROLINA

BROOKE MEANLEY

The Dismal Swamp is the last extensive wilderness area on the Coastal Plain of the Middle Atlantic States. A list of the species of birds reported to occur in this great swamp is herewith presented and will serve as a basis for further investigations of its avifauna. A description of the Swamp has been presented by Kearney (1901), Murray (1948), and Meanley (1973) (see also Figures 1, 2, 3, and 4).

The Swamp lies a few miles southwest of Norfolk, Virginia, and the mouth of Chesapeake Bay and is about 25 miles inland from the coast. The Virginia part lies in southeast Suffolk and southwest Chesapeake (independent cities), but in North Carolina the Swamp extends nearly to Elizabeth City on the east and Sunbury on the west (Camden, Gates, and Pasquotank Counties).

The present compilation of a list of birds of the Swamp is based mainly on my observations and is supplemented by observations of other ornithologists. Most ornithological observations have been made in the Lake Drummond area, along the Feeder Ditch to the lake, at the head of Portsmouth Ditch, and along Jericho Ditch, which runs from the lake to the northwestern corner of the Swamp. Most of my observations were made in these areas and also in the vicinity of Corapeake Ditch, which runs through the Swamp along the Virginia-North Carolina boundary, and in the section along U. S. Route 158 that runs through a part of the Swamp between Sunbury and Elizabeth City, North Carolina.

Acknowledgments

I acknowledge the cooperation of E. A. Friend of the Union-Camp Corporation and Brian Martin of the Atlantic Forest Products Company; they granted me permission to work in parts of the Swamp owned or leased by the two lumber companies. Also, my thanks go to Paul W. Sykes, Floy Burford, Pat Gammon, Keith Garrett, Kathleen Klimkiewicz, Robert L. Ake, Paul G. DuMont, Richard Rowlett, David L. Hughes, and W. F. Rountrey for supplying bird records and for other favors.

Earlier Ornithological Investigations

As far as I can ascertain, the first observations in the Swamp by competent naturalists were made in the latter part of the last century and early part of the present one. Several names are prominent in this regard, although there were

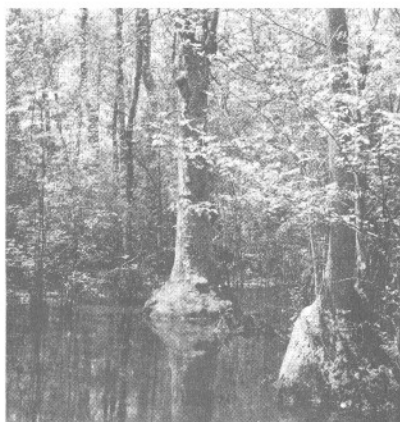


FIGURE 1. *Tupelo gum* (large trees in center and right front) in deep water swamp community. Most of the Dismal Swamp is drier than the habitat shown in this photograph.

others who accompanied these men. Such well-known naturalists of that period as A. K. Fisher of the U. S. Bureau of Biological Survey, William Palmer and Paul Bartsch of the U. S. National Museum, and T. Gilbert Pearson, later to become Director of the National Audubon Society, made significant contributions. Pearson is known for his search for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, *Campephilus principalis*, which probably did not occur there at the time.



FIGURE 2. Roof of the Dismal Swamp. Tall dark trees are Atlantic white cedar. Deciduous trees are mostly red maple, sweet gum, swamp black gum, and water oak. 1 May, 1975.

J. J. Murray, Sr., dean of Virginia ornithologists, made numerous trips to the Dismal and reported several new species for the Swamp. Perhaps his outstanding discovery, made with an associate, W. B. McIlwaine, was the confirmation that Wayne's Black-Throated Green Warbler, *Dendroica virens waynei*, was a breeding bird in the Swamp (Murray, 1932).

The names of some of the more active workers in the Swamp during the 1950's, 1960's, and early 1970's are mentioned in the acknowledgments section.

I began making observations in the fall of 1957. My earliest work was concerned primarily with the large winter blackbird roost. During four nesting seasons (1966-1969), I spent a total of 40 days, mostly studying Swainson's Warbler, *Limnethlypis swainsonii* (Meanley, 1971).

Species Account

The following annotated list of 185 species includes birds observed within the boundaries of the Swamp and also those such as migrating hawks or other birds seen flying overhead. There are undoubtedly 25 or more species that occur but have not yet been reported; e.g., several warblers, flycatchers, ducks, etc.



FIGURE 3. Atlantic white cedar stand along the Virginia-North Carolina boundary in the Swamp. "Juniper" as it is locally known, is an excellent cover type for birds, especially in the winter half of the year.

There are approximately 86 species of breeding birds. The warbler family is represented by the greatest number; 17 species nest in the Swamp. Three species, the Prothonotary Warbler, *Protonotaria citrea*, Hooded Warbler, *Wilsonia citrina*, and Ovenbird, *Seiurus aurocapillus*, are among the most abundant breeding birds in the deciduous forests.

Although the Swamp lies in parts of two states, it is treated as a single unit without regard to political boundary. However, where specific locations are given, the State can be determined.

All records are by the author unless otherwise indicated.

Bird names listed are from the American Ornithologists' Union *Check-list of North American Birds*, 5th Edition (1957), and the Thirty-second supplement to the A. O. U. *Check-list* (1973)

COMMON LOON, *Gavia immer*

One observed at Lake Drummond on 12 April, 1969; one observed flying over Swamp and calling on 5 May, 1974.

HORNED GREBE, *Podiceps auritus*

One collected by George Nichols on 9 October, 1895, and several reported 6-22 October, 1895 at Lake Drummond (A. K. Fisher, unpublished field notes in files of National Fish and Wildlife Laboratory, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 20560).

PIED-BILLED GREBE, *Podilymbus podiceps*

Two pairs observed in ditch bordering U. S. 158 on 3 April, 1971. A. K. Fisher (unpublished field notes) observed several on Lake Drummond on 17 October, 1895. One observed in ditch bordering U. S. 158, 18 December, 1972.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT, *Phalacrocorax auritus*

Three on 28 April, 1974, one by C. E. Stevens, Jr. (1946), on 16 May, 1946, two by J. J. Murray on 25 May, and three on 26 May, 1932 (Murray, 1952). Sykes observed one at Lake Drummond, 2 June, 1962.

ANHINGA, *Anhinga anhinga*

Herbert Barber saw one at Lake Drummond in August 1935 (Murray, 1952).

GREAT BLUE HERON *Ardea herodias*

Fairly common at all seasons. Several birds in the Swamp observed carrying nesting material in April 1966.

GREEN HERON, *Butorides virescens*

Fairly common breeding bird. Observed 8 April, 1974 and 18 April, 1970.

LITTLE BLUE HERON, *Florida caerulea*

Occasional spring and summer visitor. A bird was observed carrying nesting material in April 1966. One was noted on 30 May, 1975.



FIGURE 4. Typical scene in the northwest section of the Dismal Swamp. Vegetation is mostly swamp black gum, sweet gum, water oak, swamp magnolia, and red bay—mixed swamp forest community. Habitat of Swainson's and Wayne's warblers. Early spring 1959.

CATTLE EGRET, *Bubulcus ibis*

One observed on 3 April, 1971 and one on 16 April, 1970.

GREAT EGRET, *Casmerodius albus*

Uncommon summer resident. One observed as early as 15 March, 1975.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON, *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Three were observed on 23 April, 1971. Fisher (unpublished field notes) reported several on 1 June, 1895.

AMERICAN BITTERN, *Botaurus lentiginosus*

One at ditch bordering U. S. 158 on 2 April, 1971. One flushed from a heavily wooded section of the Swamp on 6 April, 1974, and one was found on 29 April, 1975.

WHITE IBIS, *Eudocimus albus*

Pat Gammon and Keith Garrett saw one along Washington Ditch, 25 June, 1974.

WHISTLING SWAN, *Olor columbianus*

Otto Florschutz, Jr. (personal communication), reported 50 at Lake Drummond on 17 November, 1971.

CANADA GOOSE, *Branta canadensis*

Fisher (unpublished field notes) reported six at Lake Drummond on 18 October, 1895. A flock of 20 was noted flying over the Swamp on 15 November, 1968.

BRANT, *Branta bernicla*

A single bird was observed by Pat Gammon and Keith Garrett on 12 October, 1974.

MALLARD, *Anas platyrhynchos*

Present in small numbers along ditches, in flooded woodlands, and at Lake Drummond, October through April. Four pairs observed in flooded woodland on 10 March, 1971, and six pairs in ditch bordering U. S. 158 on 2 April, 1971. Fisher (unpublished field notes) observed several flocks on Lake Drummond, 22 October, 1895.

BLACK DUCK, *Anas rubripes*

Has been noted in small numbers during every month in the year. Pairs were seen along Jericho Ditch on 30 March, 1973 and on 7 April, 1974 and in ditch bordering U. S. 158 in June 1966.

PINTAIL, *Anas acuta*

Two flying over Swamp, 21 January, 1970.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL, *Anas crecca*

One seen along Corapeake Ditch in January 1958; pair in ditch bordering U. S. 158 on 19 March, 1970.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL, *Anas discors*

Two males seen in ditch bordering U. S. 158 on 19 March, 1970. A male noted in Jericho Ditch, 30 April, 1975.

AMERICAN WIGEON, *Mareca americana*

A small flock noted by Pat Gammon and Keith Garrett at Lake Drummond on 22 March, 1975.

WOOD DUCK, *Aix sponsa*

Observed during all months of the year. Common breeding bird. Sykes observed a female and six young along Jericho Ditch on 9 May, 1959.

REDHEAD, *Aythya americana*

A flock of 8-12 birds noted by Keith Garrett and Pat Gammon at Lake Drummond on 22 March, 1975.

RING-NECKED DUCK, *Aythya collaris*

Pair noted in ditch bordering U. S. 158 on 31 March, 1970.

CANVASBACK, *Aythya valisineria*

Forty at Lake Drummond, 15 November, 1968.

HOODED MERGANSER, *Lophodytes cucullatus*

Along U. S. 158 ditch: one pair on 10 March, 1971, three pairs on 19 March, 1970, and two pairs on 2 April 1971. One observed along Jericho Ditch, 18 January, 1974. Eric Dornfeld (personal communication) observed six in the Swamp during the first week in February 1974.

TURKEY VULTURE, *Cathartes aura*

Common at all seasons.

BLACK VULTURE, *Coragyps atratus*

Common at all seasons.

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK, *Accipiter striatus*

Fisher (unpublished field notes) reported it as common during migration at Lake Drummond, 6-12 October, 1895. One observed flying over Lake Drummond on 15 November, 1968 and two on 8 October, 1970.

COOPER'S HAWK, *Accipiter cooperii*

One observed on 7 February, 1973 and one on 24 April, 1971. Pair observed on 3 June, 1966.

RED-TAILED HAWK, *Buteo jamaicensis*

Fairly common at all seasons. Two observed on 7 February, 1973; one on 27 April, 1974.

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK, *Buteo lineatus*

Common at all seasons. One incubating on 19 April, 1973 in same cypress crotch that had an active Red-shoulder nest 5 years earlier.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK, *Bufo platypterus*

One noted in Jericho Ditch section on 14 April, 1959.

BALD EAGLE, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*

Formerly common in Lake Drummond area. Fisher (unpublished field notes) saw one or more daily around shore of Lake Drummond, 6-22 October, 1895. He also reported an immature along Dismal Swamp Canal on 4 June, 1895 and an adult at Lake Drummond, 7 and 8 June, 1895. Rare in the Swamp since the 1950's. Last reported nest was in March 1961 (J. P. Hailman, personal communication).

MARSH HAWK, *Circus cyaneus*

Observed on 10 March and 2 April, 1971 and on 15 November, 1968.

OSPREY, *Pandion haliaetus*

Sykes reported one on 18 March, 1961. Keith Garrett and Pat Gammon observed one on 22 March, 1974. One observed on 3 April, 1972 and on 15 March, 1975.

MERLIN, *Falco columbarius*

One noted on 3 October, 1970. Fisher (unpublished field notes) reported one at Lake Drummond on 11 October, 1895.

AMERICAN KESTREL, *Falco sparverius*

Fairly common during the winter half of the year, particularly around the edge of the Swamp. Thirty counted on west side of Swamp on 19 September, 1971; four in same area, 7 February, 1973.

BOBWHITE, *Colinus virginianus*

This upland species occurs at all seasons along spoil bank roads and in cut-over areas in the Swamp.

TURKEY, *Meleagris gallopavo*

Apparently has not occurred in Swamp for 30 or more years. Mosby and Handley (1943) state that it occurred in the southwest section of the Virginia part of the Swamp in the 1930's.

KING RAIL, *Rallus elegans*

One observed on 23 May, 1967 at junction of Riddick and U. S. 158 ditches; one found dead in same area on 2 April, 1971.

SORA, *Porzana carolina*

One at Riddick Ditch on 3 April, 1971.

COMMON GALLINULE, *Gallinula chloropus*

One in ditch bordering U. S. 158 on 8 October, 1970.

AMERICAN COOT, *Fulica americana*

One observed in ditch bordering U. S. 158 on 3 April, 1971; three in same ditch, April 1972. Fisher (unpublished field notes) collected one on 15 October, 1895.

KILLDEER, *Charadrius vociferus*

Once observed flying over Swamp on 7 April, 1974. Two observed at low water in flats around edge of Lake Drummond on 15 November, 1968.

AMERICAN WOODCOCK, *Philohela minor*

Fairly common breeding bird and fairly common winter resident. About 50 heard *peenting* (male courtship call given from ground) on evening of 12 January, 1959, at the western edge of the Swamp between Suffolk and the North Carolina line. Fisher (unpublished field notes) reported five on 6 June, 1895. Sykes reported a bird on 30 May, 1963; he also found a dead young woodcock "not completely feathered out, some of the quills still on feathers; bill not grown to full length . . ." on 21 April, 1956, Jericho Ditch. Phil Jones (personal communication) saw an adult and four young on 1 May, 1971. Danny Bystrak and I flushed one at head of Railroad Ditch on 20 June, 1973. Two were flushed at different locations in Jericho Ditch area on 18 April, 1972.

COMMON SNIPE, *Capella gallinago*

One at ditch bordering U. S. 158, 18 December, 1972.

WHIMBREL, *Numenius phaeopus*

One noted by Paul G. DuMont on 30 April, 1972.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER, *Actitis macularia*

Fisher (unpublished field notes) reported one on 1 June, 1895. One noted at edge of Jericho Ditch, 2 May, 1975.

SOLITARY SANDPIPER, *Tringa solitaria*

One at north end of Jericho Ditch, 24 April, 1971. Kathy Klimkiewicz caught one in a mist net near Lake Drummond in April 1972.

GREATER YELLOWLEGS, *Tringa melanoleuca*

Fisher (unpublished field notes) reported them at Lake Drummond on 9 and 19 October, 1895.

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER, *Calidris pusilla*

One seen by C. E. Stevens, Jr. (1946), on 16 May, 1946. Pat Gammon and Keith Garrett saw one in September 1973.

NORTHERN PHALAROPE, *Lobipes lobatus*

One collected at Lake Drummond by J. J. Murray (1952) on 24 May, 1932.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL, *Larus marinus*

Six seen with large flock of Ring-billed Gulls soaring over Swamp on 7 February, 1973.

HERRING GULL, *Larus argentatus*

Frequent at Lake Drummond in fall, winter, and spring.

RING-BILLED GULL, *Larus delawarensis*

Frequent at Lake Drummond in fall, winter, and spring.

LAUGHING GULL, *Larus atricilla*

One at Lake Drummond on 15 November, 1968.

MOURNING DOVE, *Zenaida macroura*

Common in some open areas of Swamp at all seasons.

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO, *Coccyzus americanus*

Fairly common during breeding season. Several records in spring as early as 28 April, 1968 and 29 April, 1972. Several records as late as 18 September, 1971.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO, *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*

One reported 9 May, 1959 by Paul Sykes, W. F. Rountrey, and Henry A. Hespenheide.

SCREECH OWL, *Otus asio*

Keith Garrett and Pat Gammon reported single birds on 22 February, 1974 and in March 1973.

GREAT HORNED OWL, *Bubo virginianus*

Pat Gammon noted one in the Swamp in February 1974. Fisher (unpublished field notes) reported that C. Hart Merriam saw one on 6 June, 1895. Fisher also reported several during 6-22 October, 1895.

BARRED OWL, *Strix varia*

Common at all seasons in deciduous parts of Swamp.

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW, *Caprimulgus carolinensis*

Fairly common breeding bird around edges of Swamp; occasional in dry sections of Swamp. On night of 23 May, 1969, three were heard on west side of Swamp in Cypress Chapel area. Several heard in Cypress Chapel area next to Swamp at dawn, 3 June, 1966.

WHIP-POOR-WILL, *Caprimulgus vociferus*

Fairly common breeding bird along edge of Swamp. Nine heard on night of 23 May, 1969 in Cypress Chapel area.

COMMON NIGHTHAWK, *Chordeiles minor*

Observed during last week in August in southward migration. Three observed during migration, 19 September, 1971. One seen by Fisher (unpublished field notes) on 6 October, 1895.

CHIMNEY SWIFT, *Chaetura pelagica*

Common spring migrant, on 7 April, 1974. Bartsch (1901) found evidence of nesting in cypress stumps in Lake Drummond. I saw 76 fly out of a swamp black gum hollow tree at 1330 hours on 30 June, 1966. Fisher (unpublished field notes) saw them in autumn up to 13 October, 1895.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD, *Archilochus colubris*

Common in summer half of year. Common in Swamp in spring, 18 April, 1973. One building nest on 4 May, 1974. Sixty noted on 8 September, 1973.

BELTED KINGFISHER, *Megaceryle alcyon*

Five along Jericho Ditch, 19 April, 1973; six in same area, 29 April, 1972. Pair along Cypress Creek near Cypress Chapel, 29 June, 1971. Pat Gammon and Keith Garrett reported two nests along Washington Ditch in spring 1973. One noted at Hamburg Ditch on 18 December, 1972.

COMMON FLICKER, *Colaptes auratus*

Occurs at all seasons; least common during breeding season. Sykes reported 52 in Gates County, North Carolina, section of the Swamp on 17 April, 1965. Five noted on 27 June, 1972; 40 on 19 September, 1971; 40 in one hour on 7 February, 1973.

PILEATED WOODPECKER, *Dryocopus pileatus*

Common at all seasons. Eleven noted in two hours on 7 April, 1974 along the north end of Jericho Ditch. Incubating birds noted in Jericho Ditch area on 29 March, 1973, 6 April, 1974, 19 April, 1973, and 1 May, 1968. Pair feeding nestlings on 19 April, 1973 in Pasquotank County, North Carolina, section of Swamp. Pair, with fledged young, harassing Barred Owl on 13 July, 1971.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER, *Centurus carolinus*

Common at all seasons.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER, *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*

Uncommon at all seasons. Two pairs observed on 1 May, 1968, one bird seen on 1 June, 1970, one seen 26 June, 1972, and nine observed 8 September, 1973.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER, *Sphyrapicus varius*

Common in winter half of year.

HAIRY WOODPECKER, *Dendrocopus villosus*

Common at all seasons. Two active nests noted in Jericho Ditch section on 2 May, 1975.

DOWNY WOODPECKER, *Dendrocopus pubescens*

Common at all seasons. Several observed eating poison ivy berries on 8 October, 1970.

RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER, *Dendrocopus borealis*

One observed in pocosin section of Swamp, at east end of Corapeake Ditch, 10 and 13 February, 1961; it was foraging in pond pines. Several seen in pines around the edge of the Swamp and near Suffolk in the 1960's and early 1970's.

EASTERN KINGBIRD, *Tyrannus tyrannus*

Observed 18 April, 1970 and 18 April, 1973 in cut-over section of Swamp. Four in same area, 8 September, 1973. One in swamp forest, 30 April, 1975.

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER, *Myiarchus crinitus*

Common breeding bird. First observed in spring on 7 April, 1974. Observed in fall up to 18 September, 1971.

EASTERN PHOEBE, *Sayornis phoebe*

Common in spring and fall migration. Fairly common in winter. Several observed 18 December, 1972. Paul Sykes, W. F. Rountrey, H. A. Hespenheide, *et al.* observed a bird sitting on a nest in overturned tree roots in ditch bank along Jericho Ditch on 9 May, 1959. I noted a bird on territory at an old shack in Swamp, 6-8 April, 1974.

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER, *Empidonax virescens*

Common breeding bird. Rather late spring migrant; several noted on 29 April, 1972. Sykes *et al.* noted 70 in Feeder Ditch-Portsmouth Ditch section on 30 May, 1963 between 0615 and 1430 hours. Sykes *et al.* noted two active nests on 2 June, 1962. Three birds were seen during 8 hours in Swamp on 19 September, 1971.

EASTERN WOOD PEWEE, *Contopus virens*

One of last breeding birds to arrive in Swamp in spring; several noted on 29 April, 1972. None had arrived in north Jericho Ditch section by 28 April, 1974. Sykes observed 24 along Feeder Ditch on 1 June, 1966. Only two noted in eight hours on 19 September, 1971.

TREE SWALLOW, *Iridoprocne bicolor*

An early and common spring migrant. Regularly noted during last half of March; 20 observed at Lake Drummond on 29 March, 1973. Paul DuMont noted 30 on 30 April, 1972. Many observed migrating on 19 September, 1971. Fisher (unpublished field notes) noted them on 10 October, 1895. A few winter nearby along the coast.

ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW, *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*

Six on 3 April, 1972 along Dismal Swamp Canal. Pair with newly fledged young along Dismal Swamp Canal observed by Danny Bystrak and me on 19 June, 1973.

BARN SWALLOW, *Hirundo rustica*

Common during spring and fall migration at Lake Drummond, Dismal Swamp Canal, and flying over Swamp. Earliest arrivals in area by third week in March. Nests under bridge near Cypress Chapel and under piers at cottages along shore of Lake Drummond.

PURPLE MARTIN, *Progne subis*

Common spring migrant; earliest arrivals appear in March. Approximately 50 noted on 1 April, 1971. Fisher (unpublished field notes) observed several at Lake Drummond on 1 June, 1895.

BLUE JAY, *Cyanocitta cristata*

Common at all seasons. Fewer were observed in heavy swamp forest than in cutover Atlantic white cedar areas just below Corapeake Ditch in spring of 1971. Nest under construction noted on 3 April, 1972.

COMMON CROW, *Corvus brachyrhynchos*

Common at all seasons. Large winter roost, including Fish Crows, estimated at 100,000 birds, was located in east section of Corapeake Ditch in the early 1960's.

FISH CROW, *Corvus ossifragus*

Common at all seasons. Four hundred counted in single flock, 18 December, 1972. Flock of 29 counted on 19 April, 1973; 200 estimated in flock going to roost in Swamp on 27 April, 1974. A bird observed building nest in Swamp, 24 April, 1971; fledglings observed elsewhere in Swamp, 3 June, 1971.

CAROLINA CHICKADEE, *Parus carolinensis*

Common at all seasons. Thirty-four between 1000 and 1400 hours on 16 January, 1969.

TUFTED TITMOUSE, *Parus bicolor*

Common at all seasons. One observed carrying nest material on 27 April, 1974.

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH, *Sitta carolinensis*

Fairly common at all seasons. Pair carrying nesting material, 11 April, 1969. Six observed along ½-mile transect in Jericho Ditch area, 12 June, 1969.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH, *Sitta canadensis*

Single bird observed, 29 April, 1972, in Atlantic white cedar forest.

BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH, *Sitta pusilla*

Occurs at all seasons; restricted to pines around edge and in pocosin section of Swamp.

