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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, \$150.00 for life members, and \$9.00 for family members (limited to husband, wife, and their dependent children).

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JUNE BIRDS OF CRAIG COUNTY, VIRGINIA A REPORT OF THE 1979 FORAY

F. R. SCOTT

The twelfth in the recent series of breeding-bird forays sponsored by the Research Committee of the Virginia Society of Ornithology was held from 12 to 17 June 1979 in Craig County, Virginia. Since there were no suitable accommodations in Craig County, the headquarters of the foray was a group of motels in nearby Salem, Virginia. Because of a fear of auto fuel problems, registration for the foray totaled only 19 persons, somewhat below the prior average of 29.

On the northwest Craig County lies against the West Virginia border and is bounded on the northeast by Alleghany and Botetourt Counties, on the southwest by Giles County, and on the southeast by Botetourt and Roanoke Counties. Lying along the western edge of the Great Valley of Virginia, Craig County's altitude varies from 1100 to 3950 feet for an estimated weighted mean elevation of about 2400 feet. Much of the county lies within the Blacksburg and New Castle Ranger Districts of the Jefferson National Forest.

Physiographically, the ridges and water courses of the county generally run in a northeast-southwest orientation. Beginning in the southeast, the principal ridges with their maximum altitudes are North Mountain (3062 feet), Sinking Creek Mountain (3638 feet), Johns Creek Mountain (3700 feet), Potts Mountain (3950 feet), and Peters Mountain (3824 feet). The maximum elevation of Potts Mountain occurs on White Rocks, a peak marking the corners of Craig and Giles Counties, Virginia, and Monroe County, West Virginia. Other peaks along this ridge, the most impressive in Craig County, include Arnolds Knob (3932 feet), Nicholson Knob (3806 feet), and Hanging Rock (3800 feet). The main valleys, also beginning in the southeast, with the elevations of their principal creeks, are Craig Creek Valley (1100-2500 feet), Sinking Creek Valley (2000-2500 feet), Maggie or Johns Creek Valley (1300-2000 feet), and Potts Creek Valley (1700-1960 feet). In the annotated list, Craig Creek north refers to that section of the valley north of and along route 311, all below 1400 feet. Johns Creek flows into Craig Creek at New Castle, the county's only town of any size (population 225 in 1970), and both Craig and Potts Creeks flow northeasterly into Alleghany or Botetourt County and eventually into the James River. Sinking Creek, on the other hand, drains to the southwest, and shortly after flowing into Giles County it lives up to its name and disappears underground. The topography, however, indicates that it once emptied into the New River.

Like a number of the mountain counties in Virginia, most of the mountain slopes and ridge crests are forested, principally in second-growth hardwoods, while the open farmlands are confined to the valleys. There is no natural spruce or fir in the county though a little occurs in nearby Giles County on Salt Pond Mountain. The most extensive farmlands—and consequently the highest numbers of open land birds—occur in Sinking Creek Valley. Most farmland is below 2500 feet, and virtually none is above 3000 feet. Readers should take this into account when looking at some of the altitudinal ranges given in the annotated list. The Vesper Sparrow, for example, was not recorded above 2500

feet probably because of a lack of suitable habitat above that altitude. It occurs much higher in Highland and Tazewell Counties and in the Mount Rogers area where pasturelands go up to 4500 feet and higher (Peake, 1978; Scott, 1973 and 1975).

There is virtually no published material on the summer birds of Craig County. The summer birds of adjacent Roanoke County and other nearby areas to the east and south are fairly well known, but those of this area near the western edge of the Ridge and Valley Province are considerably less so. Adjoining Craig on the southwest is Giles County with its famous Mountain Lake and the equally famous Mountain Lake Biological Station of the University of Virginia. The Mountain Lake area has produced many papers on birds, usually confined to a single species, and many notes published in *The Raven*, *The Redstart*, and *American Birds* (formerly *Audubon Field Notes*). The only modern accounts of the summer birds here, however, are the reports of the 1959 and 1965 Brooks Bird Club forays held at the Biological Station from 6 to 14 June 1959 and the Mountain Lake Hotel from 12 to 19 June 1965 (Bell, 1966; Burns, 1959; Chandler, 1960; Gluck, 1966; Miller, 1966; Olson, 1960; Phillips, 1966). A comparison of this foray with those in Giles County reveals that, with a considerably higher average altitude, Giles has more common mountain-type birds than Craig. Specifically, the following species were more common in Giles: Least Flycatcher, Veery, Solitary Vireo, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, and Canada Warblers, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Dark-eyed Junco. On the other hand, some low-altitude Carolinian species were apparently more common in Craig County including Acadian Flycatcher, White-eyed Vireo, Blue Grosbeak, and Grasshopper Sparrow.

As always, care must be taken in interpreting an annotated list such as this. No definitive study of the breeding birds of an area like this can be done in five days, no matter how many participants there are. Song periods in birds differ, and since so much field work in summer has to be based on singing, if one or more species is singing poorly (or not at all), its apparent abundance in the area will inevitably be understated. Whether also affects both bird singing and visual observations of birds. On this foray the first three days were partly cloudy and cool (upper 40's to mid 70's), the fourth day was overcast with temperatures of 51° to 64°, and on the fifth day the foray was weathered out completely by torrential downpours. Thus only four days rather than five could be devoted to field work.

The annotated list below contains 112 species including two (Veery and Black-throated Green Warbler) found only on an overnight hike to White Rocks the weekend prior to the official dates of the foray. Species looked for but not found included Sharp-shinned Hawk, Spotted Sandpiper, Common Nighthawk, Red-headed Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Alder Flycatcher, Purple Martin, Bewick's Wren, Blue-winged, Magnolia, and Blackburnian Warblers, Summer Tanager, and Savannah and Henslow's Sparrows.

Procedures for this foray were similar to those of prior ones. Small field parties covered different areas each day, and the better areas were covered by different parties on different days, thus at least partly compensating for varying weather conditions, different abilities in observers, and other variables. Each party submitted one or more detailed field cards each day, and these 33 cards were edited, tabulated, and then summarized in the annotated list.

The following observers are identified by last name only in the annotated list: Robert T. Barbee, Louise Borchelt, Laura Burrows, John and Thelma Dalmás, Barry Kinzie, YuLee Larner, Norwood C. Middleton, Dorothy and Sydney Mitchell, Isabel Obenschain, Bill J. Opengari, John S. Pancake, Mike Purdy, F. R. Scott, Charles E. Stevens, Leonard Teuber, and Robert J. Watson. The participants were indebted to John Pancake who made extensive surveys of the county prior to the foray and handled all the local arrangements. He also served as codirector of the foray with F. R. Scott.

Green Heron. Fairly common along the valley floors, usually below 2500 feet. The peak count was 6 along Craig Creek north on 14 June (Opengari and Pancake).

Mallard. One record. Two apparently young birds were seen along Craig Creek north on 15 June (Dalmases).

Wood Duck. Fairly common along the creek valleys. The peak count of 22 in Craig Creek Valley on 14 June (Opengari and Pancake) probably included some fledged young. Two broods of 2 and 6 young were noted along Craig Creek north on 13 June (Scott and Teuber), and an adult with 3 young was seen in Sinking Creek Valley on the same day (Larner and Obenschain).

Turkey Vulture. Common throughout the county. The best count was 24 in the Peters and Potts Mountain area on 15 June (Mitchells).

Black Vulture. Rather uncommon with only 15 birds reported by nine parties. The maximum count was 5 in Sinking Creek Valley on 16 June (Middleton, Scott, and Teuber).

Red-tailed Hawk. Uncommon with only 6 birds reported by five parties.

Red-shouldered Hawk. Two records, Single birds were seen along Craig Creek north on 13 June (Scott and Teuber) and in Sinking Creek Valley on the same day (Larner and Obenschain).

Broad-winged Hawk. Rather common in all areas with a high count of 3 along Craig Creek north on 14 June (Opengari and Pancake). Reported by 14 parties.