BROWN CREEPER, *Certhia familiaris*

Fairly common late fall to early spring.

HOUSE WREN, *Troglodytes aedon*

Fairly common in spring and fall; uncommon in summer and winter. One seen on 1 May, 1968. Richard Rowlett and Paul DuMont noted two on 21 May, 1972. Common on 8 October, 1970. One noted on 15 November, 1968.

WINTER WREN, *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Common winter resident. One seen in spring as late as 19 April, 1973. Seven noted on 16 January, 1969.

CAROLINA WREN, *Thryothorus ludovicianus*

Present at all seasons. One of most abundant birds in Swamp; 31 noted in 6 hours, 27 April, 1974.

LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN, *Telmatodytes palustris*

A single bird noted along Jericho Ditch, 1 May, 1975.

MOCKINGBIRD, *Mimus polyglottos*

Fairly common at all seasons in cut-over sections and along roadside edge of swamp forest. Sykes *et al.* noted several in Feeder Ditch section, 2 June, 1962.

GRAY CATBIRD, *Dumetella carolinensis*

Present at all seasons; one of most common breeding and wintering birds of cut-over and pocosin areas. Fairly common breeding bird of more open sections of swamp forests; 18 noted in swamp forest, 26-28 April, 1974. Sykes saw 19 along Feeder Ditch on 1 June, 1966.

BROWN THRASHER, *Toxostoma rufum*

Common in some sections at all seasons; occurs more around swamp edges and in cut-over areas during breeding season. Two pairs seen in swamp forest along Jericho Ditch on 20 April, 1973. Sykes saw 11 on 1 June, 1966 along Feeder Ditch. Nine noted 16 January, 1969.

AMERICAN ROBIN, *Turdus migratorius*

Common except during late spring and summer when it is a rare breeder. Nesting noted in cut-over section along Corapeake Ditch, 3 April, 1972. Sykes noted eight on 1 June, 1966 along Feeder Ditch. On 21 January, 1970 at 0700 hours when the temperature was 13°F and ½-inch of snow was on the ground, I witnessed the exodus of an estimated one million robins from their roost in the Swamp's evergreen shrub-bog community. Throughout the day, thousands of robins were observed feeding on fruits of the gallberry or inkberry. The roost was located in the east section of Corapeake Ditch area.

WOOD THRUSH, *Hylocichla mustelina*

Common breeding bird in swamp forest. Occurs in Swamp from second week in April to early October. Sykes noted 53 along Feeder Ditch to mouth of Portsmouth Ditch, 1 June, 1966. Several heard singing in dense stands of Atlantic white cedar about ¼ mile south of Corapeake Ditch in June 1971; Wood Thrush and Blue Jay are the only breeding birds that I have noted consistently in such dense stands of white cedar. Several noted in swamp forest on 8 October, 1970. Fisher (unpublished field notes) reported them common in 1895 until about 12 October in Lake Drummond area.

HERMIT THRUSH, *Catharus guttatus*

Common winter resident, arriving by late October. Nine noted on 16 January, 1969. Two seen in spring as late as 26 April, 1974.

SWAINSON'S THRUSH, *Catharus ustulatus*

Fairly common spring and fall migrant. One noted on 4 May, 1974. C. E. Stevens, Jr. (1946), reported three on 16 May, 1946. Sykes reported one as late as 1 June, 1966. Fisher (unpublished field notes) reported them common, 6-22 October, 1895. I noted single birds on 3 and 8 October, 1970.

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH, *Catharus minimus*

Jonathan W. Daniel, Jr. (1902), collected two females of the *bicknelli* race on 21 May, 1902. Fisher (unpublished field notes) reported them as common, 6-22 October, 1895.

VEERY, *Catharus fuscescens*

Murray (1969) heard a singing bird in May 1932. Three noted 2 May, 1975 and two on 8 September, 1973.

EASTERN BLUEBIRD, *Sialia sialis*

Occasional in more open sections of Swamp. Fairly common in migration and in winter along edge of Swamp. A few breed. Five seen in one hour, 7 February, 1973. A pair seen along edge of Swamp, 19 April, 1973. Sykes saw one along the Feeder Ditch, 1 June, 1966.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER, *Poliptila caerulea*

Occurs during summer half of year. Common breeding bird. First arrivals in spring usually by last week in March. Completed nest noted as early as 8 April, 1974.

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET, *Regulus satrapa*

Common winter resident. Early arrivals in fall by mid October. Observed in spring as late as 19 April, 1973.

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET, *Regulus calendula*

Common winter resident. Observed in fall as early as 8 October, 1970. Seen in spring as late as 30 April, 1972 by Paul DuMont and party. One noted 2 May, 1975.

WATER PIPIT, *Anthus spinoletta*

One flying over Swamp on 13 November, 1973. One on 15 November, 1968 at Lake Drummond during low water period. An estimated 300 flying over Swamp on 15 March, 1975.

CEDAR WAXWING, *Bombycilla cedrorum*

Fairly common in fall, winter, and spring. Uncommon in summer. Fifteen noted on 4 May, 1974. Murray (1969) reported two pairs on 17 July, 1932.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE, *Lanius ludovicianus*

Occasional in logged-over Atlantic white cedar section of Swamp south of Corapeake Ditch and around edge of Swamp. One noted in logged-over section on 8 September, 1973.

STARLING, *Sturnus vulgaris*

Abundant in late fall, winter, and early spring in Dismal Swamp blackbird-starling roost. Occasional in Swamp in summer.

WHITE-EYED VIREO, *Vireo griseus*

Common from early April to mid September. Sykes noted 33 on 1 June, 1966 along Feeder Ditch to mouth of Portsmouth Ditch. Sykes *et al.* found nest with four newly hatched young on 2 June, 1962. Three noted on 19 September, 1971.

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO, *Vireo flavifrons*

Common breeding bird. Arrives in spring by second or third week in April. A few present in fall until at least 15 September.

SOLITARY VIREO, *Vireo solitarius*

Two records: 3 April, 1974 and 16 April, 1970.

RED-EYED VIREO, *Vireo olivaceus*

Abundant from mid April to early September. In 1974, one observed on 7 April and six on 8 April. One of five most abundant breeding birds in Swamp. Sykes noted 26 on 1 June, 1966 along Feeder Ditch to mouth of Portsmouth Ditch. I noted 48 in 6 hours, 27 April, 1974. One observed building nest on 4 May, 1974.

WARBLING VIREO, *Vireo gilvus*

Paul Bartsch (1901) included this species in a list of birds seen on two trips to the Swamp in early June 1899 and mid June 1897. Paul G. DuMont and party saw one on 30 April, 1972. W. W. Fogleman saw two on 27 April, 1974 (Scott and Cutler, 1974).

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER, *Mniotilta varia*

Common spring and fall migrant. Arrives by late March. Eight noted on 5 May, 1974 in 3 hours. Fisher (unpublished field notes) reported them as common in Lake Drummond area, 1-8 June, 1895. Observed in fall to 8 October, 1970.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER, *Protonotaria citrea*

One of the five most abundant breeding birds in the Swamp in the late 1960's. Arrives in spring by the first week in April. Fourteen noted along 1 mile of Jericho Ditch, 21 April, 1969, 30 along Jericho Ditch, 19 April, 1973, and 49 in Swamp on 27 April, 1974 in 6 hours. Sykes saw a bird building nest on 27 April, 1958. Only one noted in Swamp in 8 hours on 8 September, 1973, and none seen on 19 September, 1971.

SWAINSON'S WARBLER, *Limnothlypis swainsonii*

Fairly common from third week in April to first week in September. A few arrive by 15 April. Occurs in swamp hardwood forest with fairly heavy undergrowth, particularly of sweet pepperbush and smilax; also in cane. Twenty territorial males noted along 3 miles of roadside edge in northwest corner of Swamp, 1 May, 1969. Eight territorial males noted along 0.5-mile transect in the vicinity of the Virginia-North Carolina line (Corapeake Ditch), 20 April, 1958. Thirty-four noted in 6 hours on 27 April, 1974 in Swamp.

First reported in Swamp by A. K. Fisher (1895) on 2 June, 1895. As far as I can ascertain, it was 71 years later that the first active nest was found in the Swamp, on 16 June, 1966 (by the writer). Earliest record of nest building in Swamp is 23 April, 1969; this nest contained one egg on 1 May and four eggs on 4 May. Latest record of nesting is a nest with two young on 13 July, 1971. None of 11 nests that I located in the Swamp was parasitized by cowbirds. At least 13 Swainson's have been banded in the Swamp.

WORM-EATING WARBLER, *Helmitheros vermivorus*

Fairly common spring migrant. Uncommon breeder; may have been more common as breeding bird in years past, as Fisher (unpublished field notes) reported them as common in Lake Drummond area, 1-8 June, 1895. Several dates when I have observed them are as follows: two on 28 April, 1968, four on 28 April, 1974, one on 4 June, 1971, and two on 20 June, 1973.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER, *Vermivora chrysoptera*

W. F. Rountrey observed this species in the spring of 1958 (letter of 5 June, 1958 to F. R. Scott).

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER, *Vermivora pinus*

Common spring migrant. One of the earliest of the transient warblers to arrive in the Dismal; several observed on 20 April, 1969. Thirty noted in 100-acre tract, 28 April, 1968. Seven noted on 5 May, 1974 in 2 hours. By mid May most of them have passed through.

TENNESSEE WARBLER, *Vermivora peregrina*

Fairly common spring migrant. Two observed on 29 April, 1972, four on 2 May, 1969, one on 20 May, 1974, and one on 3 October, 1970.

NASHVILLE WARBLER, *Vermivora ruficapilla*

One noted by Paul G. DuMont and party on 30 April, 1972. One was noted on 27 April, 1974.

NORTHERN PARULA WARBLER, *Parula americana*

Common spring migrant; first spring arrivals appear by first of April. Common by 3 April, 1972. Sykes *et al.* reported 40 in Gates County, North Carolina, section of Swamp on 17 April, 1965. During migration, occurs in most forest types except pine; but during breeding season I have seen it mainly in cypress. Uncommon breeder. I heard only one during all day in Swamp, 3 June, 1971; only one in three days in Swamp, 18-20 June, 1973. Fisher (unpublished field notes) reported nest and eggs on 7 June, 1895. Common fall migrant. Eight observed on 8 October, 1970.

YELLOW WARBLER, *Dendroica petechia*

One observed on 1 May, 1968, one on 28 April, 1974, two on 29 April, 1972, and a pair on 3 June, 1971 along U. S. 158 ditch.

MAGNOLIA WARBLER, *Dendroica magnolia*

Paul DuMont and party noted one on 30 April, 1972. Single birds were observed on 5 May, 1974, 8 September, 1973, and 3 and 8 October, 1970.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER, *Dendroica caerulescens*

Common spring and fall migrant. Observed in spring by third week in April. Three noted on 28 April, 1974, six on 5 May, 1974 in 3 hours, and four on 3 October, 1970.

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER, *Dendroica coronata*

Abundant in winter half of year. Sykes *et al.* reported 150 plus in Gates County, North Carolina, section of Swamp on 17 April, 1968. Sixty were observed on 27 April, 1974 and several on 4 May, 1974.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN (WAYNE'S) WARBLER, *Dendroica virens waynei*

The breeding range of this geographic race or subspecies of the Black-throated Green Warbler is a narrow strip of outer Coastal Plain that extends from Charleston, South Carolina, to the Dismal Swamp and Norfolk region.

Wayne's Warbler was first observed in the Dismal Swamp, in the Carolina section, by Russell Richardson (1926) and H. G. Deignan on 20 June, 1926. J. J. Murray (1932) and W. B. McIlwaine, Jr., obtained the first breeding record when they observed adults feeding fledglings on the Virginia side of the Swamp, 24 May, 1932.

Wayne's Warbler is a fairly common breeding bird in the Swamp from the first week in April through June. First arrivals in the Swamp in 1973 were observed on 30 March; three were in the North Carolina section along U. S. 158 and one in the Virginia section along the north section of Jericho Ditch. Four were observed on 2 April and eight on 3 April, 1971. Paul Sykes reported 23 on the east side of the Swamp (Feeder Ditch-Portsmouth Ditch areas) on 1 June, 1966 and over 100 on 2 June, 1962.

This warbler is an early nester. W. F. Rountrey (letter of 31 May, 1953 to J. J. Murray, Sr.) found a nest on the east side of the Swamp on 4 April, 1953. A mated pair was noted on 6 April, 1974. A female was observed building a nest in a loblolly pine in the north Jericho Ditch section on 12 April, 1969. A female also was observed building a nest in an American holly in the North Carolina section of the Swamp on 17 April, 1970; on 29 April, it contained two eggs of the warbler and one of a Brown-headed Cowbird (Figures 5 and 6). Sykes *et al.* noted an adult feeding young in nest in an American holly in Jericho Ditch section, 9 May, 1959.



FIGURE 5. Nest and two eggs of Wayne's Warbler and one egg of cowbird. Nest is lined with fuzz from cinnamon fern stems. Dismal Swamp, 29 April, 1970.

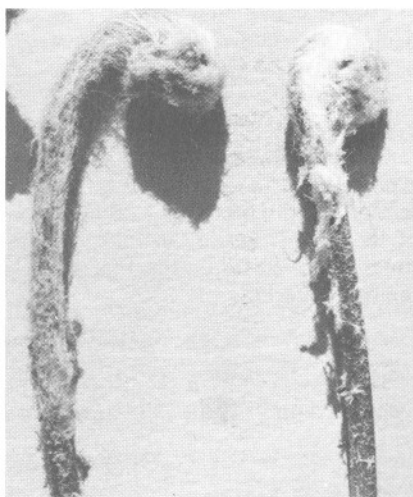


FIGURE 6. "Fiddleheads" of cinnamon fern showing fuzz used as lining in nest of Wayne's Warblers.

Wayne's Warblers are less evident in June as they sing less following the nesting period in April and May. Eight territorial males were seen along a 1-mile transect on 12 June, 1969 where 10 had been seen in April and May; two birds were seen in this same transect on 21 June. My latest observation was 1 July, 1971. A Black-throated Green Warbler seen on 18 September, 1971 may have been the northern form rather than the Wayne's subspecies.

CERULEAN WARBLER, *Dendroica cerulea*

An adult male seen by party of bird watchers led by R. L. Ake, P. G. DuMont, and D. L. Hughes in Jericho Ditch area on 26 April, 1975.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER, *Dendroica fusca*

One reported on 25 April, 1970 by Kathleen Klimkiewicz.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER, *Dendroica dominica*

Common breeding bird. Earliest arrivals in spring by mid March; common by last week in March. Nest building observed on 18 April, 1970 and 19 April, 1973.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER, *Dendroica pensylvanica*

One noted by Paul G. DuMont and party on 30 April, 1972.

BLACKPOLL WARBLER, *Dendroica striata*

Common spring migrant, with good numbers in some years by the last week in April. Ten observed on 1 May, 1968. Sykes *et al.* observed one as late as 30 May, 1963.

PINE WARBLER, *Dendroica pinus*

Common breeding bird in pine sections of Swamp. Uncommon winter resident. Three observed on 7 February, 1973; 15 noted on 15 March, 1975. Two observed on 13 November, 1973.

PRAIRIE WARBLER, *Dendroica discolor*

Common breeding bird. First arrivals in spring by first week in April (3 April, 1974); abundant by 6 April, 1974. Fifteen were noted along the north section of Jericho Ditch in 5 hours on 19 April, 1973. It is unusual to see some of these birds nesting in undergrowth of heavy swamp forest. They are sometimes observed feeding in tops of Atlantic white cedar at 50 feet during spring migration period.

PALM WARBLER, *Dendroica palmarum*

Two observed by R. T. Mitchell (personal communication) on 3 April, 1974. One noted on 7 April, 1974 and three on 15 November, 1968.

OVENBIRD, *Seiurus aurocapillus*

Common breeding bird. Arrives in spring by first week in April. Twelve noted in 1 hour along Jericho Ditch on 6 April and 38 in 6 hours in Swamp on 27 April, 1974. Sykes reported 37 on 1 June, 1966 along Feeder Ditch to mouth of Portsmouth Ditch. Most depart from the Swamp by 15 September.

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH, *Seiurus noveboracensis*

Fairly common spring and fall migrant. Single birds noted on 19 April, 1973 and 27 April, 1974. Three observed on 23 May, 1969 and two on 25 May, 1974. One of earliest of northern warblers to migrate southward; observed from the last week in August to the second week in October (three on 8 October, 1970).

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH, *Seiurus motacilla*

Common breeding bird. First spring arrivals usually by last week in March. Three observed on 29 March, 1973 and six on 2 April, 1971. Noted in fall as late as 8 October, 1970.

KENTUCKY WARBLER, *Oporornis formosus*

Rare breeding bird. Only two noted 29 April to 3 May, 1975. Single birds were noted on 28 April and 4 May, 1974 and 23 May, 1969. A pair seen on 29 April, 1972 were on same territory on 28 June. Sykes noted four along Feeder Ditch on 6 June, 1964 and one on 2 June, 1962.

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT, *Geothlypis trichas*

Common breeding bird. Earliest arrivals by first week in April. Ten noted on 8 October, 1970.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT, *Icteria virens*

Fairly common breeding bird in cut-over sections of Swamp, pocosins, and similar areas. Sykes noted eight on 1 June, 1966 along Feeder Ditch.

HOODED WARBLER, *Wilsonia citrina*

Common breeding bird, arriving by first week in April. Common on 6 April, 1974; 48 noted along Jericho Ditch on 27 April, 1974 and 10 along 1 mile of Jericho Ditch, 2 May, 1969. Only four noted all day on 19 September, 1971.

WILSON'S WARBLER, *Wilsonia pusilla*

One seen by Sykes on 1 June, 1966.

CANADA WARBLER, *Wilsonia canadensis*

Single birds noted on 23 May, 1969, 12 August, 1974 (C. E. Stevens—Scott and Cutler, 1975), and 8 September, 1973.

AMERICAN REDSTART, *Setophaga ruticilla*

Common breeding bird. A few arrive by end of first week in April (one on 7 April, 1974). Sykes reported 32 on 1 June, 1966. Most abundant warbler that I observed on 8 September, 1973 (32 noted). Three seen on 8 October, 1970.

BOBOLINK, *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*

Bobolinks occur in the Swamp during spring migration and mostly fly over it in fall migration. About the first of May, I usually see 50-100 in company with female Red-winged Blackbirds foraging for insects about the blossoms or catkins in the tops of tall oaks bordering the canal in the north section of Jericho Ditch. In late summer (8 September, 1973), a heavy flight (840 between 0800 and 0900 hours) southward passed over the Swamp throughout the day. Many migrated over the Swamp on 19 September, 1971; four were noted flying over, 8 October, 1970.

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD, *Agelaius phoeniceus*

Common in winter half of year. An estimated 15 million occupied the large blackbird roost in the Swamp in late December 1961. In late April and early May, females have been observed foraging for insects about the catkins of oaks

in the north section of Jericho Ditch. I have seen a few territorial males and females in the cut-over section in the east Corapeake Ditch area and along the U. S. 158 canal, indicating a small resident breeding population.

ORCHARD ORIOLE, *Icterus spurius*

Occasionally observed in cut-over areas or pocosins. First noted in spring in Swamp on 18 April, 1970 and 27 April, 1974. Pair noted in pocosin area on 1 June, 1970.

NORTHERN ORIOLE, *Icterus galbula*

Occasional during spring in large trees in heavy swamp forest, where they forage for insects among oak blossoms. The following records are from the north section of Jericho Ditch: one on 19 April, 1973, one on 29 April, 1972, and one on 1 May, 1968. Two noted along Washington Ditch on 8 September, 1973.

RUSTY BLACKBIRD, *Euphagus carolinus*

Common late fall to midspring. Two thousand counted in Swamp, 20 April, 1973. Sixty noted 3 May, 1975.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD, *Euphagus cyanocephalus*

Thirty-two noted on 15 November, 1968 in pig corral next to Swamp along U. S. Highway 158 in North Carolina.

COMMON GRACKLE, *Quiscalus quiscula*

Common at all seasons, reaching peak numbers in winter when several million occur in the Dismal Swamp area. A breeding bird of the Swamp and its border areas. Several observed building nests on 19 April, 1973. Three specimens that I collected at a nesting colony at the Swamp on 22 April, 1969 appeared to be typical of the Florida race (*Q.q. quiscula*).

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD, *Molothrus ater*

Occurs at all seasons. Common winter resident, becoming more common as a breeding bird. Bartsch (1901) did not list this species. W. F. Rountrey made the following notes regarding the increase in cowbirds in southeastern Virginia, in a letter dated 5 June, 1958 to F. R. Scott: "I am concerned over the great increase of these birds. In 1951 I did not record them in the nesting season. By 1953 a few were observed. This spring they are very common." During the breeding season in the 1960's, I seldom saw more than two or three a day in the Swamp. By the 1970's, they appeared to be getting more numerous. I found a Wayne's Warbler nest containing one cowbird egg on 29 April, 1970.

SCARLET TANAGER, *Piranga olivacea*

Uncommon during migration; rare breeding bird. One noted on 28 April, 1974 and two on 3 May, 1975. Sykes saw one along Jericho Ditch, 9 May, 1959. A pair had a nesting territory along the north end of Jericho Ditch in mixed swamp hardwood and hammock forest, 3 June to 1 July, 1971.

SUMMER TANAGER, *Piranga rubra*

Occurs in spring, summer, and fall. Several pairs noted during breeding season in cut-over section and edge of Swamp in the 1960's. Recent observations of single birds on following dates: 26 April, 1974, 29 April, 1972, 4 May, 1974, and 18 October, 1971. Pairs seen on 4 June and 1 July, 1971.

CARDINAL, *Cardinalis cardinalis*

Common at all seasons.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK, *Pheucticus ludovicianus*

Common spring and fall migrant. Several observed on 21 April, 1966 and 30 April, 1975. One noted on 5 May, 1974. Several on 19 September, 1971.

BLUE GROSBEAK, *Guiraca caerulea*

Fairly common in cut-over areas in summer half of year. Several observed in Corapeake Ditch area, 18 April, 1970 and 29 April, 1972. One observed along Hamburg Ditch on 8 October, 1970.

INDIGO BUNTING, *Passerina cyanea*

Fairly common breeding bird in open cut-over sections. Several noted along Corapeake Ditch in April 1972. Sykes noted 36 along the Feeder Ditch on 6 June, 1964. Several still present on 8 October, 1970.

EVENING GROSBEAK, *Hesperiphona vespertina*

Fairly common winter resident in the 1960's and early 1970's. Four seen on 21 April, 1966, two on 29 April, 1972, 62 on 2 May, 1975, and one on 30 May, 1975. Fourteen noted on 7 December, 1973 and 60 on 21 January, 1970.

PURPLE FINCH, *Carpodacus purpureus*

A winter resident that is more common than indicated by the following records: one noted on 16 January, 1969 and two on 13 November, 1973.

PINE SISKIN, *Spinus pinus*

Fairly common winter resident. Some arrive in fall by mid October. A flock containing an estimated 10,000 birds was observed feeding on seeds of Atlantic white cedar along the Virginia-North Carolina border in the Swamp on 21 January, 1970. Single birds noted on 7 and 8 April, 1974.

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH, *Spinus tristis*

Fairly common winter resident. Rare in Swamp during breeding season. Estimated 200 observed in Swamp on 8 April, 1974. A pair was seen in the Swamp on 12 July, 1971.

RED CROSSBILL, *Loxia curvirostra*

A single bird observed on 13 November, 1973.

RUFIOUS-SIDED TOWHEE, *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*

Fairly common at all seasons. Sykes noted 28 along the Feeder Ditch on 6 June, 1964. Seven noted in Swamp on 16 January, 1969.

SAVANNAH SPARROW, *Passerculus sandwichensis*

Occasional in winter along roads in cut-over area along east section of Corapeake Ditch. Several noted on 21 January, 1970.

DARK-EYED JUNCO, *Junco hyemalis*

Common winter resident. Nine noted along north section of Jericho Ditch on 16 January, 1969.

TREE SPARROW, *Spizella arborea*

Uncommon winter resident. Six noted along Washington Ditch, 18 December, 1972.

CHIPPING SPARROW, *Spizella passerina*

Occurs in some cut-over areas during summer half of year. Status as breeding bird not well known. Eight were observed in cut-over area along Corapeake Ditch on 29 March, 1973 and one in same area on 3 April, 1972. Richard Rowlett and Paul DuMont noted two on 21 May, 1972. Sykes observed two on 1 June, 1966 and three on 6 June, 1964 in Feeder Ditch area.

FIELD SPARROW, *Spizella pusilla*

Occurs in open sections of Swamp, particularly during migration. Sykes noted single birds in the Feeder Ditch area on 27 April, 1958, 9 May, 1959, and 1 June, 1966. Nine were noted along a roadside edge in the Swamp on 13 November, 1973.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW, *Zonotrichia leucophrys*

Keith Garrett noted one on 1 May, 1974. One seen on 17 November, 1960.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW, *Zonotrichia albicollis*

One of the most common winter residents. Observed in spring as late as 23 May, 1967. First noted in fall by writer on 8 October, 1970.

FOX SPARROW, *Passerella iliaca*

Fairly common winter resident. Noted in fall on 15 November, 1968. A total of 82 were observed on 16 January, 1969.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW, *Melospiza lincolni*

A single bird seen and heard singing for 10 minutes along Jericho Ditch, 1 May, 1975.

SWAMP SPARROW, *Melospiza georgiana*

Common winter resident. Noted in spring as late as last week in April.

SONG SPARROW, *Melospiza melodia*

Common winter resident. Breeding status unknown. Sykes noted one in Jericho Ditch section, 9 May, 1959. R. Rowlett and Paul DuMont noted two as late as 21 May, 1972.

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ARCTIC LOON AT ASSATEAGUE ISLAND, VIRGINIA, IN APRIL 1976

JACKSON M. ABBOTT

In the early morning of 3 April 1976 I was birding at the southern end of Assateague Island, Virginia. The tide was rising, and the northern end of Tom's Cove was full of water birds, including Common and Red-throated Loons, Horned Grebes, Double-crested Cormorants, and several species of ducks, gulls, and terns. After several stops to scan the birds near shore I halted at one place midway between the old Coast Guard station and the camp grounds on the eastern side of Tom's Cove. Here, where the cove shoreline comes up close to the sand road, I saw two loons about 25 yards apart and 100 yards

offshore. Through my 8 x 40 binoculars, one bird was an obvious Common Loon in nearly complete breeding plumage, whereas the other was much smaller and was still in winter plumage. I switched to a 20x telescope and studied the smaller loon for about 5 minutes before it dove. The bill was straight, moderately thick at the base, and was pale at the base with a blackish tip. The forehead, crown, nape, and back of the neck were dark brown which seemed to have a purplish sheen in the bright sunlight. The back, wings, and tail appeared black with no visible whitish spots. (This would make it a second- or third-year bird, since only a first year "juvenile" has white speckles on the back in winter.) The underparts were white. The eye was just inside the dark area on the top of the head; the line separating the dark upper parts and white lower parts of the head extended from the bill, just below the eye and ear coverts, down the sides of the neck to the shoulder.

For several minutes both loons were in the same field of vision and in bright sunlight so that all features were clear. I judged the smaller bird to be at least 6 inches shorter than the Common Loon, and its bill was noticeably sligher in thickness at the base, even considering that the bill should look smaller in proportion because of the overall smaller size of the bird. The small race of the Common Loon has a bill proportionately as thick at the base as the larger race. The bird was certainly not a Red-throated Loon, which has an upturned appearing bill and looks gray in all plumages. I am certain that this small loon was the Arctic Loon, *Gavia arctica*, several of which have been seen in recent years in the mid Atlantic region.

On 19 January 1971 Mrs. Marjorie Golze, Miss Josephine Walker, and Carl W. Carlson studied an Arctic Loon in the harbor at West Ocean City, Maryland, which was an immature in winter plumage (the upper parts were gray-brown). Again, on 3 April 1971 several observers (including the writer) saw a second- or third-year bird (the upper parts were black) in the inlet at Ocean City, Maryland, with Common and Red-throated Loons.

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A SIGHT RECORD OF THE BLACK-CAPPED PETREL OFF VIRGINIA

RICHARD A. ROWLETT

A black-capped Petrel, *Pterodroma hasitata*, was observed 111 km due east of Assateague Island, Virginia, 37°54'N, 73°54'W, on 7 September 1975 by 24 birders aboard the chartered cruiser, "Cap't Talbot."

I first spotted the bird from the windows of the bridge as it arced over the bow at eye level about 10 meters in front of us, then banked steeply from side to side and glided swiftly past the starboard side. It zigzagged back and forth across the wake several times, then wheeled on a towering arc and flew off to the south-southwest.

First impressions suggested a very swift, oddly marked Greater Shearwater, *Puffinus gravis*. The enormous immaculate white area at the base of the tail

and rump contrasted strikingly with the dark grayish brown mantle and black tail. The forehead was distinctly white, and a wide, white collar separated the mantle from the jet, glossy black cap or "pate" situated on the top of the crown. The wing linings were white with heavy black margins. A conspicuous dark, verticle shoulder patch was present on the sides of the breast. The black bill was short and stocky, similar in shape to that of a fulmar.

The bird was observed for about 45 seconds and compared directly with two Greater Shearwaters; it appeared slightly smaller, but perhaps a little more robust. The broad wings were noticeably bent at the wrist and resulted in the bird's mastery of the air currents with grace, speed, and control, surpassing that of the shearwaters.

The position was located about 7 km beyond the edge of the Continental Shelf in about 900 meters of water. A few small weed lines of Sargasso Weed, *Sargassum* sp., flying fish, and Portugese Men-of-war, *Physalia* sp., were observed. The water was distinctly blue, a characteristic of slope water in late summer which is the result of mixing Gulf Stream and shelf water.

The only previous record of the Black-capped Petrel from Virginia was a bird captured more than 380 km inland at Blacksburg, Montgomery County, on 30 August 1893 following "the great cyclone" (Smyth, E. A., Jr. "Capture of the Black-capped Petrel Inland in Virginia," *Auk*, 10:361-362, 1893).

A copy of my original field notes and sketches were submitted for the files of the VSO Records Committee.

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ICELAND GULL IN RICHMOND

C. R. BLEM

The Iceland Gull, *Larus glaucoides*, breeds in the Arctic region of the western Atlantic and regularly winters southward along the east coast of the United States as far south as New Jersey. It is occasionally seen along the Virginia coast but there are few records of this species at inland sites. On 24 January 1976 I was therefore surprised to find an Iceland Gull in second-year plumage in Byrd Park, in the western section of Richmond, Virginia. The bird was standing on the ice of a small pond and was in a mixed flock of more than 100 Herring and Ring-billed Gulls. The gull was less than 100 m away and was closely observed through a 20x spotting scope. I was first attracted by the bird's relatively small, all-black bill but soon noticed the absence of black in the wing-tips and its pink legs. The folded wings extended beyond the tip of the tail, and the bird was slightly smaller than nearby Herring Gulls. I observed the bird in flight as well as standing. About 14 members of the Virginia Commonwealth University ornithology class also saw the bird and agreed that the characters described above were clearly visible.

Several thousand gulls, mostly Ring-billed Gulls, winter in the Richmond area and make daily flights of several miles up and down the James River and to various ponds and landfills around the city. Presumably these birds

move inland from the coast early in the winter and return to the coast in late winter or early spring. The Iceland Gull may have moved inland with the other gulls and accompanied them on their rounds to feeding sites.

This appears to be the second record of this bird from the Richmond area Piedmont. The first was found at Swift Creek Reservoir, Chesterfield County, on 5 May 1975 (*American Birds*, 29:835, 1975).

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USE OF WOODPECKER FORAGING SITES BY OTHER SPECIES

RICHARD N. CONNER

Use of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, *Sphyrapicus varius*, sapsuckles by other species is common. Hummingbirds, warblers, Downy Woodpeckers, *Dendrocopos pubescens*, squirrels, and other animals have been noted to feed at sapsucker wells (Kilham, 1964; Lawrence, 1966; Foster and Tate, 1966). Examples of these interactions at foraging sites of other woodpeckers are rare. Various species are known to utilize food stores of Acorn, *Melanerpes formicivorus*, and Red-headed, *M. erythrocephalus*, woodpeckers (Kilham, 1959; MacRoberts, 1970).

On 9 November 1974 at 18:15 EST near Blacksburg, Virginia, I watched a Common Flicker, *Colaptes auratus*, dig and feed on ants in a patch of open ground. During the entire 15 minutes that the flicker foraged, a Blue Jay, *Cyanocitta cristata*, perched in a tree 5 m above the flicker on the edge of the clearing. Ten seconds after the flicker left, the Blue Jay flew down to the unearthed ant colony and pecked at the ants that were visible in the excavated earth. The jay then took several ants in its bill and anted for about 2 minutes by running its bill with the ants through its breast and wing feathers. I was unable to see if the Blue Jay ate the ants after it stopped anting.

In 1973 I observed several interactions between Pileated Woodpeckers, *Dryocopus pileatus*, and other birds. On the morning of 3 April while watching a Pileated Woodpecker feed on carpenter ants, *Camponotus* sp., from an excavation it had previously completed, I noticed a Starling, *Sturnus vulgaris*, watching the large woodpecker from 3 m away. After the woodpecker's departure, the Starling flew immediately to the excavation, picked up ants in its bill, and anted for 1 minute.

In January 1973 I saw on separate occasions a Downy and a Hairy Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos villosus*, fly to freshly deserted Pileated Woodpecker foraging excavations. Both times the Dendrocopine woodpeckers fed on "left over" carpenter ants that were moving about in the excavation. Lawrence (1966) reported that Hairy Woodpeckers were attracted to any excavation, often those of Pileated Woodpeckers.

These observations raise some interesting questions regarding the development of commensalism. On many occasions I have examined Pileated Wood-

pecker excavations after the birds have left to find injured and healthy ants in view and quite accessible to other birds. How long these ants would remain available for other birds would be difficult to say. Sapwells remain useful to other species long after the sapsucker has moved to another tree. Ants exposed by Pileated Woodpeckers would probably have to be located and consumed almost immediately after departure of the excavator. I never saw Downy or Hairy Woodpeckers or other species routinely follow Pileated Woodpeckers from one excavation to another. However, the possibility exists that some opportunistic species might develop regular use of this food resource in the future.

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BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER PARASITIZED BY A COWBIRD

BILL WILLIAMS

While camping at Hurricane Campground in the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area, Smyth County, Virginia, during a breeding-bird foray 18-22 June 1974, Bruce Schweitzer and I made observations of a female Blackburnian Warbler, *Dendroica fusca*, feeding a fledgling Brown-headed Cowbird, *Molothrus ater*.

The initial observation was made the afternoon of 18 June in a stand of white pine trees in which we had pitched our tent. Our attention was drawn by the rapid feeding activity of the female Blackburnian Warbler and seeing it deliver its findings to a large, gray fledgling that was perched 12 to 15 feet above the ground near the trunk of a white pine. The warbler would land 8 to 10 inches from the cowbird, and the fledgling would open its mouth, flutter its wings, and utter a low cheeping sound typical of many nesting passerines. The female warbler would then deliver the food item to the young

cowbird's open bill and exit quick'y, usually not venturing farther away than the outer branches of the tree in which the fledgling was perched. We timed the feedings for about 15 minutes, and they averaged one every minute and a half to two minutes.

We continued these observations daily during our time in camp and found the feeding intervals varied little over the next two days. The female was not observed to be gone any more than 4 minutes at a time when it would be out of our sight. At no time was a male Blackburnian Warbler observed in the feeding activities, which would continue until well after sunset and were underway when we left camp at sunrise.

Between feedings the fledgling cowbird generally remained motionless but was seen to fly from one tree to another especially when we approached to take photographs. The female warbler always flew directly to the fledgling even though the cowbird had changed its position radically from the location of prior feedings.

A nest was located in a white pine, and the young cowbird was at this nest during one series of feeding observations. This nest, however, was larger than we believed typical of a Blackburnian Warbler, being the size of a robin's nest. Whether or not it was the hatching place of the cowbird is only speculation. Since the young bird could fly, it could have come from a nest almost anywhere in the vicinity.

According to Herbert Friedman (*The Cowbirds—A Study in the Biology of Social Parasitism*, 1929, p. 245) the Blackburnian Warbler is "a very uncommon victim of the cowbird." A search of the literature revealed few documented accounts of Blackburnian Warblers being parasitized, though accounts of other warblers being victimized by cowbirds have been frequently recorded, most notably the Kirtland's Warbler, *Dendroica kirtlandii*.

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COMMON REDPOLLS AT CAPE CHARLES, VIRGINIA

PAUL G. DuMONT

At about noon on 28 December 1975, while participating in the Cape Charles, Virginia, Christmas bird count, I saw two Common Redpolls, *Carduelis flammea*, with a flock of 150 to 170 American Goldfinches in some low brush and feeding on the ground in some short weeds.

I was looking over a mixed flock of Field, White-crowned, White-throated, and Song Sparrows and Yellow-rumped and Palm Warblers at the time that were feeding in a weed edge about 10 feet wide and 2 to 10 inches high that stretched 125 feet or so along the back side of a plowed garden plot behind a house. This property was along Northampton County route 645 a half-mile south of the junction with route 644 and west of Cape Center. The flock of goldfinches flew by from the north high overhead, circled and came back, and blanketed a row of low saplings and vine-covered brush about 40 yards from the house. Several dry, rattle-like *chup-chup-chup-chup* calls were heard

among the goldfinch calls. The flock then flew over to the house yard and covered the low trees and vine-covered brush along the back edge of the weed strip. Then the birds seemed to fly down in waves to feed among the weeds, each wave seeming to stay about a half-minute or so. Throughout the feeding, the goldfinches (and redpolls) were quite competitive with the sparrows but were "bullied about" some by the warblers.

I saw the redpolls six or seven times off and on during the 5 minutes that the flock stayed in the area. There may have been more than two birds, but two is the most I saw at one time. All sightings of the redpolls suggested female birds—no pink wash on breast or forward flanks. They were goldfinch-sized, gray-brown above with some lighter streaks or feather edgings, whitish below with short, dark flank streakings, and had short tails. The foreheads down to the bases of the upper mandibles were blood-red. The bill colors were a mixture of straw and brown-black, and the bills were very stubby and were shorter than the bills of the goldfinches. The chins were black, and the lower back and upper rump areas were gray-and-white mixtures. (This was best seen several times as the birds flicked their wings while feeding.) My closest viewing of the redpolls was at about 25 feet (with 8x40 binoculars) when they were on the ground among the weeds. I seldom saw them while they were sitting in the vine-covered brush; my viewing angle was poor, and I chose to stand still rather than risk spooking the flock.

The goldfinches became jittery after about 5 minutes and flew back to the tree line they had first settled in. I heard the "rattles" again as they flew, but I couldn't pick out the redpolls in flight. After a minute or so at the more distant "perch," the whole flock took off heading east-southeast; again I heard the "rattles."

The only previous Delmarva Virginia redpoll records were at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, including a single bird on a Christmas count there in the early 1950's (*vide* F. R. Scott). There have also been a few records of this species at Craney Island, Portsmouth, Virginia, recently (*vide* R. L. Ake). Just after the presently reported observation, a Common Redpoll was seen on the Ocean City, Maryland, Christmas bird count on 29 December 1975 (*vide* C. S. Robbins).

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NEWS AND NOTES

COMPILED BY F. R. SCOTT

IN APPRECIATION. The publication of Brooke Meanley's Dismal Swamp paper in this issue has been assisted by a grant from the Cape Henry Audubon Society.

LOONS IN SUMMER. In recent years there have been a number of records of Common Loons in summer in Virginia along the coast or in Chesapeake Bay, and 1975 was no exception. Outstanding was a peak count of 10 counted during a boat trip in Tom's Cove and Assateague Channel near Chincoteague

on 6 July 1975 (L. K. Malone). Also of interest was a Red-throated Loon with one Common Loon in Burton's Bay, Accomack County, on 22 June 1975 (Bill Akers, T. F. Wieboldt, and Bill Williams). A Common Loon seen both flying and swimming in the James River below the I-95 bridge in Richmond on 22 June 1975 (F. R. Scott) was the first local summer record.

WOOD STORK IN SURRY COUNTY. On 24 May 1975 Zelda Silverman found an immature Wood Stork at Hog Island, Surry County, and quickly notified other area birders. On the following day the bird was seen by D. L. Hughes, R. L. Ake, and G. M. Williamson and on 26 May by P. G. DuMont and many others.

BLACK-NECKED STILT NESTING. The second breeding record of the Black-necked Stilt in Virginia was confirmed when R. L. Ake found a nest in mid May 1975 at Craney Island, Portsmouth, and saw the two downy young on 28 May. Others saw one or two of the adults in May and June. The only other breeding record of this species for the state was at Chincoteague in 1971 (*Raven*, 42: 44, 1971). Away from Craney Island, one was seen along the Chincoteague causeway on 28 September 1975 (P. G. DuMont *et al.*), apparently the latest fall record for this bird.

RUFFS IN 1975. Several Ruffs were reported in Virginia during 1975. There was only one spring report, a single bird at Locustville, Accomack County, on 28-29 March 1975 (M. A. Byrd, T. F. Wieboldt, and Bill Williams), but apparently three different birds visited Chincoteague Refuge during the summer. These were a very dark, almost black bird in breeding plumage on 1 July (L. K. Malone), one in winter plumage on 9 July (C. P. Wilds), and a female ("reeve") on 17 August (R. H. Peake, R. L. Ake, and others).

WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN RETURNS. Following the appearance of a White-winged Black Tern at Chincoteague Refuge in 1974 (*Raven*, 46: 71-72, 1975), another (or the same) bird appeared at the same locality on 10 July 1975 (L. K. Malone) and was seen later by many observers, including Bill Akers, M. A. Byrd, C. P. Wilds, and Bill Williams. It was last reported 27 August when D. F. and J. M. Abbott found this bird plus another of the same species in somewhat different plumage.

NESTING LONG-EARED OWLS. According to William S. Clark, three Long-eared Owl nests were found in Loudoun County, Virginia, in 1973. Nest No. 1, ½ mile south of Dulles Airport, was found in April by Ted Swem off route 606 in a scrub pine after a dead adult had been seen on the side of the road. Two young birds were in the nest, one of which was banded later in the month. The other young was presumed dead.

Nest No. 2 was found 4 April 1973 by Craig Koppie and Mark Causey midway between Arcola and Ashburn off route 645 and contained 5 eggs. Four young were banded on 2 May and all later fledged.

Nest No. 3 was located on Dulles Airport property in late April 1973 by W. S. Clark and others and contained 4 eggs. Four young were banded in the nest on 26 May, and the fledglings were watched well into July.

RED COCKADED WOODPECKER NEST. Several observers found adult Red-cockaded Woodpeckers feeding young in a nest near Wakefield, Sussex County, Virginia, in late spring 1975. D. L. Hughes watched 3 or 4 different adults feeding the young on 25 May, P. G. DuMont noted the activity on 26 May, and Brooke Meanley observed the feeding on 30 May and 1 June.

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 \$2.00 for junior members (students), \$5.00 for active members, \$7.50 for sustaining members, \$15.00 or more for contributing members, \$125.00 for life members, and \$9.00 for family members (limited to husband, wife, and their dependent children).

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VIRGINIA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS—1976-77 SEASON

F. R. SCOTT

Participation in Virginia's Christmas bird counts continued its relentless increase this year, though there are distinct signs of a topping out. Thirty-two counts were submitted this year, and a quick look at the tabulation will clearly show that the top limit of a tabular display in *The Raven* has just about been reached. This year a record 574 persons participated in the counts, though since many took part in two or more, there are actually 777 names listed as observers. Coverage also reached a new peak—barely—of 2663 party-hours, just 6 party-hours more than last year.

The total species list this year was 203 plus three identifiable subspecies or color phases, Blue Goose, Eurasian Green-winged Teal, and Ipswich Sparrow. Although below the peak of 220 species three years ago, this is still a respectable achievement. No new birds were recorded this season, and the cumulative list of all species seen on Christmas counts in the state remains at 273.

The 32 counts summarized here are the same as last year except that Danville and Gordonsville were added and Glade Spring dropped out. The Gordonsville count is a new one and very welcomed. Two additional state counts were submitted to *American Birds* but not *The Raven* (Northern Shenandoah Valley and Wachapreague), and five others that also will appear in *American Birds* overlap into Virginia. These are Crisfield, Point Lookout, and Seneca, Maryland; Washington, D. C.; and Cumberland Gap, Kentucky. To round out this summary, there are four counts appearing here that were not submitted to *American Birds*. These are Darlington Heights, Gordonsville, Kerr Reservoir, and Sweet Briar. As usual, this summary involves only the counts printed here.

Seven counts exceeded 100 species this year, including Kerr Reservoir with 110, only the second time a Piedmont count has gone over the 100 mark. Tops for the other regions were Cape Charles with 162 for the Coastal Plain and Roanoke with 85 for the area from the Blue Ridge westward. Coverage was also good with ten counts reaching or surpassing 100 party-hours. Weather was surprisingly good for the count period with little rain or falling snow and only a light snow cover on a few of the counts. However, temperatures were below normal for the late fall and early winter prior to the count period, and this undoubtedly contributed to the small numbers of late fall holdovers often recorded on the Christmas counts.

The count tabulation 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 being directly on the coast and 5 and 6 being on the western edge of Chesapeake Bay. Counts 10-17 were on the Piedmont, and 18-32 were from the Blue Ridge westward. Details on each count are given at the end of this summary.

Loons and grebes were locally common near the coast but were scarce inland everywhere but at Kerr Reservoir where the 21 Common Loons and 60 Horned Grebes were impressive. Horned Grebes were also found on five western counts, and Back Bay reported 5 Red-necked Grebes. Great Cormorants were found at Chincoteague and Little Creek, whereas the Double-crested Cormorant at Kerr Reservoir may be our only winter Piedmont

record. The 202 Great Blue Herons at Kerr may be a record count for the Piedmont for any time of year. Except for a Green Heron at Roanoke and Black-crowned Night Herons at Waynesboro and Kerr Reservoir, all other herons except Great Blues were confined to the coastal and Chesapeake Bay counts. Totals of these were good but not unusual except for 13 Cattle Egrets at Back Bay.

Mute Swans increased to 41 at Chincoteague, and some readers may be surprised to see 2889 Canada Geese far up the Piedmont at Gordonsville. This population has been known for some time, but this may be the first time it has received attention in *The Raven*. Also on the Gordonsville count was a White-fronted Goose, well studied since the previous October, and possibly only the second Christmas count record for the state, the first being in 1958 at Charlottesville. Snow Geese were in excellent numbers at Chincoteague and Back Bay, and one was seen far inland at Lexington. Other waterfowl were in reasonably good numbers. Some highlights included 1250 Mallards at Blacksburg, 1787 Northern Shovelers at Chincoteague, 1483 Canvasbacks at Mathews and 2 at Tazewell, Oldsquaws far inland at Big Flat and Lexington, and 196 Hooded Mergansers at Kerr Reservoir.