American Kestrel. Probably rare and local, the three records all being from Sinking Creek Valley. The two counts of 4 birds on 13 and 16 June (Larner and Obenschain and Middleton, Scott, and Teuber, respectively) may have been the same family group.

Ruffed Grouse. Fairly common locally in the Potts Mountain area where the best counts were a flock of 11 flying young on 13 June (Barbee and Stevens) and 8 adults plus two broods of 6 and 7 young on 15 June (Stevens). Curiously, there was only one record elsewhere, a single bird along Craig Creek north on 15 June (Dalmases).

Bobwhite. Fairly common in the creek valleys, but the best count was only 14 along Craig Creek north on 13 June (Scott and Teuber). This bird was decidedly less common here than on the previous mountain forays.

Ring-necked Pheasant. One record. Two were seen in Sinking Creek Valley on 13 June (Larner and Obenschain).

Turkey. Uncommon but recorded in all major sections of the county by six different parties. The peak count of 6 was reported in Sinking Creek Valley on 14 June (Mitchells).

Killdeer. Fairly common in the valleys with a maximum count of 14 in Sinking Creek Valley on 16 June (Middleton, Scott, and Teuber). A nest with 4 eggs was found on the side of a road at New Castle on 13 June (Scott and Teuber), and a pair with 3 young was noted along Craig Creek south on 15 June (Larner and Obenschain).

American Woodcock. One record. Barbee and Stevens flushed one bird on Potts Mountain on 13 June.

Rock Dove. Fairly common in the lower stream valleys through the best count was only 4.

Mourning Dove. Rather common in the stream valleys where the two peak counts were 18 and 17. There were few birds over 2500 feet.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Rather common in all sections and at all altitudes. The high count was 9 in the Potts Mountain area on 14 June (Middleton, Scott, and Teuber). The more recent mountain forays have found this species to be much less common (Peake, 1978; Scott, 1975 and 1979).

Black-billed Cuckoo. Locally uncommon with only 7 birds recorded by three parties, all on Potts Mountain. The peak of 4 was by Opengari on 15 June.

Screech Owl. Although only five parties reported this species, there were two high counts of 5, both along Craig Creek north. It was clearly uncommon and local.

Great Horned Owl. Three records. One was found along Craig Creek north on 13 June (Kinzie and Opengari), 2 were noted in the same area on 15 June (Opengari), and 2 were heard calling in Sinking Creek Valley on 16 June (Pancake).

Barred Owl. Seven birds were recorded by four parties, the top count being 3.

Chuck-will's-widow. Uncommon along Craig Creek north where a peak of 3 singing birds was found by two different parties (13 June, Scott and Teuber; 16 June, Kinzie). Elsewhere, the only record was of one singing bird in Sinking Creek Valley on 16 June at 2500 feet (Pancake). An analysis of the nine field cards reporting this bird revealed that a minimum of 7 singing birds was present. This is a major extension of the known breeding-season range of this species into western Virginia, and the Sinking Creek Valley bird was probably an altitude record for this bird in Virginia during the breeding season.

Whip-poor-will. Common below 3000 feet. Ideal weather plus dedication by the observer resulted in a peak count of 61 singing birds along Craig Creek north (1180-1360 feet) on 16 June between 2:30 and 5:30 a.m. (Kinzie). At a somewhat higher elevation (1300-2700 feet) in Sinking Creek Valley on the same morning Pancake recorded only 10 birds between 3:30 and 5:30.

Chimney Swift. Common with a high count of 25 in Sinking Creek Valley on 14 June (Mitchells).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Fairly common in all sections with a peak count of 6 in Sinking Creek Valley on 14 June (Borchelt and Burrows).

Belted Kingfisher. Uncommon. Five parties reported a total of only 6 birds.

Common Flicker. Common at all elevations, the best count being 13 in Sinking Creek Valley on 16 June (Middleton, Scott, and Teuber).

Pileated Woodpecker. Common throughout with a maximum count of 7 in Sinking Creek Valley on 16 June (Middleton, Scott, and Teuber).

Red-bellied Woodpecker. Rather uncommon with a peak count of only 6. Although this species was reported by 14 different parties, mostly below 2500 feet, nine of these parties reported only one bird each. The 1975 Highland County foray had only three reports of this bird (Peake, 1978).

Hairy Woodpecker. Rather uncommon with only 12 birds reported by seven parties. Two parties recorded the high count of 3 each.

Downy Woodpecker. Common throughout though the top count was only 8.

Eastern Kingbird. Fairly common below 2500 feet. The maximum one-party count was 9.

Great Crested Flycatcher. Common at all elevations with two peak counts of 14 each.

Eastern Phoebe. Common in all areas with a high count of 23 in Maggie Valley on 16 June (Mitchells). An adult was incubating eggs in a nest under a bridge over Potts Creek on 14 June (Middleton, Scott, and Teuber).

Acadian Flycatcher. Common in the lowlands up to 3000 feet with a few birds at least to 3500 feet. Middleton, Scott, and Teuber recorded the best count of 11 in Maggie Valley on 15 June.

Willow Flycatcher. Uncommon with only 5 birds reported by four parties, all below 2500 feet.

Least Flycatcher. Three records. Two singing birds were found in Maggie Valley on 15 June by Middleton, Scott, and Teuber and again on 16 June by Kinzie, Pancake, and Watson, both observations being between 1750 and 1800 feet. Another singing bird was located at 2800 feet along route 617 near the Alleghany County line on 14 June (Kinzie). This bird was substantially more common than this on the Highland County foray (Peake, 1978) as well as in Giles County (Bell, 1966).

Eastern Wood Pewee. Common throughout with a peak count of 16 in Sinking Creek Valley on 16 June (Middleton, Scott, and Teuber).

Horned Lark. Two records. One was noted on 15 June (Larner and Obenschain) and 2 singing birds were found on 16 June (Middleton, Scott, and Teuber), all in Sinking Creek Valley.

Tree Swallow. One record. A single bird was noted going to a possible nest hole in Sinking Creek Valley on 16 June (Middleton, Scott, and Teuber).

Bank Swallow. Two records. Kinzie and Opengari counted 3 birds and saw the typical nest holes of this species at the Castle Sand Plant near Craig Creek on 13 June, and Pancake found 4 birds here on 15 June.

Rough-winged Swallow. Fairly common in the creek valleys below 3000 feet. The best count was 9 along Craig Creek north on 13 June (Kinzie and Opengari).

Barn Swallow. Very common in the valleys up to at least 3000 feet with a few higher. The maximum count was 147 in Maggie Valley on 16 June (Kinzie, Pancake, and Watson), and there were two other counts exceeding 100. Adults feeding many fledged young were noted in Sinking Creek Valley on 14 June (Borchelt) and 16 June (Scott *et al.* and Borchelt and Burrows).

Cliff Swallow. Four records. Kinzie and Pancake observed one in Maggie Valley on 11 June, and at another location in Maggie Valley 25 were counted on 16 June by Kinzie, Pancake, and Watson and separately by the Mitchells. The only other record was 2 in Sinking Creek Valley on 16 June (Middleton, Scott, and Teuber).

Blue Jay. Fairly common throughout with two maximum counts of 6 each.

Common Raven. Fairly common in most areas with records from Craig Creek north, Sinking Creek Valley, and Potts and Peters Mountains. The best count was 4 near Craig Creek on 13 June (Kinzie and Opengari). The species was recorded by nine parties.

Common Crow. Common at all elevations though more so in the valleys. Middleton, Scott, and Teuber totaled the top count of 74 in Sinking Creek Valley on 16 June.

Black-capped Chickadee. The status of this species was uncertain here. Kinzie, Pancake, and Watson recorded 2 or 3 in Maggie Valley on 16 June, and several other parties listed birds as possible Black-caps. Since this species is common in Highland County to the northeast (Peake, 1978) and occurs in the Mountain Lake area of adjacent Giles County to the southwest (Bell, 1966; Johnston, 1971), it was surprising to find it virtually absent here.