Sharp-shinned Hawks were in spectacular numbers on the Eastern Shore with 31 and 56, respectively, at Chincoteague and Cape Charles. There was some evidence that southward migration of this species was still underway here. Unusual hawk records included a Goshawk at Brooke, a Broad-wing at Roanoke, a Rough-leg at Lexington, 2 Golden Eagles at Tazewell, an Osprey at Kerr, and a Merlin at Warren. Kerr came up with 4 Virginia Rails, a Black Rail was seen at Little Creek, and four Coastal Plain counts reported Soras, including one at Hopewell for the first time. The 219 American Coots at Roanoke may have been a record total for southwest Virginia. Coastal shorebirds were in reasonably good numbers. There were 103 American Woodcock at Cape Charles, close to a record total, but the usual Marbled Godwits were missing from this count, though 23 were recorded at Chincoteague. Other significant records were 2 Spotted Sandpipers and 43 Purples at Newport News and 44 Common Snipe at Lynchburg.

Both Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers were found at Back Bay, and there were numerous interesting gulls recorded. A Glaucous Gull at Cape Charles seems to be only the fourth record for a Virginia Christmas count, the previous ones being in 1959, 1967, and last year, the last at Kerr Reservoir. Another fourth count record were 2 Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Little Creek. Other more or less rare gulls were Icelanders at Back Bay and Fort Belvoir and a Little Gull at Cape Charles. The 32,000 Ring-bills at Little Creek may have been a record Virginia count, and Bonaparte's Gulls were quite numerous near the coast, being seen on seven Coastal Plain counts with a peak of 1500 at Little Creek. Farther inland, except for exceptional numbers at Kerr Reservoir, there were gull reports only from Lexington (2 Herrings and 50 Ring-bills) and Bristol (5 Ring-bills). Back Bay had the only state records of Common and Royal Terns and also reported a Razorbill, the first state count record in over 20 years.

Lynchburg made a determined effort to census owls during their count and came up with a record 220 Screech and 19 Great Horned Owls. Neither Long-eared nor Saw-whet Owls were recorded this year, and Short-eared were

found only on the Eastern Shore. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers continued their long-term increase in the state, and 434 were counted this year versus 276 in 1975 and 324 in 1974. The 205 recorded on the 1973 counts were considered at that time to be a peak population. The Black-billed Magpie at Roanoke was undoubtedly the same resident bird also recorded here on the 1973 and 1975 counts. Common Ravens increased this year to 124 on 15 counts from 99 on 16 counts last year. The significance of this is open to question, however, since this bird tends to roost in sizable flocks that may or may not appear for the count participants. There was a sizable "echo" flight of Black-capped Chickadees into the Shenandoah Valley and parts of the Blue Ridge though well below the numbers of last year. This season even Lynchburg reported one, and one was seen as far to the southwest as Tazewell.

Red-breasted Nuthatches were much less common than last year but were still locally common with peak numbers of 65 at Lynchburg and 60 at Roanoke. Carolina Wrens declined to 3045 from the record 3546 in 1975, though the coldest of the winter weather did not occur until after the count period. Kerr Reservoir again had marsh wrens, 1 Long-bill and 2 Short-bills, but all others were confined to coastal areas. Eastern Bluebirds increased to 1612 from 1306 last year. This works out to 61 per 100 party-hours, the best showing for this species since 1959 (see *Raven*, 34: 7 and 12, 1963, and subsequent annual Christmas count summaries). The single Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Chincoteague was the only one reported, but this was the sixth consecutive year of this bird's appearance on a state Christmas count. After enjoying peak winter populations for the last two years, both kinglets, though still common, showed significant drops in numbers. For the Golden-crown, the figures were 1723 this year versus 2664 in 1975 (65 per 100 party-hours versus 100) for a decline of 35%. For the Ruby-crown, there were 1079 this year versus 2108 in 1975 (41 per 100 party-hours versus 79) for a drop of 48%. Interestingly, several Piedmont and mountain counts showed *increases* in one or the other of the two species from last year.

Kerr Reservoir's 1267 Cedar Waxwings may have been a record for the Piedmont—or even the whole state. Solitary Vireos were noted at Little Creek, Lynchburg, and Roanoke, a Black-and-white Warbler was seen at Back Bay, and Danville's Common Yellowthroat was the only report west of the Coastal Plain. Dickcissels were observed at Kerr Reservoir and Augusta County, and the northern finches were only in small numbers, though Red Crossbills were found on seven counts but totaled only 19 birds. As in recent years a few Savannah and Vesper Sparrows were seen well inland, even in the Southwest; for a real shock, note the record 439 Savannahs at Kerr Reservoir. Field Sparrows seemed in unusually high numbers, as they were last year, and peak counts included 1135 at Kerr Reservoir and 510 at Fincastle. Lapland Longspurs were reported at Chincoteague and Kerr Reservoir, and the latter count had the only inland report of Snow Buntings.

Table 1 (following 8 pages). The 1976-77 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. Gordonville	11. Charlottesville	12. Warren	13. Darlington Heights	14. Kerr Reservoir
Date	12/28	12/27	12/31	12/29	12/18	1/2	12/18	12/30	1/2	12/27	1/2	12/19	12/20	12/26
Common Loon	136	26	1	71	...	21	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Red-throated Loon	14	5	1	311	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Red-necked Grebe	...	1	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Horned Grebe	1003	101	22	601	468	57	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
Pied-billed Grebe	104	48	66	118	51	15	3	1	...	...	...	3	1	44
Gannet	...	63	33	457	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Great Cormorant	1*	...	2*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Double-crested Cormorant	2	4	1	2	3	...	...	...	1*	...	...	...	...	1*
Great Blue Heron	95	190	280	77	52	52	41	56	165	...	8	7	3	202
Green Heron	...	1*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Little Blue Heron	15	9	1	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cattle Egret	...	...	...	12*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Great Egret	44	6	94	51	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Snowy Egret	25	27	...	25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Louisiana Heron	43	37	1	4	2	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Black-crowned Night Heron	59	81	42	22	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1*
American Bittern	8	6	2	1	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Glossy Ibis	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mute Swan	41	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whistling Swan	759	476	28	5260	4	459	3	60	...	13	...	4	...	...
Canada Goose	3035	3424	170	1200	4	337	12,000	700	303	2889	159	97	...	209
Brant	13,350	7801	4	...	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
White-fronted Goose	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1*	...	...	...	...
Snow Goose	21,779	339	82	28,500	...	...	26	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Snow Goose (blue phase)	21	1	...	2	...	...	275	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mallard	1888	1685	832	1170	224	304	4372	170	595	428	380	288	8	479
Black Duck	6947	1016	251	813	40	105	3389	140	432	91	205	25	1	591
Gadwall	605	294	10	10,200	17	11	17	...	...	...	4	2	...	39
Pintail	1293	90	7	715	...	1	827	...	...	...	2	...	...	79
Green-winged Teal	575	167	275	307	23	...	7	...	18	...	1	14	...	131
Green-winged (Burr.) Teal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1*	...	...
Blue-winged Teal	...	5	...	2	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
American Wigeon	446	184	148	9500	797	5	120	2	1	3	1	19	...	213
Northern Shoveler	1787	92	17	202	...	...	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wood Duck	1	7	11	11	13	...	414	...	1	...	...	...	...	8
Redhead	225	4	6	83	38	243	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Ring-necked Duck	33	106	5	45	16	...	70	...	11	19	15	9	5	34
Canvasback	35	138	123	285	595	1483	...	4	19	7	...	2	...	51
Greater Scaup	14	51	33	1	2	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lesser Scaup	13	81	25	41	257	553	31	29	6	2	...	8	8	19
Scaup sp.	14	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
Common Goldeneye	318	147	47	2	601	593	...	106	5	318	...	...	...	9
Bufflehead	682	2079	244	35	353	773	27	18	32	...	2	3	...	40
Oldsquaw	1253	236	9	99	194	100	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
White-winged Scoter	132	16	27	49	6	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Surf Scoter	436	3919	23	25	83	66	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Black Scoter	78	254	12	25	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scoter sp.	26	8000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nuddy Duck	240	50	219	317	803	1607	14	24	36	...	1	...	...	7
Hooded Merganser	149	219	88	53	...	3	35	4	...	...	14	9	2	196
Common Merganser	4	2	51	...	...	2	104	22	105	...	...	...	...	26
Red-breasted Merganser	220	439	54	1270	5	27	...	3	...	...	...	1	...	3*
Turkey Vulture	180	300	2	69	14	27	12	20	5	36	156	120	21	34
Black Vulture	14	18	...	9	...	...	7	14	...	20	130	20	2	31
Oshawk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1*	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sharp-shinned Hawk	31	56	4	16	5	5	5	2	2	1	2	1	...	5
Cooper's Hawk	5	4	...	4	...	1	4	1	2	...	...	1	...	3
Red-tailed Hawk	31	47	18	21	5	4	32	7	32	12	24	15	1	22
Red-shouldered Hawk	6	7	4	18	2	4	3	6	16	1	6	2	2	4
Broad-winged Hawk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

[illegible]

[illegible][illegible]

	1. Chincoteague	2. Cape Charles	3. Little Creek	4. Back Bay	5. Newport News	6. Patuxent	7. Hopewell	8. Brooke	9. Fort Belvoir	10. Gordonsville	11. Charlottesville	12. Warren	13. Darlington Heights	14. Kerr Reservoir
Date	12/28	12/27	12/31	12/29	12/18	1/2	12/18	12/30	1/2	12/27	1/2	12/19	12/20	12/26
Mourning Dove	357	1335	606	254	665	435	320	350	305	75	548	365	190	388
Barn Owl	3	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Screech Owl	22	20	4	8	...	...	...	...	1	...	5	7	4	5
Great Horned Owl	16	8	4	5	...	...	1	2	6	...	7	2	...	7
Barred Owl	...	...	2	4	1*	...	6	1	3	...	1	2	2	16
Short-eared Owl	8	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Belted Kingfisher	64	51	46	35	45	43	17	10	21	17	17	18	8	31
Common Flicker	274	424	248	177	119	95	91	28	95	16	56	54	22	78
Pileated Woodpecker	6	1	22	18	5	3	9	5	31	4	39	21	5	4
Red-bellied Woodpecker	53	39	67	55	8	36	47	50	157	22	83	50	20	30
Red-headed Woodpecker	1	2	2	...	...	11	2	2	1	2	...	...	1	10
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	10	8	7	7	5	6	30	7	32	8	40	21	5	18
Hairy Woodpecker	11	11	8	7	3	5	8	4	21	4	11	9	4	3
Downy Woodpecker	44	47	45	54	10	31	47	21	149	13	96	82	13	14
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Eastern Phoebe	15	13	...	1	...	4	4	...	...	2	5	4	1	12
Horned Lark	48	154	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	26	...	15	9	9
Tree Swallow	19	16	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Blue Jay	156	56	176	190	97	141	107	110	353	59	235	148	178	252
Black-billed Magpie	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Common Raven	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	...	...	...
Common Crow	4696	109	393	270	491	528	153	250	743	180	959	601	202	534
Fish Crow	729	5	25	32	9	34	...	9	62	...	7	...	...	...
Black-capped Chickadee	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Carolina Chickadee	236	247	208	168	147	114	205	60	645	32	335	198	72	111
Tufted Titmouse	56	21	50	39	57	21	50	40	397	11	110	53	27	30
White-breasted Nuthatch	...	1	10	6	1	...	11	4	48	10	43	36	2	9
Red-breasted Nuthatch	12	6	1	...	3	...	2	1	6	20	3	4	16	16
Brown-headed Nuthatch	99	30	14	33	5	26	...	...	...	...	...	...	29	29
Brown Creeper	19	8	30	10	14	10	11	5	35	2	14	16	3	11
House Wren	4	11	10	27	...	1	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
Winter Wren	23	25	11	14	3	17	9	2	15	1	19	24	11	16
Carolina Wren	186	277	131	138	65	113	123	50	261	14	164	126	36	123
Long-billed Marsh Wren	19	31	3	42	6	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1*
Short-billed Marsh Wren	11	19	1	22	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2*
Mockingbird	91	171	93	86	155	170	97	52	231	39	191	92	41	67
Gray Catbird	38	20	6	43	5	13	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	1
Brown Thrasher	33	13	11	27	12	34	7	...	2	1	...	...	...	15
American Robin	411	1910	4050	2148	44	409	104	40	32	189	243	200	519	460
Wood Thrush	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hermit Thrush	44	59	12	23	8	42	9	12	54	1	18	10	3	14
Eastern Bluebird	80	15	5	27	18	194	53	27	22	19	60	48	59	108
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Golden-crowned Kinglet	79	58	77	103	4	22	30	9	150	31	239	127	27	58
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	30	78	108	101	23	43	61	8	34	5	34	25	6	56
Water Pipit	363	861	186	247	...	...	105	...	...	...	...	...	110	79
Cedar Waxwing	22	113	330	69	58	312	52	36	105	167	25	89	528	1267
Loggerhead Shrike	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	3	11	6	10	14
Starling	1874	10,168	3300	1544	1546	1226	2649	900	1335	1643	1464	1288	822	1172
Solitary Vireo	...	...	1*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Black-and-white Warbler	...	...	...	1*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Orange-crowned Warbler	1	5	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Yellow-rumped Warbler	11,956	7896	1100	11,600	1636	2416	2072	50	173	149	127	115	38	161
Pine Warbler	11	7	29	10	3	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Palm Warbler	6	83	3	5	8	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Common Yellowthroat	18	6	3	31	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Yellow-breasted Chat	...	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
House Sparrow	199	438	187	174	698	108	154	100	139	59	91	69	162	97
Eastern Meadowlark	610	526	134	450	130	324	92	73	8	47	55	180	78	816
Red-winged Blackbird	2959	5734	1200	7800	1747	272	962	1820	392	5	171	158	72	2842

15. Sweet Briar	16. Lynchburg	17. Danville	18. Shenandoah Park	19. Big Flat	20. Rockingham Co.	21. Augusta Co.	22. Ayresboro	23. Lexington	24. Peaks of Otter	25. Clifton Forge	26. Fincastle	27. Roanoke	28. Blacksburg	29. Tazewell	30. Bristol	31. Nickelsville	32. Wise Co.
1/1	12/18	12/26	12/19	12/31	12/18	12/18	12/27	12/31	12/21	12/26	12/19	12/18	12/23	12/18	1/2	12/30	12/2
23	621	201	581	...	146	187	518	174	4	29	617	859	117	82	74	29	3
...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...
...	220	...	1	2	1	6	4	4	...	6	29	38	4	13	1	3	6
...	19	1	5	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	8	...	3	1	1	...	3
...	2	...	2	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	2	...	...	1
...
1	25	3	22	2	17	15	9	12	1	4	...	...	12	11	...	7	3
8	115	40	17	2	3	3	2	20	8	...	41	72	10	1	1	4	3
4	50	1	19	15	5	9	11	10	1	5	14	25	10	1	3	5	4
15	114	20	12	11	9	8	13	22	3	1	24	18	7	5	2	7	2
...
...	18	5	1*	...	2	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	4*	...
12	73	15	4	8	5	3	9	10	7	5	29	42	6	...	...	1	1
2	16	5	7	8	3	2	5	5	3	2	8	14	7	9	1	3	5
17	119	13	65	25	28	34	38	29	13	29	51	65	60	64	6	13	33
...
...	33	2	2	1	...	...	4	4	3	1	4	7	2	1	1	1	2
...	24	25	103	...	8	34	240	...	...	...	73	5	332	...	...	...	...
...
39	376	124	181	12	46	200	163	135	5	116	20	259	115	43	39	76	119
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1*	...	...	...	...	...
...	1	5	...	33	21	2	5	8	...	8	9	11	4	6	...	...	...
50	942	280	720	42	270	788	2115	765	20	289	752	327	386	183	35	129	269
...	...	...	1	...	17	95	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	1*	...	9	...	62	...	...	12	13*	5	11*	24*	6	1	...	...	...
44	639	172	227	130	86	196	180	160	9	133	239	278	210	158	21	38	145
...
32	282	69	127	48	85	78	102	77	10	60	86	130	121	117	20	47	118
10	43	12	45	14	23	30	30	25	5	11	20	51	39	46	5	10	41
1	65	5	6	3	4	...	6	7	2	10	22	60	7	5	...	3	7
...	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4	33	5	6	6	4	5	2	4	...	...	10	19	14	2	...	2	7
...	2*	1*	1*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1*	...	...	...	...	...
...	35	6	9	10	2	...	2	2	3	10	10	11	9	3	1	3	4
15	306	56	68	18	35	37	30	51	17	66	172	131	88	70	2	13	63
...
...
31	201	66	136	3	82	119	89	94	4	27	70	202	67	8	15	14	10
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1*	...	...	...	...	...
1	8	5	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	5	1	...	2	1	3
205	171	132	146	138	10	3	389	27,422*	45	92	323	272	1	7	99	15	23
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1*	...	...	...	...
...	1	60	8	3	8	1	...	7	3	6	23	17	41	...	1	...	13
11	216	23	22	3	...	5	26	21	33	27	161	66	51	9	...	21	52
...
1	181	28	55	42	24	25	32	54	5	40	64	70	52	22	...	2	12
17	180	29	16	3	12	8	17	11	2	15	43	79	21	1	...	...	3
...
...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
7	378	44	36	8	17	...	...	...	42	...	198	87	2	...	...	12	6
...	9	2	7	...	3	4	6	1	...	2	8	4	1	...	...	4	3
130	17,009	3382	3548	17	3182	54,952	12,841	2622	763	505	3862	4743	3084	1623	322	499	414
...	1*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3862	4743	3084	1623	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2*	...	...	...	...	...
...
16	81	5	35	...	3	16	24	82	...	1	68	28	20	...	...	12	1
...	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
...	1*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...
20	397	139	666	...	517	388	552	108	35	54	320	279	249	419	25	92	330
46	218	79	57	...	73	124	38	8	3	69	238	52	64	112	8	13	6
...	575	17	153	7	27	10,650	280	...	...	19	127	8	...	1	152	...	...

	1. Chincoteague	2. Cape Charles	3. Little Creek	4. Back Bay	5. Newport News	6. Mathews	7. Hopewell	8. Brooke	9. Fort Belvoir	10. Gordonsville	11. Charlottesville	12. Warren	13. Darlington Heights	14. Kerr Reservoir
Date	12/28	12/27	12/31	12/29	12/18	1/2	12/18	12/30	1/2	12/27	1/2	12/19	12/20	12/26
Northern Oriole	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rusty Blackbird	34	61	128	160	15	6	...	17	78	...	...	23	1	14
Boat-tailed Grackle	555	1900	35	230	2	250	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Common Grackle	10,187	1269	5000	595	143	259	42	2000	22	4	11	11	24	9
Brown-headed Cowbird	22	762	1	627	312	4	42	...	24	...	15	30	3	13
Blackbird sp.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cardinal	281	512	230	151	134	299	307	165	706	92	494	354	165	230
Dickcissel	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1*
Evening Grosbeak	...	1	2	1	...	...	4	2	85	6	10	5	...	...
Purple Finch	39	21	65	35	9	23	45	4	80	20	72	62	19	36
House Finch	13	18	39	...	1	3	10	20	19	144	56	44	120	...
Pine Siskin	...	...	2	29	...	...	5	14	14	...	...	...	...	...
American Goldfinch	190	499	205	189	55	112	98	170	549	5	168	162	94	383
Red Crossbill	1	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Rufous-sided Towhee	124	55	75	72	58	83	58	15	25	2	17	16	10	87
Savannah Sparrow	251	412	130	226	10	60	23	...	3	...	2	...	12	439
Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow	1	3	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sharp-tailed Sparrow	13	34	27	9	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Seaside Sparrow	4	29	5	...	6	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Vesper Sparrow	7	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2*	...	...	3
Dark-eyed Junco	357	230	452	236	261	772	341	900	1435	307	655	629	187	1154
Tree Sparrow	3	3	1	1	...	1*	1	27	28	3	27	1	...	11
Chipping Sparrow	1	7	...	4	6	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	4
Field Sparrow	285	309	221	120	59	107	64	140	179	157	299	105	38	1135
White-crowned Sparrow	9	24	32	12	...	4	27	...	...	10	20	224	9	45
White-throated Sparrow	1035	2463	1018	781	300	821	1704	520	1448	118	1214	928	321	716
Fox Sparrow	20	28	12	40	3	...	...	1	1	2	4	2	...	12
Lincoln's Sparrow	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Swamp Sparrow	411	701	144	462	27	37	88	27	118	2	53	35	14	747
Song Sparrow	483	1095	320	277	188	332	305	150	394	39	346	309	65	789
Lapland Longspur	2*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1*
Snow Bunting	5	...	...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1*
Total Species	156	162	142	150	113	114	98	83	93	69	80	86	67	110
Total Individuals	120,820	105,825	66,713	118,307	20,435	19,863	34,715	11,481	14,701	7409	10,427	7942	4464	26,937
Total Party-hours	187	220	135	136	56	92	78	63	160	34	128	95	33	83
Number of Observers	47	51	27	30	31	39	30	12	57	11	23	15	11	17

	15. Sweet Briar	16. Lynchburg	17. Denville	18. Shenandoah Park	19. Big Flat	20. Rockingham Co.	21. Augusta Co.	22. Waynesboro	23. Lexington	24. Peaks of Otter	25. Clifton Forge	26. Fincastle	27. Roanoke	28. Blacksburg	29. Fawcett	30. Bristol	31. Nickelsville	32. Wise Co.
	1/1	12/18	12/26	12/19	12/31	12/18	12/18	12/27	12/31	12/21	12/26	12/19	12/18	12/23	12/18	1/2	12/30	12/23
...	...	...	...	50	...	5	1011	...	41	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...
...	5140	4	1	...	10,000	65,183	17	1	...	26	46	6	1	2	1207	...	...	...
...	117	...	170	...	578	5099	958	...	...	9	33	4	17	1	60	1	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	43,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
74	528	109	310	36	120	213	177	293	37	129	260	304	240	164	31	98	125	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	1*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	7	1	...	...	12	24	...	...	1	2	7	...	...	11	...	...
33	135	44	46	22	20	16	157	55	1	19	156	52	24	13	15	20	28	...
4	84	36	...	...	70	15	37	...	...	...	33	118	14	...	45	...	...	...
...	...	...	22	...	...	1	...	...	...	15	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	3
17	345	50	190	7	94	149	82	150	10	39	125	145	487	73	7	36	42	...
...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9	97	38	1	...	3	2	1	9	...	30	24	36	10	12	18	20	43	...
...	17	...	2	...	...	...	6	...	...	1	3	1	...	13	...	...	...	...
...
...
...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
120	920	444	757	171	173	277	245	495	...	331	649	367	407	257	41	153	284	...
...	7	...	24	...	25	2	7	8	1	16	32	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1*	10*	9*	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	150	26	42	1	3	9	66	61	55	189	510	121	233	74	1	38	99	...
21	11	...	241	...	241	73	91	46	...	...	137	97	88	1	11	67	...	...
300	1299	338	505	109	232	134	197	426	107	172	465	761	304	77	112	48	125	...
...	6	4	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	2	1	3	3	6	...
...
...	22	43	6	...	3	...	...	2	...	17	12	4	3	7*	...	...	5	...
9	261	100	106	6	29	25	39	77	29	76	146	483	157	142	40	78	171	...
...
...
46	92	69	83	46	73	64	72	78	39	65	84	85	82	71	53	57	57	...
1425	34,228	7423	11,005	1013	17,660	183,889	20,365	34,231	1310	2885	11,837	13,822	10,278	4094	2766	1751	2784	...
17	163	54	109	29	51	64	71	58	20	27	70	151	100	68	19	33	59	...
8	43	16	35	3	27	24	28	28	6	10	21	40	33	19	10	9	16	...

1. CHINCOTEAGUE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE (all points within a 15-mile diameter, center 2 miles N of center of Chincoteague, as described 1972; elevation 0 to 85 ft.; mainland woodland 18%, farmland 16%, salt marshes 16%, sheltered bays 15%, insular pine woodland 14%, fresh-water marshes and impoundments 6%, scrub pine and myrtle thickets 5%, sand flats and beaches 4%, dunes 3%, residential 3%).—Dec. 28; 5 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mostly cloudy; temp. 35° to 45°F.; wind SW to S, 0-15 m.p.h.; fresh water partly frozen; salt water open. Forty-seven observers in 23 parties. Total party-hours, 187 (153 on foot, 28 by car, 6 by boat); total party-miles, 517 (141 on foot, 358 by car, 18 by boat). Observers: David, Jackson, and Robert Abbott, Henry Armistead, Tom Arter, Ken Bass, Marc Breslav, Corky Collins, Charles Cremeans, Betty and Herbert Cutler, John and Thelma Dalmas, Gus Daniels, Paul and Philip DuMont, Chris Foster, Peter Frank, C. F. Hills, Frances James, Brian Keelan, Fran Kobetic, Larry Malone, Ed Marshall, Elwood Martin, N. C. Middleton, Beth and Robert Patterson, Dwight and Richard Peake, Charles Perry, Charles and Susan Pettengill, Peter Pyle, Grace Russell, William Russell, F. R. Scott (compiler), Al and Betsy Sharrett, Paul Smith, Jr., Randy Stadler, Paul Sykes, Jr., John Terborgh, J. S. and S. L. Thornhill, C. R. Vaughn, Claudia Wilds. The Great Cormorant was seen by David Abbott, and Richard Peake saw the Sora and the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Both Lapland Longspurs were seen and heard calling by David Abbott, and Thelma Dalmas also saw one of them.

2. CAPE CHARLES (all points within a 15-mile diameter, center 1.5 miles SE of Capeville P.O., as described 1972; elevation 0 to 65 ft.; habitat coverage as described 1975).—Dec. 27; 4:30 a.m. to 7:15 p.m. Mostly clear; temp. 30° to 40°F.; wind W, 10-30 m.p.h.; fresh water partly open; salt water open. Fifty-one observers in 10-27 parties. Total party-hours, 220 (177 on foot, 33 by car, 10 by boat); total party-miles, 475 (127 on foot, 308 by car, 40 by boat). Observers: David, Jackson, and Robert Abbott, Barbara Allison, Harry Armistead (compiler), Martin Brazeau, Arthur and Sallie Brown, Mitchell Byrd, Mike Connly, Charles Cremeans, Betty and Herbert Cutler, Gus Daniels, Doug Davis, Frank and Louise Deis, Paul and Philip DuMont, Charles Hacker, Edmund and Harry LeGrand, Ed Marshall, Elwood Martin, Norwood Middleton, Gary Miller, David Naddor, Dwight and Richard Peake, Carl Perry, Charles and Susan Pettengill, Peter Pyle, John Robinson, Grace Russell, Will Russell, Fred Scott, Dorothy Silsby, W. P. Smith, Randy Stadler, Charles Swift, Paul Sykes, John Terborgh, S. L. and J. S. Thornhill, Margaret Toth, Charles Vaughn, Claudia Wilds, Bill Williams, Gary Williamson, Townley Wolfe. The Green Heron was reported by Richard Peake, the Glaucous Gull by Will Russell, and the immature Little Gull by Wilds. As in some previous years, the editor changed the pheasants reported from Ring-necked to Japanese Green Pheasants, the form released in this area some years ago.

3. LITTLE CREEK (all points within a 15-mile diameter, center 3.8 miles NE of Kempsville in Virginia Beach, as described 1972; elevation 0 to 35 ft.; habitat coverage as described 1974).—Dec. 31; 5:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Overcast with light rain in a.m., mostly clear in p.m.; temp. 29° to 48°F.; wind NNW, 5-45 m.p.h.; fresh water partly frozen. Twenty-seven observers in 12 parties. Total party-hours, 135 (115 on foot, 20 by car); total party-miles, 607 (62 on foot, 545 by car). Observers: Bob Anderson, Shearin Anderson, Carvel Blair, Floy Burford, Doug and Dwight Davis, Chris Foster, Gisela Grimm, Virginia Hank, David Hughes, Edythe James, Dorothy and Sydney Mitchell, Emily Moore, Francis Moore, Dwight and Richard Peake, W. F. Rountrey, Don Schwab, Dorothy Silsby, Paul Sykes, Jr. (compiler), Margaret Toth, Peter and Robert Tripician, Bill Webster, Gary Williamson, Townley Wolfe (Cape Henry Audubon Society and guests). The two Great Cormorants, one adult and one immature, were seen by Sykes, and the Black Rail was carefully observed at close range by Rountrey, who also found the

Solitary Vireo. Of the two adult Lesser Black-backed Gulls, one was seen by Sykes and the second by Foster and Hughes. The latter bird had been seen regularly in the area for the previous month.

4. BACK BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE (all points within a 15-mile diameter, center 1.5 miles E of Back Bay, as described 1972; elevation 0 to 20 ft.; habitat coverage as described 1974).—Dec. 29; 5 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Mostly cloudy with intermittent light rain in a.m., partly cloudy in p.m.; temp. 32° to 49°F.; wind NNE-NNW, 5-15 m.p.h.; fresh and salt water open. Thirty observers in 13 parties. Total party-hours, 136 (111 on foot, 23 by car, 2 by boat); total party-miles, 596 (75 on foot, 514 by car, 7 by boat). Observers: Bob Anderson, Floy Burford, Doug Davis, Charles Gibson, Gisela Grimm, Virginia Hank, Lilla Hind, David Hughes, Kent Ihrman, Katherine Laupp, Karla and Palmer Lawler, Edmund and Harry LeGrand, Dorothy Margolin, Don Messersmith, Emily Moore, Francis Moore, Claudia Nero, Dwight and Richard Peake, William Portlock, W. F. Rountrey, Don Schwab, Dorothy Silsby, Paul Sykes, Jr. (compiler), Robert Tripician, Romey Waterfield, Audrey Whitlock, Gary Williamson (Cape Henry Audubon Society and guests). The Cattle Egrets were noted in fields by three different parties. Harry LeGrand observed one of the Pomarine Jaegers and Sykes the other two, whereas Anderson found the Parasitic Jaegers. Sykes observed the second-year Iceland Gull, while he, Anderson, and Schwab saw the Common Terns, all in the company of Forster's Terns. The Razorbill, apparently an immature, was studied independently by Anderson and Messersmith, and the Burford party reported the Black-and-white Warbler.

5. NEWPORT NEWS (all points within a 15-mile diameter, bounded by Chesapeake Bay, Hampton Roads, James River, Grafton, as described 1972; habitat coverage as described 1972).—Dec. 18; 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Clear; temp. 30° to 46°F.; wind N, 5-10 m.p.h.; all water open. Thirty-one observers in 7 parties. Total party-hours, 56 (36 on foot, 20 by car); total party-miles, 321 (35 on foot, 286 by car). Observers: E. and H. Bell, M. Byrd, B. Crowder, J. Dillon, B. Frazelle, P. Frohring, M. Gorey, J. Greaves, M. Gwyn, C. and S. Hacker, J. Hernandez, B. Hodges, J. Lewis, D. Lundt, E. Machen, D. and S. Mitchell, A. and M. Rawls, D. Silsby, D. Smith, R. Smith, S. Smith, W. P. Smith (compiler), E. Stalnaker, N. Sturm, S. Sturm, B. Wass, B. Williams. The Spotted Sandpipers were found by S. Mitchell and the Barred Owl by A. Rawls and Frazelle.

6. MATHEWS (all points within a 15-mile diameter, center 0.5 mile E of Beaverlett P. O., as described 1972; elevation 0 to 17 ft.; habitat coverage as described 1972).—Jan. 2; 6 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Clear; temp. 22° to 28° F.; wind SW-NW, 5-19 m.p.h.; ground bare; fresh water frozen; salt water partly open. Thirty-nine observers, 35 in 10 parties, 4 at feeders. Total party-hours, 92 (56 on foot, 36 by car) plus 4 at feeders; total party-miles, 384 (56 on foot, 328 by car). In area count week but not seen count day: Black Scoter, *Spotted Sandpiper*, Evening Grosbeak. Observers: Jay Andrews, Ronald Belton, Andy Brown, Jeff Brown, Pat Carey, Bland Crowder, Holland Diggs, Isota Epes, Gary Gaston, Peggy Gill, Mark Gorey, Jim Greaves, Mark Gwynn, Betty Ann Hodges, Clare Jones, Eddie Matheson, Maynard Nichols, Margaret O'Bryan, Brantley and Richard Peacock, Carey Peet, Mary Pulley (compiler), Betsy Roszell, Dave Roszell, Bill Slate, Chris and Jack Sheridan, Jerri and Warren Smith, S. L. and J. S. Thornhill, Helen Walker, Barry, Gerry, Lorna, and Marvin Wass, Laura and Jim Watson, Elizabeth Wilkins. The Semipalmated Plover was seen by Gwynn and Barry Wass and the Tree Sparrow by Richard Peacock. The Spotted Sandpiper was studied carefully on Jan. 4 by Pulley.

7. HOPEWELL (all points within a 15-mile diameter, center Curles Neck, as described 1972; elevation 0 to 165 ft.; woodland 38%, farmland 33%, marshes and river shore 12%, brushy fields 7%, residential 5%, wooded swamp 5%).—Dec. 18;

5:45 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Clear; temp. 24° to 52°F.; wind W, 0-8 m.p.h.; ground bare, water open. Thirty observers, 29 in 8 parties, 1 at feeder. Total party-hours, 78 (59 on foot, 13 by car, 6 by boat); total party-miles, 300 (43 on foot, 237 by car, 20 by boat). Observers: Mary Arginteanu, R. R. Belton, C. R. Blem, Steve Bricker, Jan Coleman, Robert Conklin, Charles Dillard, Mr. and Mrs. John Dillard, Wavell Fogleman, Betsy and Chris Foster, William Gutzke, David Hughes, Steve Hulburt, Fred Jones, Melanie Kellam, Dee Lapeyre, Mike Miller, Paul Murphy, Margaret O'Bryan, Harold Olson, David Roszell, F. R. Scott (compiler), Mike Shelor, William Slate, II, Glen Smith, Warren Smith, Thomas Thorpe, Townley Wolfe (Richmond Audubon Society). The King Rail was found by Bricker and Coleman, and Hughes flushed the Sora.

8. BROOKE (all points within a 15-mile diameter, center on road 3 miles ESE of Brooke, as described 1972; elevation 0 to 230 ft.; tidal water 20%, fields 18%, deciduous woods 16%, mixed forest edge 15%, marsh 12%, hedgerows 9%, pine woods 7%, deciduous swamp 2%, slash 1%).—Dec. 30; 6 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Mostly clear; temp. 6° to 32°F.; wind SW, 0-15 m.p.h.; 1 to 2 in. snow on ground; most water frozen. Twelve observers in 9 parties. Total party-hours, 63 (52 on foot, 11 by car); total party-miles, 106 (23 on foot, 73 by car). Observers: Roy Bailey, A. A. Baker, L. D. Bonham, R. G. Luedke, E. T. McKnight (compiler), T. B. Nolan, J. C. Reed, E. M. Risley, D. B. Stewart, David Weber, D. R. Wiesnet, D. R. Wones. The Goshawk was identified by Wones and the Rough-legged Hawk by Stewart.

9. FORT BELVOIR (all points within a 15-mile diameter, center on Pohick Church, as described 1974; elevation 0 to 410 ft.; habitat coverage as described 1976).—Jan. 2; 6 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Partly cloudy to overcast; temp. 18° to 40°F.; wind NW, 0-5 m.p.h.; water partly frozen. Fifty-seven observers in 23 parties. Total party-hours, 160 (141 on foot, 19 by car); total party-miles, 352 (125 on foot, 227 by car). Observers: Jackson Abbott (compiler), Robert Abbott, Richard Antonette, Henry Bielstein, Pat Boyd, Martin Brandwein, Bill Clark, Alice and Paris Coleman, Charles Cremeans, George Daniels, Paul and Phil DuMont, Owen Fang, Joseph Flakne, Evan Hannay, Pat Harmon, Marcia and Robert Hider, Kerrie Kirkpatrick, Larry Kline, Paul and Tim Opler, Art and Lois Pieper, E. F. Revinus, Roberta Ross, Frank Schaff, Napier Shelton, Edgar Smith, Ron Staley, Clark and Paul Tefft, Leonard Teuber, Bronson Tweedy, Allen and Virginia Valpey, David Weber, George and Marion Weickhardt, Donald and Mary Weisman, Claudia Wilds, Josephine Wood, Steve Wunderly, and 12 additional observers not listed by name. Wilds saw the cormorant and the Iceland Gull, and the King Rail was heard calling by Cremeans.

10. GORDONSVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter, center Gordonsville; woodland 30%, farmland 30%, cultivated fields 20%, ponds 15%, feeders 5%).—Dec. 27; 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mostly clear; temp. 24° to 32°F.; wind NNW, 5-15 m.p.h. Eleven observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours, 34 (17.5 on foot, 16.5 by car); total party-miles, 158 (22 on foot, 136 by car). Observers: J. B. Bazuin, Jr., Susan Bromm, Ann Brush, Ann Chester, Mr. and Mrs. Don Chester, Helen Goldstick (compiler), Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Mites, Sue Ridd, Sara Thomas. The White-fronted Goose was studied by Bazuin and Thomas. Three Blue-winged Teal were removed from the count because of a lack of details.

11. CHARLOTTESVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter, center near Ivy; elevation 300 to 1100 ft.; habitat coverage as described 1972).—Jan. 2; 4:30 a.m. to 6:15 p.m. Clear; temp. 14° to 40°F.; wind SW, 0-5 m.p.h.; ground bare; water partly open. Twenty-three observers in 14 parties. Total party-hours, 128 (116 on foot, 12 by car); total party-miles, 349 (124 on foot, 225 by car). Observers: Amoret and Robert Barbee, Cricket Barlow, John Bazuin, Ali, Bruce, and Pring

Davenport, Francis Fife, Allen Hale, Tom Huntley, Boo Johnson, Ken Lawless, Nelson Lewis, Leslie Marburger, Peter Mehring, Robert Merkel, Katherine Michie, Angelica Miller, Sue Ridd, Eileen Stephens, Charles Stevens (compiler), Sarah Thomas, Tom Wieboldt. The Vesper Sparrows were identified by Stevens.

12. WARREN (all points within a 15-mile diameter, center near Keene; elevation 260 to 1800 ft.; habitat coverage as described 1972).—Dec. 19; 5:15 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Partly cloudy; temp. 25° to 57°F.; wind, none; ground bare; water partly open. Fifteen observers in 10 parties. Total party-hours, 95 (84 on foot, 11 by car); total party-miles, 234 (101 on foot, 133 by car). Observers: Robert Barbee, Mike Britten, Bruce Davenport, Dusty Gardner, Allen Hale, Len Lawless, Peter Mehring, Robert Merkel, Charles Stevens (compiler), Jeanne van Gemert-Lucy, Homer and Jamie Waits, Fred and Lina Whiteside, Tom Wieboldt. The Eurasian Green-winged Teal, a male and a first record for Albemarle Co., was seen by Merkel and the Merlin by Lawless.

13. DARLINGTON HEIGHTS (all points within a 15-mile diameter, center Darlington Heights P. O.).—Dec. 20; 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Clear in early a.m., becoming overcast and rainy by 10 a.m.; temp. 38° to 58°F.; wind, 0-10 m.p.h.; ground bare; water open. Eleven observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours, 33 (15 on foot, 18 by car); total party-miles, 199 (14 on foot, 185 by car). Observers: Horace Coleman, Vera Copple (compiler), Bill Dickenson, Edith and Hall Driskill, Paul McQuarry, Gene Moore, Myriam Moore, Dan Puckette, Kathy Rice, Bobby Schammerhorn.

14. JOHN H. KERR RESERVOIR (all points within a 15-mile diameter, center E end of Kerr Dam, as described 1975; lakes, ponds, and river 25%, coniferous woodland 22%, fields and pastures 20%, open marsh 15%, deciduous woodland 12%, town and wooded residential 4%, swamp and wooded marsh 2%).—Dec. 26; 3:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Partly cloudy; temp. 35° to 47°F.; no wind; ground bare; water open. Seventeen observers in 10 parties. Total party-hours, 83 (60 on foot, 16 by car, 7 by boat); total party-miles, 376 (43 on foot, 326 by car, 7 by boat). In area count week but not seen on count day: House Finch. Observers: Thomas Beach, Mike Boatwright, Angelo Capparella, Robin Carter, Ray Chandler, Jim Coman, John and Thelma Dalmas, Charlie Eastman, Keith Fielder (cocompiler), Merrill Lynch, Paul McQuarry (cocompiler), Norwood Middleton, Bill Opengari, John Pancake, Bill and Margaret Wagner. Fielder saw the cormorant and longspur, and Boatwright and Chandler identified the night heron and both marsh wrens. The Red-breasted Mergansers were found by the Wagners, McQuarry noted the Osprey, and the Virginia Rails were recorded by three parties. The Dickcissel was found by Fielder and others, the Chipping Sparrows by two parties, and the Snow Bunting by Fielder and McQuarry.

15. SWEET BRIAR (all points within a 3-mile diameter, center Sweet Briar College, as described 1972).—Jan. 1; 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Clear; temp. 10° to 21°F.; wind, 10-15 m.p.h.; ground bare; ponds mostly frozen. Eight observers, 6 in 3 parties, 2 at feeders. Total party-hours, 17 (on foot) plus 4 at feeders; total party-miles, 15 (12 on foot, 3 by car). In area count week but not seen count day: Red-tailed Hawk, Great Horned Owl. Observers: Mary Blackwell, Jeanette Boone, Mary Coffey, Ernest Edwards, Kay Macdonald, Wyatt Murphy, Gertrude Prior (compiler), Harriet Rogers.

16. LYNCHBURG (all points within a 15-mile diameter, center Lynchburg College, as described 1972; elevation 480 to 1336 ft.; habitat coverage as described 1972).—Dec. 18; 12:01 a.m. to 9 p.m. Clear; temp. 33° to 53°F.; wind NW, 1-7 m.p.h.; ground bare; water open. Forty-three observers, 39 in 17 parties, 4 at feeders. Total party-hours, 163 (116 on foot, 47 by car) plus 5 at feeders; total party-miles, 610 (82 on foot, 528 by car). In count area count week but not seen count day: Gray Catbird, Evening Grosbeak. Observers: Tom Beach, Mike Boatwright, Glenn

and Sue Burroughs, James Carter, Robin Carter, Ray Chandler, Mary Coffey, John and Thelma Dalmas, Virginia Delaney, Audree Dodd, Myrtle and Tom Drumheller, Carlie Eastman, Mrs. R. D. Elliott, Keith Fielder, Volney Ford, Frank Hannenkrat, Ellen Hatch, Peter Henderson, Ed and Patty Kane, Mr. and Mrs. Victor Kehrer, Nate Lavinder, Mary Lerner, Kay Macdonald, Paul McQuarry, Gene Moore, Myriam Moore (compiler), Wyatt Murphy, Elsa Pilger, Gertrude Prior, Dan Puckette, Katherine Rice, Joan and Richard Ricketts, Rosalie Rosser, Bob Schamerhorn, Robert Shirey, M. B. Tillotson, James Williams (Lynchburg Bird Club and guests). The Black-capped Chickadee was reported by Boatwright and Chandler and the House Wrens, one each, by Fielder and Hanenkrat. McQuarry identified the Solitary Vireo and Fielder the Palm Warbler.

17. DANVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter, center Ballou Park, as described 1972; elevation 405 to 800 ft.; habitat coverage as described 1972).—Dec. 26; 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Partly cloudy; temp. 22° to 41°F.; wind NW, 5-20 m.p.h.; ground bare; water open. Sixteen observers in 7 parties. Total party-hours, 54 (38 on foot, 16 by car); total party-miles, 287 (45 on foot, 242 by car). In area count week but not seen count day: Lesser Scaup, Screech Owl, White-crowned Sparrow. Observers: Scott Atkins, Patricia and Russell Brachman, Carol Sue and Edward Burroughs, Mary Connor, Fenton Day, Joanne Eli, Donna Householder, Marsie Nufer, Frances Peirce, Mary, Nultie, Penultima, and Plumer Wiseman (compiler), Gordon Woody. The House Wren was recorded by Day.

18. SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK-LURAY (all points within a 15-mile diameter, center Hershberger Hill, as described 1972; fields and pastures 36%, deciduous woods 30%, coniferous woods 14%, rivers and reservoirs 14%, residential areas 6%).—Dec. 19; 4 a.m. to 8 p.m. Partly cloudy; temp. 25° to 59°F.; wind WSW, 0-15 m.p.h.; up to 0.5 in. snow on ground; water partly open. Thirty-five observers, 33 in 13 parties, 2 at feeders. Total party-hours, 109 (59 on foot, 43 by car, 7 by canoe) plus 4 at feeders; total party-miles, 529 (47 on foot, 470 by car, 12 by canoe). Observers: Clark Baker, John Bazuin, Richard Brown, Anne Bullen, Janice Bursey, Dennis Carter (compiler), Ben Cunningham, Gwynn Evans, Jack Frady, Becky and Jim Griffin, Dee Houston, Henry and Kathleen Hunt, Cliff Hupp, Don Jenkins, Marianne Jones, Helen Keyhoe, Darwin and Eileen Lambert, Carol McNulty, Bob and Pat Momich, Charles Newton, Karen Newton, Lynn Overman, Kelly Ramsey, Sue Ridd, Bruce Rodgers, Nevella Rothgeb, Ray Schaffner, Moot Sedwick, Napier Shelton, Rob Simpson, Sarah Thomas (Shenandoah National History Association and friends). The House Wren was identified by the Lamberts.

19. BIG FLAT MOUNTAIN (all points within a 15-mile diameter, center Pasture Fence Mountain; elevation 800 to 3300 ft.; habitat coverage as described 1972).—Dec. 31; 6:45 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mostly clear; temp. 18° to 28°F.; wind W, 10-30 m.p.h.; up to 1 in. snow on ground; water partly open. Three observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours, 29 (28 on foot, 1 by car); total party-miles, 88 (47 on foot, 41 by car). Observers: Robert Merkel, Charles Stevens (compiler), Tom Wieboldt.

20. ROCKINGHAM COUNTY (all points within a 15-mile diameter, center Ottobine, as described 1972; elevation 1160 to 3200 ft.; habitat coverage as described 1974).—Dec. 18; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Clear; temp. 24° to 42°F.; no wind; ground bare; water partly open. Twenty-seven observers in 7 parties. Total party-hours, 51 (23 on foot, 28 by car); total party-miles, 339 (31 on foot, 308 by car). In area count week but not seen count day: Ring-necked Pheasant. Observers: Becky and Cindy Bailey, Chris Bolgiano, Mable Brunk, Marjorie Burkholder, Larry Carpenter, Max Carpenter (compiler), Phillip and Susie Cosminsky, Pauline Council, Robert Eggleston, Kathleen Finnegan, Betty and Bruce Hedrick, Hollen Helbert, Harry Jopson, Clair Mellinger, Homer Mumaw, Peter and Tom Rapp, Wilsene Scott, Randall Shank, Dick, Mary, and Richard Smith, Donna Triplett, Charles Ziegenfuss. One of the Red-shouldered Hawks was seen by Jopson, Larry Carpenter, and Council and the other by Helbert, Mellinger, and the Rapps.