Carolina Chickadee. Fairly common at all elevations with a peak count of 14 along Craig Creek north on 15 June (Dalmases). Although a number were found on the northeastern part of Potts Mountain, no chickadees at all were recorded on White Rocks.

Tufted Titmouse. Common throughout. Scott and Teuber had the best count of 16 along Craig Creek north on 13 June.

White-breasted Nuthatch. Uncommon to fairly common in all areas though the high count was only 5.

House Wren. Fairly common in the valleys below 2500 feet where there were three maximum counts of 5 each.

Winter Wren. Three records. Single birds were found on White Rocks on 10 June (Kinzie and Pancake) and on Potts Mountain on 13 June (Kinzie and Opengari) and 15 June (Stevens). Altitudes varied from 3300 to 3960 feet.

Carolina Wren. Fairly common along Craig Creek north where the best count was 9 on 13 June (Scott and Teuber). Rather uncommon though widespread elsewhere below 3000 feet with all counts 4 or less.

Mockingbird. Fairly common about New Castle and along Craig Creek north where the high count was only 8. Uncommon elsewhere below 2500 feet with all counts 4 or less.

Gray Catbird. Common at all elevations with a high count of 15 in Maggie Valley on 16 June (Kinzie, Pancake, and Watson). Adults were feeding

young in the nest in Sinking Creek Valley on 14 June (Borchelt) and feeding fledged young on Potts Mountain the same day (Middleton, Scott, and Teuber).

Brown Thrasher. Common at all elevations though less so above 3300 feet. The top count was 21 on Sinking Creek Valley on 16 June (Middleton, Scott, and Teuber).

American Robin. Very common throughout the county, the best count being 86 (including 3 fledged young) in Sinking Creek Valley on 16 June (Middleton, Scott, and Teuber).

Wood Thrush. Common at all elevations. Middleton, Scott, and Teuber got the maximum count of 29 in Maggie Valley on 15 June.

Veery. There was only one report of this Alleghanian species, a single bird on White Rocks above 3900 feet on 10 June (Kinzie and Pancake). Apparently this species requires more extensive areas above 3500 feet than are available in this county (*cf.* Bell, 1966; Peake, 1978; Scott, 1973 and 1975).

Eastern Bluebird. Common below 3000 feet with a few birds higher. Middleton, Scott, and Teuber recorded the best count of 57 in Sinking Creek Valley on 16 June. An adult was incubating 3 eggs in a nest hole on 16 June (Borchelt and Burrows), a pair was feeding young in the nest on 13 June (Larner and Obenschain), and 3 fledged young were seen on 16 June (Middleton, Scott, and Teuber), all in Sinking Creek Valley.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Common below 3000 feet but occurred at all elevations, even above 3800 feet on White Rocks. Peak counts totaled in Maggie Valley were 21 on 15 June (Middleton, Scott, and Teuber) and 26 on 16 June (Kinzie, Pancake, and Watson). These birds were considerably more common here than on any of the previous mountain forays.

Cedar Waxwing. Common throughout the county with a top count of 29 in the Potts Mountain area on 13 June (Pancake and Purdy).

Loggerhead Shrike. One record. Two birds were found in Sinking Creek Valley on 13 June (Larner and Obenschain).

Starling. Abundant below 2500 feet although a few birds were found higher. Larner and Obenschain got the maximum count of 175 in Sinking Creek Valley on 13 June.

White-eyed Vireo. Fairly common below 2500 feet along Craig Creek and in Maggie Valley with a peak of 8 birds. Rather uncommon elsewhere in the valleys with no count over 2.

Yellow-throated Vireo. Fairly common below 2500 feet with few reports higher. The best counts were 13 in the Potts Creek area on 15 June (Opengari) and 12 in Maggie Valley on 16 June (Kinzie, Pancake, and Watson).

Solitary Vireo. Uncommon with almost all records above 3000 feet. Only 12 birds were reported by nine parties, and the peak count was only 3.

Red-eyed Vireo. Very common at all elevations with a high count of 107 in Maggie Valley on 15 June (Middleton, Scott, and Teuber).

Warbling Vireo. Two records. Pancake and Purdy found one in Potts Valley on 13 June at 1800 feet, and Middleton, Scott, and Teuber observed another in Sinking Creek Valley on 16 June at 2200 feet.

Black-and-white Warbler. Fairly common at all elevations but somewhat local with most records from Maggie Valley, the Potts Mountain area, and Red Brush Valley. None were found in Sinking Creek Valley. The best count was 8 on Potts Mountain on 13 June (Pancake and Purdy).

Worm-eating Warbler. Fairly common if somewhat local at all elevations. The maximum count of 8 was obtained by Opengari in the Potts Mountain area on 15 June.

Golden-winged Warbler. Fairly common at all elevations down to at least 1500 feet. There were two peak counts of 5 each. In all, 37 birds were reported by 13 parties.

Northern Parula Warbler. Fairly common, mostly below 2500 feet with a few higher. There were two high counts of 7 each.

Yellow Warbler. Common below 3000 feet with a top count of 19 in Sinking Creek Valley on 16 June by Middleton, Scott, and Teuber. The same observers found an adult feeding fledged young here on the same date.

Black-throated Blue Warbler. Apparently fairly common but highly local above 3000 feet. Recorded only from Potts and Johns Creek Mountains. The best count was 9 on Potts Mountain on 15 June (Stevens).

Black-throated Green Warbler. One record. Kinzie and Pancake recorded one bird on the slopes of White Rocks on 11 June at 2500 feet.

Cerulean Warbler. Uncommon and local with all records from the Potts Mountain area, mostly between 2600 and 3100 feet. Five parties totaled 10 birds with a maximum of 3.

Yellow-throated Warbler. Two records, both along Craig Creek north at 1200 to 1300 feet. Opengari and Pancake recorded one on 14 June and the Dalmases found 2 on 15 June.

Chestnut-sided Warbler. Common above 2500 feet with a few down as low as 1750 feet. The high count was 31 on Potts Mountain on 13 June (Pancake and Purdy).

Pine Warbler. Fairly common though somewhat local up to 3000 feet. The peak count was 8 in Maggie Valley on 15 June (Middleton, Scott, and Teuber). It was reported by 16 parties in all.

Prairie Warbler. Fairly common and widesperad below 3000 feet with two high counts of 8 each.

Ovenbird. Common at all elevations. Like most of the forest birds, however, it was most common on the forested mountain slopes away from the valley floors. The maximum count was 46 in the Potts Mountain area on 14 June (Kinzie). Adults with fledged young were noted on the summit of White Rocks on 11 June (Kinzie and Pancake) and near Craig Creek north on 13 June (Kinzie and Opengari).

Louisiana Waterthrush. Fairly common up to 2500 feet with at least one as high as 3500 feet. Opengari and Pancake totaled the peak count of 14 on a 7-mile boat trip along Craig Creek north on 14 June. Adults feeding fledged young were located near Craig Creek north on 13 June (Kinzie and Opengari).

Kentucky Warbler. Two records. Middleton, Scott, and Teuber recorded one along Potts Creek on 14 June, and Opengari saw one near here on 15

June. It seemed surprising to find so few here even though the Highland County foray reported only 4 (Peake, 1978), and the Brooks Bird Club forays at Mountain Lake had only a very few (Bell, 1966; Burns, 1959).

Common Yellowthroat. Fairly common, mostly below 2500 feet, though the peak count was only 9.

Yellow-breasted Chat. Common below 2500 feet with a few to at least 3500 feet. Kinzie, Pancake, and Watson had the maximum count of 11 in Maggie Valley on 16 June.

Hooded Warbler. Fairly common in the Potts Mountain area with a top count of 10 on Potts Mountain on 13 June (Barbee and Stevens). Generally uncommon elsewhere with two high counts of 4 each. Apparently not restricted by altitude here.

Canada Warbler. Locally fairly common on Potts Mountain above 3300 feet where Stevens found the peak of 8 on 15 June. Few records elsewhere, all above 3000 feet.

American Redstart. Locally common at all elevations in the Potts Mountain area and Maggie Valley. Elsewhere, the only record was 2 along Craig Creek north on 14 June (Opengari and Pancake). The best count was 15 on Potts Mountain on 14 June (Middleton, Scott, and Teuber).

House Sparrow. Common and widespread in the valleys though the high count was only 19.

Bobolink. One record. A male was seen flying twice over pastures in Sinking Creek Valley at 2200 feet on 14 June (Borchelt). These were noted in two locations, and the first Virginia nest was found, during the 1975 Highland County foray (Peake, 1978).

Eastern Meadowlark. Common in the valleys below 2500 feet. The maximum count was 138 in Sinking Creek Valley on 16 June (Middleton, Scott, and Teuber).

Red-winged Blackbird. Very common in the valleys mostly below 2500 feet with a top count of 215 in Sinking Creek Valley on 16 June (Middleton, Scott, and Teuber).

Orchard Oriole. Uncommon with only 6 birds reported by four parties, all in the lower creek valleys.

Northern Oriole. Fairly common in the stream valleys below 2500 feet. There were two peak counts of 7 each. An occupied nest was located in Sinking Creek Valley on 14 June (Borchelt), and Larner and Obenschain noted a pair carrying food along Craig Creek south on 15 June.

Common Grackle. Common in the valleys below 2500 feet with a few higher. The best count was 96 in Sinking Creek Valley on 16 June (Middleton, Scott, and Teuber). There were many fledged young along Craig Creek north on 13 June (Scott and Teuber).

Brown-headed Cowbird. Fairly common at all elevations though more so in the valleys. The Mitchells totaled the top count of 21 in Maggie Valley on 16 June.

Scarlet Tanager. Common throughout with maximum counts of 21 on 13 June (Pancake and Purdy) and 23 on 14 June (Middleton, Scott, and Teuber), both in the Potts Mountain area.

Cardinal. Common below 2500 feet with very few records higher. The best count of 31 was obtained by Kinzie, Pancake, and Watson in Maggie Valley on 16 June.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Fairly common above 2500 feet with a few down to 2000 feet and one along Craig Creek north on 14 June at only 1200 feet (Opengari and Pancake). Stevens had the peak count of 12 on Potts Mountain on 15 June. Finding several of these below 2500 feet was unexpected.

Blue Grosbeak. Uncommon to fairly common in the valleys below 2500 feet. Eight parties reported a total of 20 birds, and the top count was 5 singing males in Maggie Valley on 15 June (Middleton, Scott, and Teuber). The population of this species here was certainly higher than had been anticipated.

Indigo Bunting. Very common at all elevations, even to 3950 feet on the summit of White Rocks. The maximum count was 107 in Maggie Valley on 16 June (Kinzie, Pancake, and Watson).

American Goldfinch. Common at all elevations, the best counts being 82 in Maggie Valley on 16 June (Mitchells) and 81 in the Potts Mountain area on the same date (Dalmases).

Rufous-sided Towhee. Common throughout the county. Above 3300 feet Stevens had the high count of 51 on Potts Mountain on 15 June, whereas in the lowlands the best count was 50 in Maggie Valley on 16 June (Kinzie, Pancake, and Watson). Several fledged young were observed on Potts Mountain on 13 June (Barbee and Stevens).

Grasshopper Sparrow. Common along Craig Creek north and fairly common elsewhere in the valleys below 2500 feet. The peak count along Craig Creek was 16 on 15 June (Dalmases). Borchelt and Burrows found an adult with 2 fledged young in Sinking Creek Valley on 16 June.

Vesper Sparrow. Fairly common if somewhat local in the valleys below 2500 feet with a top count of 10 singing birds in Sinking Creek Valley on 16 June (Middleton, Scott, and Teuber). Twelve different parties reported this species.

Dark-eyed Junco. Fairly common but somewhat local on Potts Mountain above 3000 feet where Stevens had the high count of 23 on 15 June. It was not found elsewhere.

Chipping Sparrow. Common below 2500 feet and somewhat less so higher. Middleton, Scott, and Teuber totaled the maximum count of 49 in Sinking Creek Valley on 16 June. Two adults were feeding fledged young near Craig Creek on 13 June (Scott and Teuber).

Field Sparrow. Common at all elevations but more so below 3000 feet. The maximum count of 47 was obtained in Sinking Creek Valley on 16 June by Middleton *et al.* Two different adults feeding fledged young were found in Maggie Valley on 15 June by Middleton, Scott, and Teuber.

Song Sparrow. Common throughout though less so above 3000 feet. The peak count was 52 in Sinking Creek Valley on 13 June (Larner and Obenschain).

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115 Kennondale Lane, Richmond, Virginia 23226

YELLOW-NOSED ALBATROSS OFF VIRGINIA AND MARYLAND

RICHARD A. ROWLETT

A Yellow-nosed Albatross, *Diomedea chlororhynchos*, was studied by several crewmen and myself from the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Alert* on 3 December 1979 at 38°01'N, 74°04'W, about 55 nautical miles due east of Assateague Island, Virginia and Maryland.

The albatross first appeared off the port bow and passed within 500 meters along the port beam to off the port quarter where it followed the vessel for about 10 minutes soaring low over the surface in long figure eights. The bird possessed a mostly uniform slate gray mantle and tail, long narrow

wings, white head, rump, and underparts, and long stout bill which appeared all black suggesting an immature or possible subadult. The wing linings were extensively white, and a small dark patch was apparent around the eye.

The weather was mostly sunny, with winds from the northwest at 10 to 15 knots and seas running 1 to 1.5 meters. Air temperature was 12°C. The albatross was not influenced by the vessel or the few scattered Gannets, *Morus bassanus*, and Herring Gulls, *Larus argentatus*, in the area.

One previous sighting of the Yellow-nosed Albatross off the Delmarva Peninsula occurred only 10 miles northeast of this sighting at Baltimore Canyon, 60 nautical miles east-southeast of Ocean City, Maryland, at 38°19'N, 73°52'W, on 1 February 1975 (*Maryland Birdlife* 31(2):51-56, 1975). The 3 December sighting marks the first record for Virginia.

I am grateful to the United States Coast Guard for their cooperation and cordiality while I was onboard the Cutter *Alert* as a marine observer representing the Cetacean and Turtle Assessment Program (CETAP), a research assignment sponsored by the University of Rhode Island and the Bureau of Land Management, Department of Interior.

P.O. Box 579, Ocean City, Maryland 21842

NEWS AND NOTES

COMPILED BY YULEE LARNER AND F. R. SCOTT

CORRIGENDUM. The Upland Sandpiper nest reported at Broadway, Virginia, on 17 May 1979 (*Raven*, 51: 16, 1980) was mistakenly put into Augusta County. It was, of course, in Rockingham County.

PIED-BILLED GREBE BREEDING. On the Tazewell breeding-bird foray on 14 to 18 June 1972, several adult Pied-billed Grebes were found at Laurel Bed Lake in the Clinch Mountain Wildlife Management Area in southeastern Russell County, Virginia (*Raven*, 44: 28-29, 1973) but breeding was not proved. A previously unpublished record documenting breeding here has recently come to light. On 13 July 1972, just a few weeks after the foray mentioned above, Anton M. Decker heard two Pied-billed Grebes calling from different parts of the lake and later saw an adult accompanied by 4 half-grown young at still another location on the lake. At 3550-feet elevation, this observation certainly constitutes an altitude record for this species in summer in Virginia and possibly in the entire Southern Appalachians. Curiously, no Pied-billed Grebes were found here during the Mount Rogers foray 18 to 23 June 1974 (*Raven*, 46: 75-87, 1975).