21. AUGUSTA COUNTY (all points within a 15-mile diameter, center intersection routes 780 and 781, as described 1972; elevation 1060 to 1960 ft.; open fields 45%, woodland 25%, residential 20%, parks 5%, ponds and streams 5%).—Dec. 18; 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Clear; temp. 20° to 55°F.; wind SSW, 0-5 m.p.h.; water partly open. Twenty-four observers, 21 in 8 parties, 3 at feeders. Total party-hours, 64 (28 on foot, 36 by car) plus 6 at feeders; total party-miles, 356 (26 on foot, 330 by car). In area count week but not seen count day; Brown Thrasher. Observers: Helen Angier, Brad, Paul, and Thomas Cabe, Paul Coleman, Denise and Joel Day, James Gum, John and Mozelle Henkel, Josephine King, John Kiser, Si and YuLee Lerner, Carroll Lisle, Corinne Lunt, John Mehner (compiler), Anne and Fields Moss, Isabel Obenschain, Julie Russell, Mae Shank, Ruth Snyder, Georgia Vance. The Dickcissel, seen on the count by Mrs. Lunt, has been in the area since Dec. 15 and was still present Jan. 6.

22. WAYNESBORO (all points within a 15-mile diameter, center Sherando, as described 1971; elevation 714 to 3600 ft.; woodland 45%, open fields 30%, ponds, reservoirs, and streams 20%, residential 5%).—Dec. 27; 7:15 a.m. to 9 p.m. Mostly clear; temp. 17° to 35°F.; wind NW-SW, 0-20 m.p.h.; 0.5 to 1.5 in. snow cover on ground; water partly open. Twenty-eight observers, 24 in 9 parties, 4 at feeders. Total party-hours, 71 (42 on foot, 29 by car) plus 7 at feeders; total party-miles, 367 (41.5 on foot, 325.5 by car). Observers: Isabel Bosserman, Brad, Linda, Pat, Paul, and Tom Cabe, Ann Craig, Joel Day, Virginia Driver, James Gum, Allen Hale, Hilda Hartman, Betty Hausrath, Stanley Heatwole Mozelle Henkel, Si and YuLee Lerner, Betty Loyd, Jean Mehler, Arthur Mizzi, Isabel Obenschain, Julie Russell, Grant Simmons, Ruth Snyder (compiler), Sam Snyder, C. E. Stevens, Barbara Vigour, Rupert Vine.

23. LEXINGTON (all points within a 15-mile diameter, center Big Spring Pond, as described 1975; elevation 900 to 1800 ft.; brush and old fields 40%, deciduous wood 16%, lakes and ponds 12%, riverbottom 12%, coniferous woods 10%, pastures and open fields 5%, residential 5%).—Dec. 31; 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. Clear; temp. 19° to 36°F.; wind NW, 10-25 m.p.h.; 0-1 in. snow on ground; water partly open. Twenty-eight observers, 25 in 10 parties, 3 at feeders. Total party-hours, 58 (40 on foot, 18 by car) plus 2 at feeders; total party-miles, 256 (43 on foot, 213 by car). In area count week but not seen count day: Marsh Hawk, Turkey, Great Horned Owl, Rusty Blackbird, House Finch, Fox Sparrow. Observers: Ken Bradford, Myra Brush, Ben Clark, Greg Davis, Jim Davis, Fenton Day, Fred Hadsell, James Hartley, Marjie Hartley, Jill Huntley, Royster Lyle, Paula Markham, Norwood Middleton, Marguerite Moger, Gene Moore, Myriam Moore, John Pancake, Bob Paxton (co-compiler), Ann Roberts, Bobby Schamerhorn, Virginia Shaver, George Tolley (co-compiler), Ed Turner, Polly Turner, George Whitney, Richard Wilson, Chris Wise, Joshua Womeldorf. The Snow Goose, which had been in the area since October, was seen by Womeldorf and others, and the Oldsquaws were identified by Pancake, Middleton, and Paxton. The Rough-legged Hawk, a dark-phase bird, was noted by Lyle and the Davises and verified by Paxton the next day. The high count of American Robins was mostly due to a flight apparently heading into a roost at dusk and was estimated by Tolley and Day. Polly Turner identified the Vesper Sparrow.

24. PEAKS OF OTTER (all points within a 15-mile diameter, center Visitor Center, as described 1972; elevation 1500 to 3950 ft.; woods 80%, fields 10%, conifers 8%, streams and ponds 2%).—Dec. 21; 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Clear; temp. 11° to 18°F.; wind N, 25-35 m.p.h.; water mostly open. Six observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours, 20 (12 on foot, 8 by car); total party-miles, 58 (12 on foot, 46 by car). Observers: Garst Bishop, Robin Carter, Almon English (compiler), Barry Kinzie, Paul McQuarry, Katherine Rice. The Black-capped Chickadees were seen and heard, mostly in comparison with Carolinas, by Kinzie and McQuarry.

25. CLIFTON FORGE (all points within a 15-mile diameter, center intersection rts. 60 and 42; elevation 800 to 2000 ft.; habitat coverage as described 1976).—Dec. 26; 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. Partly cloudy with light snow in p.m.; temp. 26° to 36°F.; wind WSW, 5-20 m.p.h.; 0.5 to 2 in. snow on ground; water partly open. Ten observers, 7 in 5 parties, 3 at feeders. Total party-hours, 27 (19.5 on foot, 7.5 by car) plus 5 at feeders; total party-miles, 133 (20 on foot, 113 by car). In area count week but not seen count day: Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture, Common Flicker, Brown Creeper. Observers: Virginia Farrar, Ed Kinser, Rowena LeHew, Allen LeHew (compiler), Billy Martin, Mildred Reynolds, Jim Shires, Ed and Rita Walters, Louise Williams. A Wood Thrush and a Blackburnian Warbler were omitted for lack of details. There were also no details on the Chipping Sparrow or the remarkable count of Pine Warblers.

26. FINCASTLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter, center N of Fincastle near intersection rts. 220 and 679; elevation 950 to 2000 ft.; habitat coverage as described 1976).—Dec. 19; 4 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mostly clear; temp. 30° to 60°F.; wind variable, 4 m.p.h.; ground bare; water partly open. Twenty-one observers, 19 in 10 parties, 2 at feeders. Total party-hours, 70 (44 on foot, 26 by car) plus 6 at feeders; total party-miles, 356 (42 on foot, 314 by car). Observers: James Ayers, Mike Boatwright, Ray Chandler, Jack Dozier, Keith Fielder, Barry Kinzie (compiler), Shirley Kinzie, Janet and Tom Krakauer, Paul McQuarry, Norwood Middleton, Gene and Myriam Moore, Bill and Jane Opengari, John Pancake, Connie Pancake-Cofield, Mike Purdy, Kathy Rice, George Stubbs, Jerry Via. The Common Mergansers and Chipping Sparrows were identified by Fielder and McQuarry, and the sparrows were also seen by other observers later in the day. Some of the Black-capped Chickadees were noted by Barry Kinzie and others by the Opengaris.

27. ROANOKE (all points within a 15-mile diameter, center Oakland Blvd. and Williamson Rd., as described 1975; elevation 900 to 2300 ft.; habitat coverage as described 1975).—Dec. 18; 4 a.m. to 6 p.m. Clear; temp. 28° to 58°F.; wind variable, 2 m.p.h.; ground bare; water partly open. Forty observers, 37 in 18 parties, 3 at feeders. Total party-hours, 151 (68 on foot, 73 by car, 10 by canoe) plus 5 at feeders; total party-miles, 440 (54 on foot, 376 by car, 10 by canoe). In area count week but not seen count day: Red-headed Woodpecker, Fox Sparrow. Observers: James Ayers, Jack Dozier, John and Marian Eddy, Sam Ellington, Crete Golden, Carol and Julie Greenisen, Norma and Raymond Harper, Rushia Harris, Ellen Holtman, Horace and Stella Hood, Eunice and John Hudgins, Perry Kendig, Barry Kinzie (compiler), Janet and Tom Krakauer, Carole Massart, Corky McCormack, Lucille and Norwood Middleton, Ernest and Hazel Moore, Charles and Peter Musgrove, Sally Nelson, Bernice Newcomb, Bill and Jane Opengari, John Pancake, Connie Pancake-Cofield, Mike Purdy, Curt Richter, George Stubbs, Pat Witt, Tom Witt, Jerry Via. The Green Heron was seen on count day as well as the day previous by Pancake and on count day also by Pancake-Cofield. The Krakauers carefully identified the Broad-winged Hawk, and the Black-billed Magpie, which has been in the area for over 3 years, was seen by Norwood Middleton. Three parties noted the Black-capped Chickadees (Pancake, Bill Opengari, and Kinzie and Ayers), all in comparison with nearby Carolinas. The House Wren was seen by Massart and Stubbs, the Gray Catbird by Stubbs, one Solitary Vireo by Jane Opengari, and the other vireo by Purdy. Both vireos had been noted in the area prior to the count. Seven of the Chipping Sparrows were observed by the Moores and 2 by Dozier.

28. BLACKSBURG (all points within a 15-mile diameter, center near Linkous Store, as described 1972; elevation 1650 to 2800 ft.; habitat coverage as described 1972).—Dec. 23; 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mostly clear in a.m., partly cloudy in p.m. with light snow; temp. 18° to 37°F.; wind NW, 0-40 m.p.h.; 0-1 in. snow on ground; water partly frozen. Thirty-three observers, 31 in 13 parties, 2 at feeders. Total

party-hours, 100 (68 on foot, 32 by car) plus 6 at feeders, total party-miles, 372 (88 on foot, 284 by car). In area count week but not seen count day: Chipping Sparrow. Observers: Curtis Adkisson, Bill Akers, Bill Bradley, Laura Burrows, Jean Cairns, Alan Clifford, Mark Compton, Dick Conner, Cleve Cowles, James and Jim Craig, Paul Faulk, Fran Felch, Charles and Dorelyn Handley, Gloria Heath, Clyde Kessler, Janice and Walter Knausenberger, B. Lloyd, Henry Mosby, John Murray (compiler), Garland Pardue, Irvine Prather, Pat Rutherford, Patrick Scanlon, Myron Shear, Ronald Shear, Robert Snider, Robert Steele, Connie Stone, Harry Van Krey, David West (New River Valley Bird Club and guests). No details were submitted for the Blue-winged Teal, and the Wood Thrush was reported by Rutherford.

29. TAZEWEEL (all points within a 15-mile diameter, center Fourway; elevation 2300 to 4700 ft.; habitat coverage as described 1972).—Dec. 18; 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Clear; temp. 35° to 45°F.; wind SW, 4-6 m.p.h.; ground bare; water open. Nineteen observers, 18 in 8 parties, 1 at feeders. Total party-hours, 68 (37 on foot, 31 by car) plus 8 at feeders; total party-miles, 394 (30 on foot, 364 by car). In area count week but not seen count day: Evening Grosbeak. Observers: S. Cromer (compiler), F. Dean, A. Decker, A. Greever, M. Hurt, E. Kinser, L. Leslie, D. McGlothlin, H. Parris, J. Parris, R. Peake, B. Robinette, P. Shelton, J. Surface, E. Sweetser, N. Ward, D. Wells, G. Widener (Clinch Valley Bird Club and guests). The Canvasbacks were seen by Cromer and others and the Golden Eagles, an adult and an immature, were identified by Shelton's team.

30. BRISTOL (all points within a 15-mile diameter, center jct. rts. 647 and 654; elevation 1600 to 1900 ft.; habitat coverage as described 1972).—Jan. 2; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mostly overcast; tem. 10° to 20°F.; wind SW, 10-15 m.p.h.; 1 to 2 in. snow on ground; water partly frozen. Ten observers, 7 in 4 parties, 3 at feeders. Total party-hours, 19 (7.5 on foot, 7.5 by car, 3 by boat, 1 by plane) plus 6 at feeders; total party-miles, 180 (7 on foot, 89 by car, 44 by boat, 40 by plane). Observers: Rockwell Bingham (compiler), Rosemary Bingham, Janet and Wallace Coffey, Mrs. H. C. Epperson, David McPeak, Conrad and Helen Ottenfeld, Phillip Shelton, Enno van Gelder.

31. NICKELSVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter, center Nickelsville, as described 1975; elevation 1260 to 3328 ft.; meadows, pastures, open fields with tangled growth 60%, deciduous woods 20%, fresh water 10%, roadsides 10%).—Dec. 30; 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mostly clear; temp. 0° to 20°F.; wind W, 10-40 m.p.h.; 2 to 3 in. snow on ground; water partly open. Nine observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours, 33 (16 on foot, 17 by car); total party-miles, 143 (20 on foot, 123 by car). Observers: Thomas Finucane, John Fogl, Jeff Francisco, Clarence and Edith Olinger, Garland and Homer Osborne, E. E. Scott (compiler), Sue Smith. The Turkey was seen by the Osbornes and the Red-headed Woodpeckers and Vesper Sparrow by Smith.

32. WISE COUNTY (all points within a 15-mile diameter, center Dorchester, as described 1972; elevation 1750 to 4220 ft.; habitat coverage as described 1976).—Dec. 23; 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mostly cloudy with intermittent snow in a.m., partly cloudy in p.m.; temp. 14° to 36°F.; wind SW, 10-30 m.p.h.; 1 to 6 in. snow on ground; water frozen. Sixteen observers in 7 parties. Total party-hours, 59 (36 on foot, 23 by car); total party-miles, 291 (24 on foot, 267 by car). Observers: Stacy Cantrell, Scott Cooper, Sharon Daniels, Tony Decker, Betty Gibson, Ed Kinser, Gaynelle Malesky, Dwight and Richard Peake (compiler), Tom Peake, Mauricio Schrader, Philip Shelton, Gladys Stallard, Joe and Tommy Straughan, Jenny Surface (Cumberland Bird Club and guests).

RECENT RECORDS OF UNUSUAL SANDPIPERS IN
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIARICHARD N. CONNER, CURTIS S. ADKISSON,
AND IRVINE D. PRATHER

The College farm of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University has many small, isolated ponds and marsh areas. In addition to resident species, many migrant shore birds are attracted to these aquatic habitats as resting and foraging stops during their spring migration to their northern breeding grounds. Species typically seen are Semipalmated Sandpipers (*Calidris pusilla*), Least Sandpipers (*C. minutilla*), Pectoral Sandpipers (*C. melanotos*), Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*), Solitary Sandpipers (*T. solitaria*), Spotted Sandpipers (*Actitis macularia*), Common Snipes (*Capella gallinago*), and Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferous*). Species seen occasionally are Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleucus*) and Semipalmated Plovers (*Charadrius semipalmatus*).

On 12 May 1975 we noticed an unusual sandpiper foraging along Strouble's Creek. Because of the bird's rusty back and black belly patch, we quickly identified it as a Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) in its breeding plumage. Murray (Raven, 45:55-70, 1974) classified the Dunlin as an accidental species and knew of only three previous records in Montgomery County: 18 May 1924, 11 May 1949, and 9 December 1964.

On 22 April 1976 while walking in a field near the V.P.I. & S.U. airport, we heard the whistle vocalization of an Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*) and saw two birds hovering above a field into which they soon descended. Close examination of the two birds several minutes later revealed that they were in fact Upland Sandpipers. Murray (*op. cit.*) reported this species to be formerly a common summer resident in Montgomery County. He reported no records of Upland Sandpipers since 1965.

Also on 22 April 1976 we saw a large assemblage of various shorebirds at a small pond at the end of the V.P.I. & S.U. airport runway. Present were 11 Lesser Yellowlegs, 2 Greater Yellowlegs, 1 Solitary Sandpiper, 1 Killdeer, 1 Semipalmated Plover, and 4 unidentified "peeps." A closer examination of the 4 "peeps" revealed that two of them had the head, back, breast pattern, and yellowish legs characteristic of Least Sandpipers. Another one was identified as a Semipalmated Sandpiper because of its black legs and its head and breast pattern. The fourth was identified as Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*) based on the scaly appearance of the feathers on its back, the absence of a white rump, the fact that the wing tips extended beyond the tips of the rectrices, its generally horizontal body posture, the fact that the bird picked rather than probed with its bill, and the opportunity to compare it with the other "peeps." This is apparently the first record of a Baird's Sandpiper in Montgomery County as it was not reported by Murray (*op. cit.*).

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BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH WEST OF BLUE RIDGE

NORWOOD C. MIDDLETON

A single Brown-headed Nuthatch, *Sitta pusilla*, was observed in the yard of a suburban residence in Salem, Virginia, on 4 April 1976. From the available literature, this seems to be a sighting of note for the area west of the Blue Ridge in Virginia.

The nuthatch was under observation fully 30 minutes by my wife, Lucille H. Middleton, and me from about 8:30 to 9 a.m. EST when it flew first to a tree directly across the street and then deeper into the middle of that block. While in my yard, the bird was feeding on the seeds and along limbs and branches of an open, eight-tree cluster of Virginia, *Pinus virginiana*, and Shortleaf Pines, *P. echinata*.

The field marks were clearly discernible at a distance of 20 feet in good light and were familiar to me on the basis of several sightings in 1974 and 1975 at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, Virginia, Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge, South Carolina, where *pusilla* is abundant, and Ocean Isle Beach and Charlotte, North Carolina. The brown cap and white patch at the nape, along with the unmistakable nuthatch characteristics, were conclusive. The bird sounded a three-note call, something like *dee-dee-dee*, about two per minute.

This appears to be only the second record for this species in this area, the first having been seen on the Roanoke Christmas bird count on 30 December 1967 (*Raven*, 39: 4 and 9, 1968). There seem to be no other records from west of the Blue Ridge.

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LOCAL CHAPTERS OF THE VSO

This list of local chapters, compiled by Myriam P. Moore, chairman of the Local Chapters Committee, has been revised to 12 May 1977. The number in parentheses after the chapter name is the approximate total number of members of that chapter.

1. Allegheny Highlands Bird Club (20), Clifton Forge
2. Augusta Bird Club (100), Staunton-Waynesboro
3. Bristol Bird Club (10), Bristol
4. Cape Henry Audubon Society (160), Norfolk
5. Charlottesville-Albemarle Bird Club (75), Charlottesville
6. Clinch Mountain Bird Club (14), Nickelsville
7. Clinch Valley Bird Club (30), Tazewell
8. Cumberland Bird Club (20), Wise
9. Danville Bird Club (25), Danville
10. Hampton Roads Bird Club (90), Newport News-Hampton

11. Lynchburg Bird Club (200), Lynchburg
12. Marion Bird Club (37), Marion
13. Montpelier Bird Club (25), Gordonsville-Orange
14. New River Valley Bird Club (40), Blacksburg-Radford
15. Northern Neck Audubon Society (275), Kilmarnock-White Stone
16. Northern Virginia Chapter (150), Arlington-Fairfax
17. Richmond Audubon Society (460), Richmond
18. Roanoke Valley Bird Club (175), Roanoke-Salem
19. Rockbridge Bird Club (15), Lexington
20. Rockingham Bird Club (80), Harrisonburg
21. Virginia Beach Audubon Society (200), Virginia Beach
22. Margaret Watson Bird Club (30), Darlington Heights

NEWS AND NOTES

COMPILED BY F. R. SCOTT

EUROPEAN WIGEON AT CHINCOTEAGUE. From one to three male European Wigeon were present at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge during the entire winter of 1975-76. The first bird was noted by J. O. Pullman on 5 October 1975 and 3 were first seen here by L. K. Malone on 14 October. Numerous observers saw the birds throughout the winter, and the last bird was reported here on 27 March 1976 by Malone and B. A. Lund.

PURPLE SANDPIPERS INLAND. Two Purple Sandpipers were found at Muses Beach, Westmoreland County, on 10 May 1975 by Dr. and Mrs. D. F. Keeney. This appears to be the most inland record for Virginia and the first for the Northern Neck.

GROUND DOVE AT VIRGINIA BEACH. On 24 August 1975 R. L. Ake located a Ground Dove at Back Bay Refuge in Virginia Beach. Alerted by Ake, D. L. Hughes was able to view the bird the same day.

WESTERN KINGBIRD IN SPRING. A Western Kingbird carefully observed near Marlborough Point, Stafford County, on 27 May 1975 (A. A. Baker) may have been the first spring record for the state.

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE IN LATE MAY. A Black-capped Chickadee was heard singing repeatedly in the Blue Ridge below Crescent Rock, Page County, on 23 May 1976 by C. E. Stevens. This seems late enough to have been a breeding bird, but there are no nesting records for this species here on the eastern side of the Shenandoah Valley.

BROWN CREEPERS IN SUMMER. There were two summer records of Brown Creepers in eastern Virginia during 1975. A singing bird found on Parramore Island, Accomack County, on 26 May by Bill Akers and T. F. Wieboldt was remarkable and is unique for the Eastern Shore. Another was found at Dranesville District Park, northern Fairfax County, on 3 August (J. B. Bazuin, Jr.)

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 \$2.00 for junior members (students), \$5.00 for active members, \$7.50 for sustaining members, \$15.00 or more for contributing members, \$125.00 for life members, and \$9.00 for family members (limited to husband, wife, and their dependent children).

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BREEDING RECORDS OF SANDWICH AND CASPIAN TERNS IN VIRGINIA AND MARYLAND

JOHN S. WESKE, ROGER B. CLAPP, AND JAY M. SHEPPARD

The status of the Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*) in Virginia was reviewed by Buckley and Buckley (1968), who reported a pair of adults with a newly hatched chick on 18-21 July 1967 at Fisherman Island, Northampton County, Virginia. (Also see Buckley 1967.) The only previous published Virginia breeding record was by H. H. Bailey (1913): a set of eggs "from one of the coastal islands" in 1912 (not 1920 as stated by the Buckleys).

An additional nesting record is represented by a set of two eggs in the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH 6220) that were collected, when fresh, on 14 June 1898 by Captain E. A. Roberts on Cobb Island, Northampton County. There is a study skin in the National Museum of Natural History (USNM 80133) of an adult male Sandwich Tern taken at Cobb Island on 12 July 1880 by Robert Ridgway and Henry Marshall. The date suggests breeding, but no mention at all of this species is made by Ridgway (1880) in his account of a large Royal Tern (*Sterna maximus*) colony that they visited there. Likewise, a later distributional comment by Ridgway (1919:477), probably based upon this specimen, excludes Virginia from the species breeding range and gives its status there as "accidental in summer."

In 1881, W.E.D. Scott (1904) visited Cobb Island, reporting that he "met" Sandwich Terns (p. 181) but that it was "only a casual bird" (p. 183). He did not include it in his list of breeding tern species (p. 181). It is likely that the Sandwich Tern was extremely rare as a nester from about 1875 to 1912 as there is no mention even of its occurrence in many notes and old field catalogs and in obscure papers from ornithological journals of the day. The islands of the Virginia Eastern Shore were visited regularly by many skilled ornithologists and oologists of that period (e.g., Arthur C. Bent, William Brewster, Edward J. Brown, Frank M. Chapman, William H. Fisher, Francis Harper, Edwin A. Hasbrouck, Alfred B. Howell, Frank C. Kirkwood, Pierre L. Jouy, Herbert K. Job, Edgar A. Mearns, William Palmer, T. Gilbert Pearson, Charles W. Richmond, Joseph H. Riley, Robert W. and Percy W. Shufeldt, and Hugh M. Smith—Clapp, unpublished notes).