WHITE PELICAN IN PULASKI COUNTY. The first occurrence of a White Pelican in western Virginia was recorded on 7 November 1979 when Robert Batie, Jenni Lyle, and perhaps others separately found an apparently adult bird in supplemental plumage along route 114 at Fairlawn, a suburb of Radford, in Pulaski County. It was reported immediately to John Murray at Blacksburg and to David Moore at Radford University who alerted others. The

bird was described as a large bird the size of a swan, almost entirely white with black in a portion of the wings, ashy gray feathers on the neck, and an orangish yellow bill and pouch. Although no one admitted seeing the bird in flight, a photograph on the first page of the *Radford News Journal* for 9 November 1979 shows the bird with wings outstretched, apparently just landing in the water. Other photographs of the bird were taken by Si and YuLee Lerner, John Murray, and others, and the bird was seen by over 30 observers, including Barry Kinzie, Norwood Middleton, John Pancake, and Jerry Via. Clyde Kessler, who kept track of the bird on a day-to-day basis as it alternated between two small farm ponds along the road, was apparently the last person to see it on 24 November before it left the area.

WATERBIRD FLIGHT IN VALLEY. An exceptional flight of waterbirds migrating between the Great Lakes and Chesapeake Bay the night of 11-12 November 1979 ran into a northeast storm, and many birds came down to any available lake, pond, or flooded field, especially in Augusta County, Virginia. The best counts of most species were made on 13 November, although YuLee Lerner and Tom Wieboldt found 914 Ring-billed Gulls and Mozelle Henkel observed 3 White-winged Scoters and a Forster's Tern in the Stuarts Draft area of Augusta County, both on 12 November.

On 13 November the birds recorded in Augusta County by YuLee Lerner, Leonard Teuber, and others included 71 Common Loons, 14 Horned Grebes, 267 Whistling Swans, 1 Snow Goose, 45 American Coots, and 17 species of ducks. Among the ducks were 19 Canvasback, 72 Lesser Scaup, 1 Oldsquaw, and 109 Ruddy Ducks. Thirty additional Common Loons were seen on the 13th at Carvins Cove Reservoir, Botetourt County, by Bill Hunley. As is generally true with most flights of this kind, most of the birds moved on within two or three days. This was the same flight that produced a remarkable 500 Common Loons on the Piedmont at Lake Anna on 12 November (Mary Arginteanu and Larry Robinson—*American Birds*, 34: 147, 1980).

PEREGRINE FALCON FLIGHT. At Fisherman Island, Northampton County, Virginia, the peak number of migrating Peregrine Falcons recorded during the 1979 fall migration was 38 on 29 September (Mitchell A. Byrd, Doug Davis, *et al.*). In all, between 1 September and 15 October 110 were observed here (Byrd *et al.*).

GALLINULES IN ROCKINGHAM. There have been three records of Common Gallinules in Rockingham County, Virginia, in recent years. Leonard Teuber found one at Shenandoah Lake between 8 and 12 June 1978 and another at the same location on 14 November 1978 which remained until 2 January 1979. The third bird was an immature first seen by Mozelle Henkel at Silver Lake on 17 November 1979 and which was last noted on 26 November. Both of the last two birds were also seen by Kathleen Finnegan and others.

GOLDEN PLOVERS IN VALLEY. One of the best flights of American Golden Plovers on record for western Virginia occurred in the Valley during the fall of 1979. At Montezuma, Rockingham County, Max Carpenter found 16 on 1 October, 1 on 5 October, and 23 on 13 October, and N. C. Middleton saw 2 at Roanoke between 30 September and 3 October. Near Stuarts Draft in Augusta County there were eight different observations from 13 on 22 October (T. F. Wieboldt) to 1 on 12 November (YuLee Lerner and Isabel

Obenschain). The peak count here was 29 on 1 and 2 November (Larner *et al.*). This account expands and corrects that given in *American Birds* (34: 161, 1980).

NORTHERN PHALAROPES IN ROANOKE. An unprecedented occurrence for western Virginia was the appearance on 5 September 1979 of 18 Northern Phalaropes at Roanoke's sewage treatment plant. Mike Purdy, who found the birds, also saw two here on both 6 and 7 September. There are few previous records of this species for Virginia west of the Blue Ridge. Unfortunately, the account of these observations was garbled in *American Birds* (34: 161, 1980).

SOOTY TERNS IN VIRGINIA. The passage of hurricane *David* northward through the Virginia Piedmont on 5 and 6 September 1979 and the tropical birds it brought were written up in *American Birds* (34: 147-149, 1980). Since there had been only three reports of the Sooty Tern in Virginia prior to that storm, however, it might be useful if all the records of that species were itemized here.

On 5 September on the Coastal Plain there were three records. Ruth and Sherwin Beck and Sue Anderson found 5 (1 dead) in James City County, 1 was seen at Lynnhaven Inlet by R. L. Anderson and Nick Stavros, and Rod Hennessey found 3 in his driveway at Nassawadox after dark. There was only one record on the Piedmont on the 5th, 3 adults at Lake Anna (J. B. Bazuin, Jr.).

On 6 September the Coastal Plain produced two records, 2 at the Williamsburg airport (Bill Williams) and 6 dead birds along the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel (R. L. Anderson, Doug Davis, and Greg Greer). On the Piedmont Bazuin had 1 adult again at Lake Anna, possibly one of the birds seen the previous day, a dead bird found near Amherst was given to Ernest Edwards, and a dead one picked up in western Henrico County by N. Thomas was given to C. R. Blem (see *Raven*, 51: 53, 1980). One picked up apparently exhausted but alive near Lynchburg was taken to Mrs. R. E. Ricketts. The bird recovered and was flown to Florida and released in late September.

After 6 September there were only five reports. R. L. Anderson and D. L. Hughes found 1 dead bird on the bridge-tunnel and 2 dead on Fisherman Island on 8 September, R. A. Rowlett and Galen Burrell recorded a remarkable flock of 110 Sooty Terns (98 adults and 12 immatures) at sea 135 miles east of the Virginia Capes on 11 September, and 1 was picked up dead on Chincoteague Refuge on 17 November (*vide* E. C. Swab). The condition of this last bird was not given, but presumably it had been dead for some time. Later dead birds were picked up on Myrtle Island on 30 December (C. D. Cremeans) and at Chincoteague Refuge on 17 February 1980 (H. T. Armistead). Of the latter bird, Armistead stated that it was "still in good enough condition that it was easily identified as an adult" (*American Birds*, 34: 262, 1980).

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER IN ALLEGHANY. On 10 June 1979 Bill J. Opengari located a Prothonotary Warbler about 8 miles southwest of Covington in Alleghany County, Virginia. The exact location was at a route 18 bridge over Potts Creek about 2 miles south of route 614. This may be the first county record for this species.

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, \$150.00 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—1980-81 SEASON

F. R. SCOTT

For the fourth consecutive year 34 Virginia Christmas bird counts were submitted to *The Raven*, but this year there was a drop in both participation and coverage, the first real break in the relentless upward trend since 1968. There were 836 listed participants this year, down 12% from the 949 of last year, but this was still higher than for any year prior to 1977. Of these 836 listed participants, about 74%, or 619, were different. Coverage declined 6% from 3222 party-hours last year to 3034 this season. The recent growth of this activity in Virginia is shown in Table 1.

Although there was little snow or rain during the count period, extremely cold weather set in starting 20 December and undoubtedly persuaded many potential participants to remain indoors. The 198 different species reported was the lowest number since 1969 and reflected the fewer number of holdovers from the fall migration. Three new birds—White Ibis, White-rumped Sandpiper, and Thick-billed Murre—were added to the cumulative list of all species recorded on Virginia Christmas counts, and this list now stands at 282.

TABLE 1. Growth of Christmas bird counts in Virginia for the past 9 years based on those counts submitted to *The Raven*. The last such tabulation appeared in *Raven*, 43: 5 (1972).

Year	Number of Counts	Total Species	Total Party-hours	Number of Different Observers
1972	26	210	1606	386
1973	29	220	2020	454
1974	31	212	2514	526
1975	31	209	2657	563
1976	32	203	2663	574
1977	34	203	3026	698
1978	34	215	3168	675
1979	34	208	3222	714
1980	34	198	3034	619

In comparison with last year, one count (Bristol) was not submitted this year, and one new one, Lake Anna, took its place. In addition to Bristol, four other Virginia counts were submitted to *American Birds* but not to *The Raven*—Calmes Neck, Danville, Manassas Bull Run, and Wachapreague—and two counts printed here were apparently not submitted to *American Birds*—Darlington Heights and Sweet Briar. Two additional counts centered outside the state—Seneca, Maryland, and Washington, D. C.—overlapped substantially

TABLE 2 (following 8 pages). The 1980-81 Christmas bird counts in Virginia. The underlined figures indicate an unusual species or an unusual number of individuals for that particular count.

	1. Chincoteague	2. Cape Charles	3. Little Creek	4. Back Bay	5. Newport News	6. Mathews	7. Williamsburg	8. Hopewell	9. Smoque	10. Fort Belvoir	11. Chancellorsville	12. Lake Anna	13. Gordonsville	14. Charlottesville	15. Warren
Date	12/28	12/27	12/31	1/1	12/20	1/4	12/21	12/20	12/22	1/3	12/21	1/4	12/21	12/28	12/21
Common Loon	52	8	12	421	1	4	1	...	...	5	...	9	...	...	...
Red-throated Loon	3	4	35	106	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Red-necked Grebe	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Horned Grebe	47	12	116	130	23	57	3	...	...	5	...	18	...	...	...
Pied-billed Grebe	8	27	47	15	38	6	61	20	4	2	45	4	3	3	1
Gannet	...	...	12	266	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Great Cormorant	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Double-crested Cormorant	1	22	1150	5	99	9	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Great Blue Heron	78	104	90	47	22	20	86	52	42	77	4	21	2	2	6
Green Heron	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Little Blue Heron	1	3	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cattle Egret	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Great Egret	7	5	26	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Snowy Egret	8	1	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Louisiana Heron	4	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Black-crowned Night Heron	42	57	5	97	5	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Night Heron, sp.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
American Bittern	4	11	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
White Ibis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mute Swan	26	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whistling Swan	318	68	10	8950	...	315	169	1	95	...	...	...	...	...	...
Canada Goose	5310	4911	161	1530	...	267	1903	12,800	1500	1209	9	13	1242	867	681
Geant	7625	1077	506	...	36	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Snow Goose	3394	294	722	12,600	...	...	8	22	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Snow Goose (blue form)	11	...	...	3	...	...	...	250	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Mallard	764	1303	930	790	438	139	1437	2830	160	1176	221	824	133	656	424
Black Duck	1705	1491	177	406	29	30	562	570	530	1359	62	143	102	162	86
Gadwall	72	86	16	2600	12	...	3	7	...	5	6	18	...	...	...
Pintail	1044	271	...	1570	...	...	950	525	2	2	...	5	...	...	...
Green-winged Teal	8	31	25	287	16	...	4	55	...	10	...	1	...	2	8
Blue-winged Teal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
European *igeon	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
American *igeon	131	237	242	8960	558	20	79	55	...	3	...	6	9	76	11
*igeon sp.	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Northern Shoveler	193	43	49	43	...	...	2	15	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Wood Duck	1	10	2	2	...	...	8	170	3	7	...	...	...	...	...
Redhead	...	8	1	25	48	600	122	11	...	6	...	28	...	...	...
Ring-necked Duck	...	91	93	...	26	2	64	519	...	...	195	1	22	1	8
Canvasback	1	52	54	10	303	8	552	10	...	240	...	18	...	...	2
Greater Scaup	8	11	13	...	7	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lesser Scaup	5	...	21	8	50	16	32	17	13	1001	33	30	2	18	2
Scaup sp.	...	5	...	...	8	...	...	...	...	19	...	...	...	...	...
Common Goldeneye	201	174	66	79	402	111	32	2	60	16	2	3	...	...	7
Bufflehead	699	1326	335	58	203	432	76	26	48	76	39	22	2	2	2
Oldsquaw	391	76	1	2	4	29	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
King Eider	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Eider sp.	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
White-winged Scoter	178	100	...	13	6	2	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...
Surf Scoter	561	3872	73	73	...	94	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Black Scoter	64	856	21	92	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scoter sp.	26	118	...	415	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ruddy Duck	21	12	320	29	11	4	294	84	350	7	58	6	...	1	...
Hooded Merganser	26	133	158	4	...	5	174	183	30	21	60	77	10	15	5
Common Merganser	1	12	45	48	1	...	3	61	300	1182	...	46	...	2	3
Red-breasted Merganser	57	96	10	45	11	7	2	...	2	7	...	4	...	...	...
Turkey Vulture	310	35	...	18	7	6	102	31	24	3	39	24	70	270	112
Black Vulture	5	...	...	...	3	93	6	15	...	...	6	3	32	50	89
Sharp-shinned Hawk	25	14	5	6	2	5	8	...	...	6	1	1	...	4	4
Cooper's Hawk	3	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	2	4	2	1	1	2	...

[illegible]

	1. Chincoteague	2. Cape Charles	3. Little Creek	4. Back Bay	5. Newport News	6. Mathews	7. Williamsburg	8. Hopewell	9. Brooke	10. Fort Belvoir	11. Chancellorville	12. Lake Anna	13. Gordonville	14. Charlottesville	15. Warren
Date	12/28	12/27	12/31	1/1	12/20	1/4	12/21	12/20	12/22	1/3	12/21	1/4	12/21	12/28	12/21
Accipiter sp.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
Red-tailed Hawk	27	21	31	22	6	9	28	25	12	16	6	12	16	29	36
Red-shouldered Hawk	5	4	2	8	2	4	6	6	18	28	3	2	1	4	2
Rough-legged Hawk	2	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Buteo sp.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bald Eagle	2	...	...	...	1	...	8	18	6	11	...	1	...	...	...
Marsh Hawk	51	65	5	22	6	10	8	9	...	7	2	5	2	2	9
Osprey	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Peregrine Falcon	1	5	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Merlin	6	5	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
American Kestrel	60	55	44	91	12	22	16	22	15	18	4	8	19	11	11
Ruffed Grouse	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
Bobwhite	244	178	61	12	25	60	102	23	25	141	...	6	29	95	21
Japanese Green Pheasant	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
King-necked Pheasant	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Turkey	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	5	7	...	1	3	...	7	26
King Rail	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Clapper Rail	6	13	4	...	4	4	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Virginia Rail	10	1	...	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sora	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Common Gallinule	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
American Coot	4	58	169	28	29	...	...	...	...	23	715	887	...	...	...
American Oystercatcher	466	61	22	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Semipalmated Plover	1	5	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Killdeer	14	28	66	20	68	24	70	151	15	32	6	3	2	1	21
American Golden Plover	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Black-bellied Plover	159	322	39	13	37	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Muddy Turnstone	106	54	27	...	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
American Woodcock	89	272	...	...	2	25	1	3	...	3	...	...	2	...	...
Common Snipe	6	15	4	28	6	...	2	42	...	5	...	...	2	1	8
Whimbrel	...	12	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Willet	11	22	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Greater Yellowlegs	30	22	1	9	4	...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lesser Yellowlegs	4	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Red Knot	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Purple Sandpiper	...	...	20	...	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
White-rumped Sandpiper	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Least Sandpiper	7	1	...	...	1	...	...	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dunlin	2044	4875	170	12	53	179	8	1	...	22	...	...	...	...	...
Short-billed Dowitcher	...	32	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dowitcher sp.	1	21	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Western Sandpiper	27	241	...	...	12	25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Marbled Godwit	...	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sanderling	330	249	281	215	155	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
American Avocet	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Parasitic Jaeger	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Glaucous Gull	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Great Black-backed Gull	552	382	2680	612	57	23	27	42	90	524	...	...	...	...	...
Lesser Black-backed Gull	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Herring Gull	3344	3102	4500	2745	2020	781	158	289	330	11,769	3	7	...	...	...
Ring-billed Gull	1794	3027	13,300	5620	4324	983	1726	5086	420	4424	244	2073	...	...	...
Laughing Gull	1	...	...	1	5	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bonaparte's Gull	25	17	2370	55	71	47	...	148	...	91	...	210	...	...	...
Forster's Tern	5	...	5	...	2	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Thick-billed Murre	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hock Dove	103	396	800	158	659	3	86	101	1	44	10	52	49	269	139
Mourning Dove	279	537	780	346	427	79	249	312	190	408	135	239	166	622	833
Honk Parakeet	...	1	1
Barn Owl	...	1
Screech Owl	1	11	8	3	6	5	9	4	...	1	3	2	1	5	...