In disagreement with the negative information from these sources is an account in a manuscript by H. H. Bailey (1915) which detailed the status of water birds breeding along the Virginia Coast. Here he described the Cabot's [=Sandwich] Tern as "Formerly . . . abundant . . ." We question the accuracy of this statement, particularly since he elsewhere (Bailey, 1913) gave no indication of previous abundance and stated that the species "is an extremely rare bird on our coast." Furthermore, the 1915 manuscript omits any mention at all of the Royal Tern. Bailey's father, in contrast, mentioned Royal Terns as a breeding species but made no reference to Sandwich (H. B. Bailey, 1876). Although Sandwich Terns, in common with other species, were undoubtedly reduced in number by shooting and egging in the second half of the nineteenth century, we suspect that they were no more common on the Virginia shore just prior to this period of persecution than they are today.

The Sandwich Tern was not mentioned in reports by visitors to Virginia barrier island tern colonies during the generation following H. H. Bailey (e.g.,

Kuerzi, 1929; Austin, 1932). We located in the files of the Bird Banding Laboratory an apparently unreported nesting record from this period: banding schedules submitted by Harvey L. Bowen list one young "Cabot's" Tern, not yet able to fly, banded on Cobb Island in July 1937, along with 100 young Royal Terns. However, Bowen (personal communication, 24 March 1976) stated that he believes this record is erroneous and that it was made by one of those assisting him in his banding activities. He added that he had never banded nor seen a Sandwich Tern on the Virginia Eastern Shore.

In ensuing years, the coastal colonies were visited quite regularly by banders such as J. H. Buckalew, J. W. Terborgh, W. T. Van Velzen, and R. D. Benedict, but few Sandwich Terns were reported. A single bird was seen near Smith Island, Northampton County, on 17 June 1946 by E. G. Davis (Murray, 1953). Sequences in a motion picture made by the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries of a Royal Tern colony on Fisherman Island in June 1952 show a Sandwich Tern with the nesting Royals (F. R. Scott, personal communication). Buckley and Buckley (1968) listed two other occurrences prior to the 1967 nesting record mentioned above: two birds seen at Wachapreague Inlet, Accomack County, on 8 May 1959 and another seen in a Royal Tern colony on Fisherman Island on 5 June 1964.

The Buckleys did not find nesting birds in 1968, but they observed at least 12 individuals (including 10 fledged juveniles) on 19 July at Fisherman Island, far more than ever previously reported in Virginia. The presence of adults with newly fledged juveniles suggests a nearby origin, but the terns may have wandered north from well-established colonies of the Carolinas. No Sandwich Terns were found nesting on the Eastern Shore in the next three seasons, but three adults were present at Fisherman Island for most of June 1969 (Scott and Cutler, 1969).

On 11 July 1972, M. A. Byrd found 21 nests within a large Royal Tern colony on Ship Shoal Island, Northampton County (Scott and Cutler, 1972). A group of 1700 young Royals rounded up by Byrd and JSW for banding on 29 July included 15 Sandwich chicks. It is likely that more were present in the colony, for less than half of the young Royals in the area were captured.

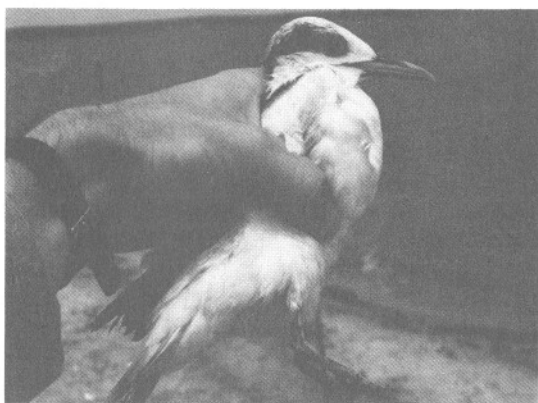
On 14 May 1972 R. A. Rowlett saw two "Cabot's" Terns feeding in the Ocean City Inlet, Worcester County, Maryland (Robbins, 1972) and earlier that day had seen two, thought to be the same birds, east of Ocean City (Rowlett, 1973). Later that year, on 25 July, Rowlett (1973) photographed two "non-breeding plumaged" Sandwich Terns among several hundred Royals flying about a colony on a small dredge-spoil island in Sinepuxent Bay, Worcester County, Maryland. One was seen at the same spot on 5 August by JSW. Landing on the island, which lies 0.7 miles south of Gray's Point, he found a few Royal Tern chicks still too young to fly, but it was apparent that most of the birds produced in the colony had already fledged. The only previously reported occurrences of Sandwich Terns in Maryland prior to 1972 were two seen after a hurricane in September 1945 (Stewart and Robbins, 1947).

In 1973 Sandwich Terns expanded their breeding range in coastal Virginia, nesting in three Royal Tern colonies—30 pairs on Adams Island [=the eastern portion of Fisherman], Northampton County (R. M. Erwin, personal communication), with 16 young banded (JSW, RBC); 25 pairs on Ship Shoal

Island, with 12 young banded (JSW, RBC), and an undetermined number of pairs on Metomkin Island, Accomack County, where JSW and RBC banded 11 young. In Maryland, neither of two small Royal Tern colonies included Sandwich Terns.

The Virginia breeding population decreased in 1974. Ten pairs tried to nest on Adams Island but failed due to a late June storm (Erwin, personal communication). One adult (no nest) was found in a large, successful Royal Tern colony on Metomkin Island (JSW). In Maryland, however, on the same island in Sinepuxent Bay where Rowlett had seen two grown birds in 1972, three well-feathered but still flightless young Sandwich Terns were among 123 young Royals corralled for banding on 2 August (Erwin, Frank and Robin Smith, JMS, JSW). One of the young *sandvicensis* is shown in Figure 1. This breeding record is the first for Maryland and the northernmost breeding locality for the Sandwich Tern in the Western Hemisphere.

FIGURE 1. *Sandwich Tern chick photographed 2 August 1974 on a spoil island in Sinepuxent Bay, Worcester County, Maryland.*



In 1975 we found no Sandwich Terns nesting in a 200-pair Royal Tern colony on the Sinepuxent Bay island nor elsewhere in Maryland, although two adults were seen in the Sinepuxent Bay area during June and July (Robbins, 1975). In Virginia, three pairs nested on Metomkin Island and at least 7 pairs on Fisherman Island, among large breeding aggregations of Royals (JSW, RBC).

While several adult Sandwich Terns can easily escape notice amid a whirling multitude of Royals, the presence of Caspian Terns (*Sterna caspia*) in a colony is usually evident immediately. Adult Caspians fly some distance to meet the intruder, giving distinctive harsh vocalizations, and continue to circle noisily overhead. While visiting Metomkin Island on 1 August 1974, JMS and JSW noted two Caspians behaving in this manner. We waited, and before long one landed on the inshore side of the beach near what proved to be a nest site. We found a downy chick and an infertile egg in a small depression in the sand next to an unusually large clump of sea rocket (*Cakile edentula*). The chick, which we banded, was perhaps a week old and had light brown down and an orange bill (Figure 2). It remained prostrate and motionless, making no effort to flee as we approached. When we returned on 24 August, we

recaptured the young bird and found it well-feathered and almost ready to fly. Earlier in the season, on 14 June 1974, JSW had seen two adult Caspians resting on a different segment of Metomkin Island. These may have been the birds which subsequently nested, but on 14 June they showed none of the aggressive behavior typical of a breeding pair.



FIGURE 2. *Caspian Tern chick photographed 1 August 1974 on Metomkin Island, Accomack County, Virginia.*

On 25 June 1975, J. W. Akers, T. F. Wieboldt, and Bill Williams found a pair of Caspians nesting near the 1974 nest site, and JSW banded one downy chick there on 30 June.

Caspian Terns occur on the Eastern Shore regularly as migrants and rarely as summer vagrants (Stewart and Robbins, 1958; Scott and Cutler, 1971). There is no breeding record for Maryland. One pair bred in 1879 on Cobb Island, Virginia, where Henshaw (1879) and Ridgway found a nest and "on July 29 . . . took a fine pair of adults with their two downy young." One young is now in the National Museum (USNM 78314), and the other young and its parents are listed in the collection of the British Museum (Saunders, 1896). Henshaw's account disagrees slightly with the specimen label dates (i.e., 1 August 1879 for the USNM bird and 2 August for the trio in the BMNH), but the specimens are undoubtedly those reported by him.

Three nests were discovered the following year. Pearsall (1881) located one with two eggs on Wreck Island, Northampton County on 2 June 1880 and another with two eggs on Cobb Island the next day. The third nest, also on Cobb Island, contained one egg on 6 July and two when revisited several days later (Ridgway, 1880). These two were collected and are now in Washington (USNM 18091). Based on his 1881 visit, Scott (1904: 181) wrote that "at least a dozen pairs of Caspian terns nested each season on Cobb Island." An additional report from about this same period was given by Rives (1890:42) who, without specifying the exact year or years, states: "Captain C[harles] H. Crumb has also taken three sets of eggs in July."

Scott's observations and those of others reveal that the Caspian Tern was once more numerous as a breeding bird in coastal Virginia than it is today. Killing for the millinery trade, as well as eggging, were cited as reasons for the decline in tern populations during the latter part of the nineteenth century

(Scott, 1904; Bailey, 1913). Theodore W. Richards (1892), a noted oologist who collected on the Eastern Shore with Elliott Coues from 1888 through 1890, stated of Royals and Caspians: "Though formerly abundant neither . . . species now breed regularly in Northampton Co." John W. Daniel, Jr. (1901), who spent three weeks on Cobb Island in June and July 1895, wrote: "The Caspian Tern formerly bred abundantly on the island, but we did not notice its eggs on our visit."

H. H. Bailey (1913) stated that the Caspian Tern ". . . is now a rare bird in our territory although a few pair still breed on one of our coastal islands." This published remark was amplified elsewhere by him (1915): "This large tern is now returning to Va. to breed in small numbers. Formerly it bred on upper Cobb's Island and other places but during the 1889-1892 slaughter, it disappeared entirely and has only returned to this state to breed during the last four years [1912-1915]. Pig Island seems to be the only location in which it is now found as a breeder." (Pig Island, which has disappeared because of erosion by ocean currents, was a small island once situated off the north end of Cobb Island.) Thus Bailey implies the existence of several nests in the period listed above. We know of no subsequent nestings by Caspians in Virginia until 1974.

In recent years small numbers of Caspian Terns have bred in the Carolinas. McDaniel and Beckett (1971) reported a successful nest at Cape Romain Refuge, South Carolina, in 1970. A nest at Cape Romain mentioned by Teulings (1972) is actually the one from 1970 attributed to the wrong year (Beckett, personal communication). One to four pairs have nested at Oregon Inlet, North Carolina, each year since 1972 and one at Hatteras Inlet, North Carolina, in 1974 (Parnell and Soots, 1976).

In our experience, Caspian Tern nests are not located in Royal Tern colonies. They occur either within the more dispersed colonies of Common terns (*Sterna hirundo*), Gull-billed Terns (*Gelochelidon nilotica*), and Black Skimmers (*Rhynchops niger*), or else at some distance from nests of any other species. However, they may nest on the same island and in the general vicinity of Royal Terns. Our observations of nesting details are in close agreement with those of Ridgway (1880) and McDaniel and Beckett (1971).

Both the Caspian Tern and the Sandwich Tern have recently resumed breeding on the Eastern Shore, but the pattern for each species is different. In keeping with its widespread and rather spotty breeding distribution, scattered pairs of Caspians now nest at a few favored Atlantic Coast sites. On the other hand, the Sandwich Tern is extending its range northward, with the pioneering adults presumably originating from well-established colonies to the south. In this regard it is worth noting that over 600 pairs of Sandwich Terns nested at Hatteras Inlet in 1975 (Ruth and Sherwin Beck, JSW). This is the largest breeding aggregation on record for North Carolina and probably indicates that the species is increasing its numbers within its traditional range.

Acknowledgments

We thank The Nature Conservancy for permission to do field work on its Virginia Coast Reserve. Chandler S. Robbins kindly allowed us to examine the Bird Distribution File of the Migratory Bird and Habitat Research Laboratory. Theodore A. Beckett III, Harvey L. Bowen, R. Michael Erwin,

and F. R. Scott gave us information from their field notes. Data from museum specimens was provided by Curtis S. Adkisson, Mary K. LeCroy, and Raymond A. Paynter, Jr. Elwood M. Martin continually aided in field work during the past four years. Mitchell A. Byrd shared with us his extensive knowledge of coastal birds and helped in a variety of ways. John W. Aldrich and Richard C. Banks critically read the manuscript. To these persons and to many others who joined us in banding terns on the Eastern Shore, we are deeply grateful.

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A DOVEKIE ON THE CHINCOTEAGUE CHRISTMAS COUNT

JOHN AND THELMA DALMAS

Saturday, 27 December 1975, was our second Chincoteague Christmas count, and we had been fortunate enough to be reassigned to Jackson Abbott's party on the south end of Assateague Island. We began the day auspiciously enough by missing the jeep ride to the point and, feeling somewhat disgusted,

started birding around the Coast Guard station near the south end of the beach road. We were certain we had missed all of the best birds our party was likely to find.

After a couple of hours of weeding through Yellow-rumped Warblers in the myrtle thickets and Oldsquaws in Tom's Cove, we still had seen nothing unusual. At approximately 9 a.m. we set up on a low dune about 1000 yards from the ocean to scope ducks on a tidal pond. Presently we spotted something lying in the sand amidst sparse dune grass scarcely 10 feet away which appeared to be a nestling of some kind. Deciding that nestlings were none too likely in the winter, we realized incredulously that this bird was a Dovekie, *Alle alle*.

Regaining our composure, we approached the bird, which was quite tame and made little effort to escape. We easily captured it and made an absurdly thorough comparison of the bird with the drawing in Robbins' Field Guide, noting the short neck, tiny bill, and webbed feet set far back on the body. The bird was then released, but after much indecision we decided to recapture it (with a little more difficulty the second time). We carried the pecking, flapping bird about half a mile back to the car, resolved to get some corroboration. Luckily, we soon located our group leader, who seemed not at all surprised but did confirm our identification.

Having relieved this strain on our credibility, the bird was then turned over to refuge personnel, who obtained a photograph (Figure 1) before releasing the bird in the ocean.

520 Rainbow Forest Drive, Lynchburg, Virginia 24502

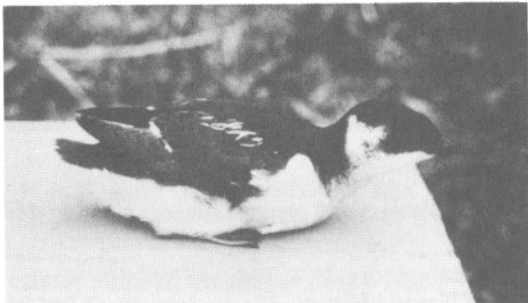


FIGURE 1. Dovekie at Chincoteague Refuge, 27 December 1975. Photo courtesy of George Peyton.

DISPLACEMENT OF A RED-BELLIED BY A DOWNY WOODPECKER

HOWARD L. FERGUSON

On 20 January 1975 at 08:40 EST in Charlotte County, Virginia, a male Downy Woodpecker, *Picoides pubescens*, was observed displacing a male Red-bellied Woodpecker, *Melanerpes carolinus*. Preceding the incident a female Downy Woodpecker was preening approximately one meter away from the

male Downy. Courtship behavior of the Downy pair indicated that they were in the initial stages of pair bond formation (Kilham, *Wilson Bulletin*, 86: 407-418, 1974).

The male Red-bellied Woodpecker alighted on a branch approximately one meter away from the male Downy. Immediately, the male Downy Woodpecker began drumming, bill waving, and wing spreading. The Red-bellied responded with wing flicking, tail spreading, and by emitting a *cher* sound. The male Downy then, with wings and tail feathers spread widely and bill pointed upward, flew to the branch where the Red-bellied Woodpecker was located. This movement resulted in the immediate displacement of the Red-bellied Woodpecker. Following the displacement, the male Downy Woodpecker continued its drumming and wing flicking for at least a minute or two longer. During the conflict the female Downy exhibited little aggressive behavior toward the intruder.

The tree, a failing 60-year-old willow oak, *Quercus phellos*, where the conflict occurred, may have been a favorite drumming post since the Downy Woodpeckers had been observed there on previous mornings.

In only two other reported instances has the Downy Woodpecker displaced larger species of woodpeckers in interspecific agonistic encounters. Short (*Bulletin American Museum Natural History*, 145: 1-118, 1971) reported that a pair of Downy Woodpeckers chased off a Nuttall's Woodpecker, *Picoides nuttallii*; Kilham (*Auk*, 75: 318-329, 1958) noted that a drumming Red-bellied Woodpecker was chased off by a male Downy Woodpecker that apparently "owned" the tree.

I wish to thank Dr. Lawrence Kilham, Dr. Curtis Adkisson, and Mr. Richard Conner for constructive criticism of this note.

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THE 1977 VSO ANNUAL MEETING

ROBERT J. WATSON

The forty-third stated meeting of the Virginia Society of Ornithology opened on Friday afternoon, 13 May 1977, in Chandler Hall, on the campus of Madison College, in Harrisonburg, Virginia. Preceding the formal meeting, Mrs. Myriam Moore, chairman of the VSO Local Chapters Committee, presided at a workshop at 3:30 p.m. during which representatives of local chapters discussed current projects. Mrs. Thelma Dalmas described the "Christmas Bird Count in June" undertaken by the Lynchburg Bird Club. Mrs. YuLee Lerner discussed her plan for preparing a revision of the 1952 *Checklist of the Birds of Virginia*. Mr. Jerry Via presented copies of his new booklet, *How to Lead a Birdwalk*. In comments from the floor, Mr. R. J. Watson remarked on the flourishing success of the VSO local chapters program, ascribing it to the work of Mrs. Moore and of other members, past and present, of the Local Chapters Committee.

At the business meeting on Friday evening, Mrs. Richard Smith, Jr., President of the Rockingham Bird Club, delivered a welcome on behalf of her organization and of the Augusta Bird Club, which served as joint hosts for the meeting. Mrs. Julie Russell, President of the Augusta Bird Club, introduced Mr. Bob Curtis, wildlife biologist with the Tennessee Valley Authority, who described the efforts of TVA, in cooperation with The Nature Conservancy, to locate rare or unusual habitats or species that might be endangered by TVA projects. Dr. John F. Mehner, of Mary Baldwin College, urged members to participate in the roadside breeding bird censuses sponsored by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Treasurer, Mr. Bill Williams, reported a balance of \$4933 in the treasury, with 555 members paid up so far for 1977; this figure excludes over 100 of last year's members who have not yet paid, but it includes 87 new members added since 1 January.

As chairman of the Nominating Committee, Mr. James W. Eike submitted the following slate of nominees:

President: J. J. Murray, Jr. Charlottesville

Vice President: Robert L. Ake, Norfolk

Secretary: Robert J. Watson, Arlington

Treasurer: Bill Williams, Williamsburg

Editor: F. R. Scott, Richmond

Board of Directors, Class of 1980:

Robert T. Barbee, Charlottesville

Mitchell A. Byrd, Williamsburg

Thelma Dalmas, Lynchburg

Upon passage of a motion to close the nominations, President Murray declared the slate elected.

The Friday evening meeting closed with a slide show by Mrs. Lerner, "Preserving Our Feathered Heritage," consisting of photographs taken by the speaker at sanctuaries in England, the Virgin Islands, and various places in the continental United States.

On Saturday morning, 14 May, participants scattered in all directions to take part in a program of field trips well planned to include mountain ranges to east and west as well as the woods and farmlands of the Shenandoah Valley.

The Saturday afternoon session was opened by President Murray at 2 p.m. in Gibbons Hall. Dr. John F. Mehner presented a film depicting "Courtship Display in the Evening Grosbeak," the result of research in Minnesota from 1966 to 1970 and again in 1972. Male birds were photographed at a feeding station, displaying both for living females and for a dummy placed in a "soliciting" posture. Dr. Mehner commented that summer records for the Evening Grosbeak in Virginia are increasing and that the bird should be looked for as a breeding species in the state.

"Factors Involved in Nest Site Selection by Herons in Two Colonies on the Eastern Shore of Virginia" was the subject of Ms. Barbara S. Warren, of the College of William and Mary. Her study was focused on the Glossy Ibis, which has recently extended its breeding range into Virginia. Two colonies

were studied in 1976 to ascertain the nest site preferences of this species as compared with those of the Snowy Egret, Louisiana Heron, and Little Blue Heron. Nest sites were broken down into components which were analyzed. The conclusion was that the Glossy Ibis is using a part of the habitat that is not used by the other three species.

Mr. Richard Conner, of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, presented the findings of a study (carried out with the collaboration of Jerry Via and Irvine Prather) of the effects of clearcutting on bird populations in pine-oak woods in southwestern Virginia. Study areas were set up in three-year-old and ten-year-old clearcuts and also in 30-year-old and mature stands. Each area was transected six times in winter and six times in spring. Winter surveys showed very few species and individuals in the younger stands, the numbers of both species and individuals increasing with advancing maturity. For the breeding season, there was a similar increase in the number of individuals, but with a change in the species composition. The overall conclusion was that the net effect of clearcutting is detrimental to bird life, especially for winter birds, though the actual effects vary for different species.

"Colonial Bird Survey for the Virginia Barrier Islands," by Bill Williams, of Williamsburg, was based on a survey made in 1975 and 1976 at the behest of The Nature Conservancy. An effort was made to locate all breeding bird colonies on all the barrier islands of the Eastern Shore of Virginia, to determine the population of each, and to compare the findings with earlier population estimates. Results so far have been indeterminate, and research is continuing. It is also hoped to determine the reasons why birds prefer particular areas for breeding.

Mr. Sherwin M. Beck, of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, described a commercially available airborne navigation system that computes geographic positions accurately, making use of an existing network of long-range (LORAN) navigation stations. The speaker had used it to locate Bald Eagle and Osprey nests from the air. Tests involving objects of known location indicate that the system is highly reliable.

Mr. Jerry W. Via, of VPI&SU, summarized the results of measurements of eggshell thickness in the Osprey and the Least Tern intended to determine the effects of the Federal Government ban on DDT in 1972. For the former species, it was found that shell thinning had decreased only slightly by 1976, but there had been a significant increase in the weight and strength of eggshells. For the Least Tern, results were indeterminate, possibly because the parameters chosen (thickness and weight) are not sufficiently sensitive. It is possible that the decline in this species may owe more to habitat destruction than to the eggshell effect.

Dr. Mitchell A. Byrd, of the College of William and Mary, discussed "The Present Status of the Cattle Egret and the Glossy Ibis in Virginia." Both of these invasive species have undergone explosive increases and have recently extended their breeding range into Virginia. The range of the Glossy Ibis appears to be shifting along the coast from Virginia northward, while the Cattle Egret, having colonized the entire coast from California to Florida and Massachusetts, seems to be colonizing inland. Banding recoveries for the Glossy Ibis show that postbreeding wanderers tend to move southward and out of the country (presumably to Cuba, whence they are believed to have

colonized the United States). Some, however, move northward; these are probably the founders of new northern colonies. For Cattle Egrets, most banding recoveries have come from the south, although the pattern of recoveries is not so clear. Dr. Byrd noted that another species, the White Ibis, has recently appeared in Virginia and may likewise colonize the state.