[illegible]

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Date	12/26	12/27	12/31	1/1	12/20	1/4	12/21	12/20	12/22	1/3	12/21	1/4	12/21	12/28	12/21
Great Horned Owl	5	7	10	7	1	3	10	2	4	16	2	4	2
Barred Owl	...	...	...	3	...	...	3	2	1	7	...	1	...	1	2
Short-eared Owl	...	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Belted Kingfisher	42	19	41	15	21	18	29	22	12	32	5	9	3	25	17
Common Flicker	193	98	204	190	53	93	111	146	49	151	19	12	15	80	38
Pileated Woodpecker	3	1	31	26	3	1	19	8	28	49	7	1	3	30	22
Red-bellied Woodpecker	37	48	55	39	24	33	48	112	64	124	13	16	25	96	70
Red-headed Woodpecker	...	...	...	...	1	1	3	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2	2	9	5	4	4	26	44	11	17	4	6	11	18	14
Hairy Woodpecker	4	4	7	6	2	3	7	2	12	41	4	3	...	10	7
Downy Woodpecker	65	41	73	68	40	49	76	105	61	328	21	17	119	125	115
Eastern Phoebe	6	2	...	3	1	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	2	2	4
Horned Lark	60	25	...	...	...	...	...	20	...	...	...	...	...	45	75
Tree Swallow	...	17	...	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Blue Jay	90	75	172	133	49	62	71	159	340	443	130	34	61	251	119
Common Raven	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	...	...
Common Crow	300	246	780	1300	1569	1202	438	516	450	1622	504	549	321	542	905
Fish Crow	37	...	15	364	120	17	125	1	19	142	1	...	...	1	2
Crow sp.	...	...	...	...	...	...	101	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Black-capped Chickadee	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	21	...
Carolina Chickadee	246	236	198	136	118	147	201	300	200	1118	47	67	57	358	305
Chickadee sp.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tufted Titmouse	46	24	77	44	64	103	108	157	100	744	33	18	17	149	62
White-breasted Nuthatch	2	1	8	24	3	1	28	33	8	92	9	4	8	76	38
Red-breasted Nuthatch	5	6	9	10	...	7	3	...	11	70	10	13	3	53	29
Brown-headed Nuthatch	89	10	21	7	...	9	33	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Brown Creeper	11	5	7	8	4	3	20	21	3	74	...	2	4	21	14
House Wren	3	5	1	4	...	2	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Winter Wren	13	31	2	5	2	4	6	8	4	15	1	3	...	12	3
Bewick's Wren	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Carolina Wren	118	165	66	72	23	50	72	103	38	256	6	9	14	181	113
Long-billed Marsh Wren	...	5	3	9	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Short-billed Marsh Wren	5	12	2	6	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mockingbird	95	115	128	81	97	131	96	81	84	189	76	24	80	169	114
Gray Catbird	23	5	5	53	1	3	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Brown Thrasher	8	6	16	21	6	26	15	13	1	...	1	2	...	1	4
American Robin	547	299	1070	365	31	1910	161	124	262	174	290	59	53	2472	797
Hermit Thrush	11	22	26	11	8	26	21	18	9	22	3	5	5	18	8
Eastern Bluebird	10	3	...	12	16	333	78	65	67	121	48	61	63	61	97
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Golden-crowned Kinglet	80	177	24	63	5	2	128	84	9	150	10	21	29	70	56
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	5	10	40	26	9	16	40	26	5	12	6	6	...	11	13
Water Pipit	1	154	7	3	...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cedar Waxwing	59	103	850	226	153	1164	222	808	250	217	19	9	1	1315	311
Loggerhead Shrike	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	10	...
Starling	3450	3761	2680	1070	905	2643	668	1464	670	1540	283	834	1348	946	519
Black-and-white Warbler	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Orange-crowned Warbler	...	1	6	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Yellow-rumped Warbler	6242	2068	560	2400	1353	1370	270	232	67	113	76	90	76	219	99
Pine Warbler	21	1	11	14	2	3	45	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Prairie Warbler	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Palm Warbler	2	8	9	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Oporornis sp.	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Common Yellowthroat	1	3	...	9	...	5	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	...
House Sparrow	317	147	131	172	1000	106	324	171	66	501	89	87	72	80	32
Eastern Meadowlark	679	432	73	247	41	205	218	167	29	20	36	15	56	21	287
Red-winged Blackbird	18,164	3397	3300	5125	629	1939	2500	1653	470	468	8	79	254	212	1356
Northern Oriole	...	...	...	4	...	...	12	12	5	22	...	...	7	...	14
Rusty Blackbird	5	12	...	...	...	43	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Boat-tailed Grackle	1078	592	119	292	28	75	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