Mrs. Myriam Moore, of Lynchburg, spoke on "Glory in the Sky: Watching the Fall Hawk Migration in Virginia." Autumn hawk-watching in Virginia, according to the speaker, was begun by societies in neighboring states (Tennessee, Maryland, and West Virginia). The first statewide hawk watch promoted by the VSO took place in 1964. Since then the Hawk Migration Association of North America has been formed and coordinates reports for the entire country. Efforts in Virginia now compare favorably with those in other states; in 1976, 725 watch-hours were spent hawk-watching at 23 stations in Virginia. Mrs. Moore urged participation in the 1977 hawk watch, which will be held on 24-25 September. In a comment from the floor following the paper, Mr. Watson pointed out that autumn hawk-watching by individuals and chapters in Virginia dates back to the 1950's.

Mr. Irvine D. Prather, of VPI&SU, compared feeding habits of caged Black and Turkey Vultures to ascertain their willingness to accept live prey. It was found that neither species took live prey initially, but both learned to do so. However, the Black Vulture, on the basis of its anatomy and behavior, seems better adapted than the Turkey Vulture to take live prey and probably deserves its reputation as the more aggressive species. It is more agile on the ground and less inhibited in its feeding behavior.

Ms. Susan C. Sturm, of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Gloucester, had studied "Distributional Patterns of Birdlife on Southeastern Virginia Beaches" as part of a study of beach processes for the Corps of Engineers. Eighteen sites in Virginia and North Carolina had been studied, ranging from Fort Story southward. Sites were grouped into four types: undisturbed, residential, commercial, and military reservations. Bird observations at each site showed that, as would be expected, the undisturbed areas had more species and more individuals than other areas. The speaker pointed out that beaches are highly fragile and require special conservation efforts.

"Precision of Mockingbird Imitation" was the subject of Mark W. Armstrong, of VPI&SU. Twenty-five Mockingbirds were trapped, color-banded, and their songs recorded. The most commonly imitated species were the Carolina Wren, Cardinal, Common Flicker, and Blue Jay. Sonogram recordings of Mockingbird imitations as compared with the original bird songs showed marked similarity.

The final speaker, Dwight E. Chamberlain, of Ironto, had studied the status of the Common Crow in Bermuda at the request of the government there, which had become alarmed at the increasing population of the species. The increase appears to be attributable to an increase in available food together with a ban on firearms. Historical evidence suggests that there was originally a smaller endemic crow on Bermuda which was exterminated, and that during the nineteenth century the island was colonized by crows from North America (possibly from Nova Scotia, according to one account). Measurements of crows taken in Bermuda tend to bear out this account, as they match those of crows from southeastern Canada.

The banquet was held at 7 p.m. on 14 May in Chandler Hall with 158 persons present. Novel features were the presentation of door prizes in the form of extremely craftsmanlike wren houses constructed by Mr. Philip Cosminsky of the Rockingham Bird Club and a raffle of a handmade quilt made by talented members of the Montpelier Bird Club. Resolutions expressing thanks to all those connected with planning and directing the meeting, presented by Mrs. W. A. Rothery, were carried by acclamation.

Mrs. Julie Russell introduced the principal speaker, Mr. John Trott, well-known teacher, lecturer, writer, and photographer, from McLean, Virginia, who presented an excellent program of slides depicting "Virginia Wildlife throughout the Year."

Sunday morning, 15 May, was again devoted to field trips, after which participants dispersed to their homes.

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REVIEW

The Chesapeake Bay in Maryland: An Atlas of Natural Resources. Edited and illustrated by Alice Jane Lippson. The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, 1973: viii + 55 pages. Price, \$3.95.

The growth of public concern about environmental degradation has produced an unprecedented demand for basic ecological information. In one case after another the effects of pollution are obvious; but when we ask the biologists what the ecosystem was like before, we get only partial answers. Species X was here before and has disappeared. Species Y has exploded into enormous populations. However, most of the basic data on species composition and community structure are missing or at best scattered throughout the literature.

The recognition of the urgent need for some kind of a summary of the ecology of the Chesapeake Bay was the inspiration for this brief atlas. In 26 units, each consisting of a map and a page of explanatory text, the book brings together a mass of information on that part of the bay that lies in Maryland. Four units cover the physical features of the bay, three deal with plants, six are on invertebrates, eleven are on fishes, and two are devoted to birds.

It would be easy to dismiss this atlas as a superficial and error-prone compilation. A glance at the treatment of the birds serves to document such a judgement. The two sections are entirely devoted to the ducks, geese, and swans. There is no mention of gulls, terns, shorebirds, herons, ospreys, or eagles. Moreover the labels for the pictures of the Snow Goose and the Whistling Swan are reversed, and there are two separate errors in the spelling of the scientific name of the Mute Swan. Most other groups fare no better, and some as important as the annelid worms get no mention at all.

On the other hand one must recognize that anything like a reasonable coverage of the ecologically important plants and animals is a near impossibility at present. It was probably a wise decision to stick to those organisms where,

for one reason or another (usually an economic one), a substantial body of information exists. Within this limitation, the editor and the various authors have done a creditable job. They have a limited but varied sample of species to serve as indicators of environmental change. They have set out the information in a form that is attractive and easy to comprehend. And most importantly they have tried to assess the quality and the limitations of the data.

One of the disappointments for Virginians is that with a few exceptions the maps stop at the Maryland state line. This truncation not only limits the usefulness of the book, but it also brings home to us the lack of a similar work for our own state. It ill becomes a Virginian to criticize a pioneering effort by Maryland until Virginia has produced a volume at least as good as this.

James Murray

NEWS AND NOTES

COMPILED BY F. R. SCOTT

MORE BIRD NAME CHANGES. The A.O.U. Committee on Classification and Nomenclature has approved some additional changes in the scientific names of American birds ("Thirty-third Supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American Birds," *Auk*, 93: 875-879, 1976, and corrections, *ibid.*, 94: 190, 1977). These will be used in *The Raven* in the future. Those not having access to *The Auk* may be able to secure a reprint of this paper from Dr. Glen E. Woolfenden, Department of Biology, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida 33620, or your local librarian may be able to arrange to obtain a copy for you. The only English name change of a Virginia bird was for the Fulvous Tree Duck, which now becomes Fulvous Whistling-Duck.

CORMORANTS ON PIEDMONT IN SUMMER. Three Double-crested Cormorants were noted at Kerr Reservoir on 18 July 1976 by P. E. McQuarry and Kathy Rice. This appears to be only the second true summer record of this bird on the Piedmont, the first being one reported by J. J. Murray, Jr., in Nelson County about 15 July 1949 (*Raven*, 20: 62, 1949). There are of course a number of early June records of late spring migrants.

WHITE IBIS APPEAR AGAIN. There were only two reports of White Ibis in Virginia in 1975, both immatures. One of these was seen near Chincoteague on 28 September (P. G. DuMont *et al.*) and another at Back Bay Refuge on 14 October (G. M. Williamson). More appeared in 1976, however. Among these were single subadults at Cape Charles on 13 May (M. A. Byrd and Jim Bowman) and near Chincoteague on 1 June (D. B. Peacock). The first "fall" immature appeared at Stewardsville, Bedford County, on 3 July (John Pancake and Connie Pancake-Cofield), and another was seen at Kerr Reservoir on 1 August (K. M. Fielder), both of these locations being on the Piedmont. The only other 1976 reports were from Craney Island, Portsmouth, where R. L. Ake had two immatures 11-18 July and one on 1 August.

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 \$2.00 for junior members (students), \$5.00 for active members, \$7.50 for sustaining members, \$15.00 or more for contributing members, \$125.00 for life members, and \$9.00 for family members (limited to husband, wife, and their dependent children).

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BLUEBIRD NUMBERS IN VIRGINIA AS DETERMINED FROM CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS, 1945-1975

THOMAS A. PIERSON

The Eastern Bluebird, *Sialia sialis*, is a well-known species throughout the state of Virginia. It is also well-known for its drastic reduction in numbers in the past two decades. James (1962) documented the declines in bluebird numbers in the Southeast following the severe winter weather of 1958-1959. He used the number of birds expected to be found during 10 hours afield at the end of December as an indication of relative bluebird numbers. The same index is used herein to describe bluebird numbers in Virginia for the years 1945-1975, inclusive.

The number of bluebirds seen and total party-hours for each Christmas bird count in Virginia for the years 1950 through 1975 were obtained from *American Birds* and its forerunner *Audubon Field Notes*. The same data was obtained from *The Raven* for the years 1945-1949. This information was by simple division converted into a comparative index, the number of birds seen per 10 party-hours. Cumulative totals were calculated for each year and each count location. Total birds seen and total party-hours for each year for all counts was expressed in the form previously described, birds per 10 party-hours. A similar treatment of these data was presented by Scott (1963). However, Scott based his study on only those Christmas bird counts appearing in *The Raven*. In addition, Scott used bluebirds seen per 100 party-hours as the comparative index. Thus his figures differ slightly from those in this report but are otherwise quite comparable.

The number of bluebirds seen per 10 party-hours on Christmas bird counts for 1945 through 1975 is presented in Figure 1. Before further discussion, several assumptions and explanatory statements should be presented. First of all, the year as presented in Figure 1 is the year in which the count data was published. The year 1945 represents the data from the Christmas bird count conducted in December 1944, and so on. Even though the data for each year are presented in the identical form, the number of birds per 10 party-hours, a comparison over such a time span may not be entirely valid. The number of bird counts has greatly increased through the years, as well as the total party-hours spent afield. The total party-hours for each year ranged from a low of less than 50 in 1946 to a high of almost 2400 in 1975. In addition, the manner in which the count was conducted has also changed through the years. The 15-mile diameter circle has not always been used; some counts were merely observations made around the residence of the observer on the count day. Despite these limitations, a comparison of count data is perhaps acceptably valid, if for no other reason than that other comparative bases do not exist.

As can be seen in Figure 1, bluebird numbers have fluctuated greatly. Prior to 1960 numbers varied from year to year about a mean of 11.3 birds per 10 party-hours. A sharp decline in bluebird numbers occurred between 1960 and 1961. James (1962:308) reported that bluebird numbers attained but 18% of their "normal abundance" throughout the Southeast in December 1961 (1962 in Figure 1). Bluebirds in Virginia followed this same trend in reduction of numbers. Since that time bluebird numbers have continued to vary from year to year, but about a mean of only 2.2 birds per 10 party-hours. Bluebird

numbers reached an all time low in Virginia in 1967; 0.7 bluebirds were seen per 10 party-hours.

Of special interest is the trend in bluebird numbers since the early sixties. After falling to their lowest level in 1967, numbers have steadily increased until the present, almost reaching the average for the 30 years in 1975. This is especially encouraging in light of fears expressed in previous years that the Eastern Bluebird might become extinct (Wallace, 1959:193). One can but speculate as to what factors might be responsible for the recovery of the bluebird; e.g., less severe winter weather, decreased competition with other species for nest sites, or the continued popularity of nest box projects. Whatever is responsible, it is welcome news indeed that bluebird numbers are on the rise in Virginia.

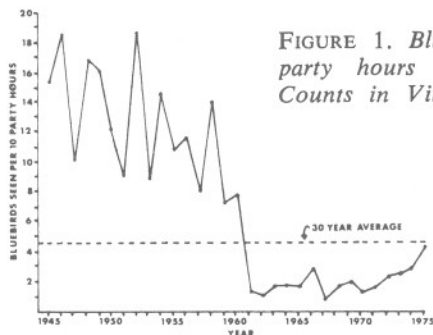


FIGURE 1. *Bluebirds seen per 10 party hours on Christmas Bird Counts in Virginia, 1945-1975.*

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YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON NESTING IN CITY OF SALEM

NORWOOD C. MIDDLETON

A nesting record for the Yellow-crowned Night Heron, *Nyctanassa violacea*, within the City of Salem, Virginia, was verified 14 April 1976, following observations of both adults and immatures of the species in the summers of 1974 and 1975.

Two young birds were seen on the nest 22 June 1976, by my son, Kenneth Middleton and me. John Pancake and I saw adults and young feeding in the Roanoke River in Salem on 3 July 1976.

The nest was found in an American sycamore, *Platanus occidentalis*, about 50 to 55 feet above the ground on a limb about 8 to 10 feet from the trunk. The tree was in a dense assortment of deciduous trees and scrub growth 25 yards or so from the Roanoke River near its confluence with Masons Creek, forming a fairly secluded haven a quarter mile from a busy U.S. highway in the southeastern section of Salem.

At the time of the nest discovery on 14 April one adult bird was sitting on the nest with only its head and its distinctive markings in view. Several observers from the Roanoke Valley Bird Club saw a second heron fly from the nest area as they approached, and it landed high in another tall tree and remained perched there during the observation period. On 19 April, I revisited the site and saw one bird sitting on the nest, a second perched in full exposure less than three feet away, and a third adult perched about 25 feet away.

The 1974 and 1975 sightings were of the birds feeding in the Roanoke River as it flows through a residential area two miles from the nest site. A 6 July 1974 observation by my wife, Lucille, and me was the first record of the species in Roanoke County, according to records-keeper Almon O. English, of Roanoke, who also saw the birds there in 1974. An adult and an immature were seen feeding in the shallows of the river edge on 21 July 1974, and on 2 August 1975 there were three immatures and one adult there.

The first report of the nest was by K. D. Flinchum, foreman of a nearby agricultural processing plant. He mentioned the nest to a friend, Raymond T. Harper, who is a member of the Roanoke Valley Bird Club and who in turn notified others in the club and led them to the site. Among others seeing the nest were Bill Opengari, Almon O. English, Barry Kinzie, John Pancake, Ernest and Hazel Moore, and Mr. and Mrs. Harper. Later, John Hudgins, Stella Hood, and Lucille Middleton of the Roanoke Valley Bird Club and Myriam Moore and John and Thelma Dalmas of the Lynchburg Bird Club visited the site.

Mr. Flinchum told the first-day observers the herons had nested in the area as far back as 1972 and that he had occasionally seen them feeding in an alfalfa field near where he found the 1976 nest.

Carpenter (1949 and 1951) recorded in detail the discovery of this bird near Dayton, Rockingham County, first in 1948 and a first Shenandoah Valley nesting in 1951. Scott (1962) reported that Carpenter observed the birds again in 1953, 1955, 1956, and 1962, including young birds several times. A second earlier nest of the Yellow-crowned Night Heron is recorded by John W. Murray (1974) as having been reported in 1970 by George McBath on an island in the New River near Ingles Ferry.

These three nesting records, coupled with sightings of the species reported by J. J. Murray (1957) and Freer (1973) in Rockbridge County and the Lynchburg area, respectively, provide more extension of range of this handsome bird.

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1149 Forest Lawn Drive, Salem, Virginia 24153

FIRST VIRGINIA SPECIMEN OF THE MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD

CHARLES R. VAUGHN

On the morning of 17 May 1976 Tom Reed of Deep Hole Road, Chincoteague, Virginia, brought me a live Magnificent Frigatebird with a broken humerus. The previous night the coast had had heavy fog, and decreased visibility had presumably caused the bird to collide with a steel tower below which the bird had been found. It is not certain when the bird suffered the injury, although it had been found about 3 a.m. that morning by the local police.

Because neither Mrs. Dorothy Valentine in Accomac, Virginia, nor the Salisbury, Maryland, zoo had the facilities to treat the bird, I arranged with the zoo director, Stephen Graham, to have the bird taken to the National Zoo in Washington, D. C. By the time the bird arrived there, it had been injured for at least 33 to 35 hours. The Zoo determined that the bone had been exposed to the air too long for it to heal, so the wing was amputated. The bird died sometime on 19 May.

Since the bird was a first specimen for Virginia, it was sent to the U. S. National Museum (Natural History) for preservation. John Weske wrote me the following concerning the bird: Magnificent Frigatebird, *Fregata magnificens*; sex, male (testes: L—8 x 2, R—7 x 3 mm); molt, moderate on body; fat, light; eyes, bluish; bill, mottled dark and light (lighter towards tip of bill); bare gular and orbital skin, light blue. The museum acquisition number is USNM 567754.

The bird was first reported on 14 May by three different parties, according to Larry K. Malone, of Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge. Among these were Julio de la Torre and T. R. Baptist who saw it on two separate occasions at the steel draw bridge on the road entering the town of Chincoteague and reported it to F. R. Scott. It was seen again at the same place on 16 May by M. R. Boatwright and Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Boatwright.

Interestingly, another Magnificent Frigatebird had been reported a month earlier on 14 April 1976 near Ocean City, Maryland, by Dale Brown (personal communication to F. R. Scott from R. A. Rowlett). This bird, described as "all black," was not the same as the Chincoteague bird, which was a striking black and white.

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MOCKINGBIRD GLEANS INSECTS FROM CAR GRILLE

PETER L. DALBY

On 28 February 1976 at Monticello, located just outside of Charlottesville in Albemarle County, Virginia, I observed a Mockingbird *Mimus polyglottos* repeatedly peck and consume insects attached to the front of a car. At first I thought that the Mockingbird might be pecking at its own reflection from the headlights and chrome, but the bird's deliberate actions, nonvocalization, and pecking at nonreflective portions of the front suggested that it was not confronting its own image.

While I watched from a distance of 4 to 5 m, the bird frequently hopped among the branches of a hedge within a meter or two of the car. From the branches, it would alight on the ground below the front of the car or directly on the bumper or grille itself. If on the ground, the Mockingbird soon flew onto the car front or jumped high enough to peck at insects attached to the lower parts of the bumper. Its actions on the grille were definitely associated with a searching behavioral pattern, culminating in a peck or two at one place before searching elsewhere. Several times, an insect fragment fell from the pecking area to the pavement. Often the Mockingbird dropped down to the pavement, consumed the item, then flew to the car grille again. The bird was continuing its actions when I left.

If a car was parked adjacent to a hedge or other frequent perching site, it is reasonable to expect that birds would eventually take advantage of this novel food source. It is worth speculating whether through an associative learning process such birds would learn to glean food from cars parked elsewhere (*i.e.*, away from hedges and other perching areas). I thank C. S. Adkisson for his comments.

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NEWS AND NOTES

COMPILED BY F. R. SCOTT

NEW STATE REFUGE ACQUIRED. James W. Engle, of the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, announced recently that the Commission had acquired title to a 1111-acre parcel of marsh and upland in Isle of Wight County, Virginia. This area, commonly known as Ragged Island, is on the south shore of the James River just east of the south end of the James River Bridge. An additional 364 acres adjacent to this area will also be acquired, bringing the total to 1475 acres. Although it is planned for this area to be opened to waterfowl and deer hunting during the appropriate seasons, it should be of particular interest to birdwatchers. It is in an area where there are few other salt marshes available, and a study of the breeding marsh and other water birds here would add considerably to the knowledge of Virginia's birdlife.

BLACK-NECKED STILTS IN 1976. Black-necked Stilts were recorded in two Virginia localities in 1976. At Chincoteague Refuge one was seen on 8

and 9 May (C. P. Wilds) and again on 11 June (R. L. Ake and F. R. Scott), although there was no evidence of breeding. At Craney Island one was found 24 April (Ake), 2 on 2 May (Ake *et al.*), and 2 on 9 May (D. L. Hughes).

MORE BARN OWL NESTS. Two Barn Owl nests were found on the Eastern Shore of Virginia in 1975. One had an adult with 6 eggs near Chesconnessex on 13 May (Bill Akers and T. F. Wieboldt) and the other had an adult with 3 young at Wallops Island on 17 August (C. R. Vaughn). Two adults with 4 young were also seen in a tree with a cavity in Botetourt County on 16 June 1975 (Barry Kinzie, N. C. Middleton, *et al.*). Again on 12 June 1976 Kinzie saw 2 adults and 3 young in a tree cavity at Troutville.

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW NEAR ROANOKE. On 15 May 1976 N. C. Middleton heard a Chuck-will's-widow calling at Salem, Virginia, and tape-recorded the song. This is the first local record of this species and seems to be only the sixth record in Virginia in the area from the Blue Ridge westward. Previous records, all of single birds, were at Big Meadows Lodge in Shenandoah Park on 11 May 1957 (*Atlantic Naturalist*, 12: 251, 1957); near Waterlick, Shenandoah County, 17 May 1962 (*Raven*, 33(2): 15, June 1962); near Natural Bridge, Rockbridge County, 27 August 1963 (found dead—*Raven*, 35: 20, 1964); Lee County, 1 June 1964 (*Raven*, 35: 43-45, 1964); and eastern Rockbridge County, 14 May to 21 July 1966 (*Raven*, 37: 68, 1966). The Shenandoah Park record was at an elevation of about 3600 feet and is clearly an altitude record for the state.

MARSH WREN IN BATH COUNTY. A Short-billed Marsh Wren was seen singing in a large wet meadow by Mill Creek at Hotchkiss, Bath County, Virginia, on 27 July 1975 by Kenneth Lawless and C. E. Stevens. The location is on route 42 2½ miles northeast of Millboro Springs. There appears to be only one other summer record of this species west of the Blue Ridge (*Raven*, 47: 38, 1976).

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET IN JUNE. Bruce Davenport and C. E. Stevens found a Golden-crowned Kinglet singing repeatedly in rich mixed hardwoods 1 mile north of Mt. Weather, Clarke County, Virginia, on 12 July 1975. The elevation here was 1700 feet. This is a first summer record for this section of the state.

CONNECTICUT WARBLERS IN SPRING. Since the Connecticut Warbler is one of the rarest spring warblers in Virginia, it was of extreme interest when two males were found along the Blue Ridge Parkway just south of Humpback Rocks in Augusta County on 13 May 1975 (R. L. Ake, D. L. Hughes, and G. M. Williamson).

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAKS IN ALBEMARLE. An apparent second-year male Black-headed Grosbeak was present near Scottsville, Albemarle County, Virginia, from 29 January to 2 February 1974 and was trapped and banded on the latter date by Lina Whiteside. The bird appeared very weak when first observed but gained strength later. The cinnamon collar and rump were very striking against the black and white elsewhere in the bird's plumage. Near Charlottesville on Observatory Mountain two other male Black-headed Grosbeaks were seen on 10 May 1975 by J. B. Bazuin, Jr. The dark heads,

bill size, white patches in the otherwise dark wings, and orange upper breasts and necks were distinctive. These appear to be the fifth and sixth records for Virginia.

DICKCISSEL AT STAUNTON. On 12 December 1976 a Dickcissel appeared in the yard of the R. F. Lunts in Baldwin Acres, Staunton, Virginia. Always feeding along with House Sparrows, the bird was seen almost every day (except the day of the Christmas bird count) until 9 April 1977. It was observed regularly by the Lunt family and several times by YuLee Lerner and Mrs. Milton Angier. It was a male, fairly drab in December, but with bright plumage by April.

HOUSE FINCH BREEDING EVIDENCE. The first persuasive evidence for the House Finch breeding in Virginia finally came to light when A. H. Fast noted an adult female and 2 young at his feeder in Arlington on 18 August 1975 and banded one of the young. In 1976 adults were seen feeding one fledged young at Arlington on 13 May (R. E. Furcolow), and Fred Murray noted a similar occurrence at Maymont Park in Richmond on 21 May.

LARK SPARROW ON COAST. The Lark Sparrow continues to be reported along the Virginia coast nearly every fall. In 1975 one was noted on a number of occasions at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge between 14 August and 21 September with two birds on 17 August (L. K. Malone). It was reported twice in 1976, one at Chincoteague Refuge on 17 September (Malone and C. P. Wilds) and another at Townsend, Northampton County, on 23 September (Mrs. D. L. Mitchell).

LINCOLN'S SPARROW IN GLOUCESTER COUNTY. A Lincoln's Sparrow banded at Capahosic, Gloucester County, Virginia, on 14 May 1975 by Mrs. E. D. Peacock was the first observation of this species here in 12 years of observation and banding.

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