	16. Darlington Heights	17. Sweet Briar	18. Lynchburg	19. No. Shenandoah Valley	20. Shenandoah Park	21. Big Flat Mtn.	22. Stockingham Co.	23. Augusta Co.	24. Waynesboro	25. Lexington	26. Peaks of Otter	27. Clifton Forge	28. Fincastle	29. Roanoke	30. Blacksburg	31. Tazewell	32. Glade Spring	33. Nickelsville	34. Wise Co.
	12/30	1/3	12/20	12/20	12/21	12/30	12/20	12/27	12/20	12/27	12/30	12/21	12/21	12/20	12/22	12/20	12/20	12/21	12/27
...	...	2	14	5	...	1	2	...	...	1	...	...	7	4	12	1	2	...	2
...	...	...	2	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	3	...	2	1	...	4
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	1	21	67	15	1	13	26	7	11	...	...	10	19	26	11	20	7	7
2	7	7	36	54	19	1	13	13	2	9	3	5	20	46	34	1	14	4	7
2	4	25	20	15	11	5	5	6	8	10	2	4	22	16	16	3	3	2	18
7	15	68	117	26	19	19	19	38	27	23	2	5	25	37	40	7	14	8	7
...	1	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	6	1	2	...
1	2	19	11	17	4	...	...	6	1	3	3	...	7	15	5	2	6	...	2
...	3	6	26	26	6	6	2	5	1	7	...	4	4	14	10	5	6	4	6
8	23	134	171	127	24	28	83	48	34	21	34	82	131	168	168	36	34	10	56
...	...	...	8	1	...	...	2	1	...	1	1	...	4	...	2	...	2	2	2
...	...	11	49	55	...	...	132	121	100	...	...	...	63	6	41	4	...	...	2
...
14	95	211	429	148	11	104	165	139	134	4	81	213	177	242	342	161	159	51	164
...	1	10	3	34	8	33	9	3	4	1	6	7	13	13	...	...	...	2	6
31	128	549	2335	855	5	431	949	2638	652	37	210	1037	673	618	232	293	198	544	...
...	...	2	13	...	...	17	116	2452	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	242	169	2	8	37	4	20	8	3	43	77	26	4	...	...	...	6
18	49	454	405	362	57	71	198	132	72	28	131	222	433	324	324	95	143	76	238
...	...	...	...	16	...	...	58	87	...	78	...	...	...	75	75	...	...	...	...
12	37	261	274	131	20	58	97	91	94	26	103	91	236	214	214	88	104	37	209
3	20	56	107	96	24	16	44	31	27	13	52	24	64	118	118	38	38	14	77
7	1	60	22	8	6	4	17	4	7	...	...	1	23	65	32	3	...	1	9
...
1	2	29	55	71	11	2	10	1	2	5	1	7	12	19	19	2	2	1	5
...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	2	14	6	3	7	4	3	1	1	...	...	2	2	4	18	2	2	7	7
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
12	21	121	52	50	10	18	31	19	41	7	26	80	123	168	168	27	18	13	74
...
8	38	137	236	101	3	84	168	73	51	4	20	184	263	322	322	7	80	22	74
...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...
...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	4	...	...	...	...
5	...	26	155	101	4	20	229	178	138	...	...	8	5	22	15	12	2	58	89
...	1	22	8	14	4	1	...	16	3	...	...	9	11	17	12	2	1	...	27
43	8	127	272	155	12	43	45	104	134	25	10	91	93	142	142	68	104	28	38
...
6	1	43	56	155	30	1	23	4	34	11	8	43	92	89	10	6	5	38	38
3	2	31	7	10	4	...	2	5	6	1	9	1	22	8	1	7	...	...	10
...	...	...	2	...	...	...	81	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	...	...	...	...	8
...	15	37	54	83	...	...	28	60	37	...	...	...	43	7	14	5	72	58	16
...	...	1	7	3	...	...	...	6	3	3	...	...	7	1	...	1	1	3	2
94	109	1987	264,779	2536	...	6608	12,188	5228	323	1	194	1416	1882	2732	2732	1156	3800	12,244	474
...
...	27	69	115	92	1	3	49	24	71	3	1	34	42	36	36	...	22	21	1
...	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...
...
38	57	141	1739	779	...	1724	681	264	81	...	61	108	201	365	365	93	501	109	199
26	11	141	151	103	...	38	72	12	...	...	...	...	96	128	94	43	28	48	33
...	...	6	1076	2	2	47	50	108	24	...	...	...	3	100	77	28	1	3	...
...
...	...	...	62	...	...	50	1	59	2	...	...	1	...	18	2	1	21	...	1
...

	1. Chincoteague	2. Cape Charles	3. Little Creek	4. Back Bay	5. Newport News	6. Matthews	7. Williamsburg	8. Hopewell	9. Brooke	10. Fort Belvoir	11. Chancellorsville	12. Lake Anna	13. Gordonsville	14. Charlottesville	15. Warren
Date	12/28	12/27	12/31	1/1	12/20	1/4	12/21	12/20	12/22	1/3	12/21	1/4	12/21	12/28	12/21
Common Grackle	17,627	1933	255	663	130	144	205	3635	...	<u>75,015</u>	1	50	1	...	...
Brown-headed Cowbird	21	465	62	23	80	151	17	275	...	<u>692</u>	6	26	12	7	203
Blackbird sp.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cardinal	216	310	218	154	190	431	258	440	200	<u>715</u>	146	103	95	459	442
Indigo Bunting	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<u>1</u>
Dickcissel	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Evening Grosbeak	3	1	1	...	...	40	107	129	83	7	14	...	9	24	21
Purple Finch	26	9	196	52	13	34	49	106	130	163	111	35	57	352	684
House Finch	53	111	61	4	50	12	<u>49</u>	35	80	32	52	159	203	374	266
Pine Siskin	...	1	101	36	...	71	9	13	75	30	1	2	...	1	...
American Goldfinch	112	92	295	211	131	<u>416</u>	237	200	123	613	37	83	6	195	280
Red Crossbill	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<u>4</u>	...	...	...	...	...
Rufous-sided Towhee	27	24	60	88	34	81	36	41	8	44	1	1	1	25	9
Savannah Sparrow	190	255	41	178	25	9	<u>83</u>	38	5	3	...	16	5	10	2
Savannah (Ipewich) Sparrow	7	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sharp-tailed Sparrow	9	33	34	2	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Seaside Sparrow	4	15	15	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Vesper Sparrow	4	1	...	...	21	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<u>1</u>	...
Lark Sparrow	...	...	...	<u>1</u>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dark-eyed Junco	151	202	288	72	231	<u>1065</u>	654	716	720	1986	437	634	296	1306	974
Tree Sparrow	...	1	...	...	3	...	...	3	1	18	1	1	...	45	4
Chipping Sparrow	1	67	4	8	6	15	5	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	2
Field Sparrow	124	401	81	80	59	221	143	156	90	297	98	114	23	366	152
White-crowned Sparrow	...	13	15	5	...	...	...	24	3	...	12	4	89	54	191
White-throated Sparrow	1249	1747	824	441	787	<u>1200</u>	601	1958	650	<u>1851</u>	232	281	143	1154	1063
Fox Sparrow	9	81	31	5	56	16	<u>28</u>	6	2	12	10	3	7	2	3
Lincoln's Sparrow	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<u>2</u>	...	...
Swamp Sparrow	248	149	39	108	7	11	39	16	25	114	1	35	...	24	17
Song Sparrow	549	592	<u>1251</u>	304	112	183	354	419	280	598	114	273	79	665	512
Lapland Longspur	...	...	...	...	<u>1</u>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Snow Bunting	105	41	18	40	19	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<u>1</u>
Total Species	146	157	127	136	120	110	109	107	83	101	78	88	75	88	89
Total Individuals	86,179	50,174	45,686	64,576	18,750	20,412	18,685	39,582	10,206	115,318	4872	8733	5667	18,960	13,078
Total Party-hours	200	146	137	133	60	91	133	100	81	268	42	47	45	120	97
Number of Observers	46	41	33	25	34	39	28	30	15	59	15	10	11	24	17

	16. Darlington Heights	17. Sweet Briar	18. Lynchburg	19. No. Shenandoah Valley	20. Shenandoah Park	21. Big Flat Mtn.	22. Hockingham Co.	23. Augusta Co.	24. Waynesboro	25. Lexington	26. Peaks of Otter	27. Clifton Forge	28. Vincastle	29. Roanoke	30. Blacksburg	31. Tazewell	32. Glade Spring	33. Nickelsville	34. Wise Co.
	12/30	1/3	12/20	12/20	12/21	12/30	12/20	12/27	12/20	12/27	12/30	12/21	12/21	12/20	12/22	12/20	12/20	12/21	12/27
...	...	...	7	290	...	250	31	81	...	...	...	3	...	12	8	7	10,000	...	8
...	...	...	7	856	19	...	<u>4327</u>	5192	600	15	...	...	...	1	18	...	...	2	...
43	132	396	805	397	22	151	230	202	167	24	133	486	501	<u>511</u>	130	171	47	200	...
...
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9	7	39	43	9	2	5	40	78	43	...	97	53	47	86	34	3	...	1	...
7	59	287	229	197	62	184	133	132	<u>186</u>	3	5	201	142	206	34	5	63	18	...
150	1	193	<u>641</u>	23	...	<u>179</u>	263	181	60	...	42	105	172	141	19	...	...	...	...
6	...	10	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	8	14	...	...	...	2	...
12	24	235	323	123	...	132	138	73	74	2	71	132	201	263	85	94	128	75	...
...	...	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	2	20	...	7	5	...	1	2	3	...	1	2	13	45	8	13	6	23	...
...	...	5	3	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	10	1	...	...	...	...	...
...
...
125	93	1210	2807	1562	42	<u>694</u>	853	548	635	102	403	1034	895	1022	226	199	370	379	...
...	...	...	70	8	...	1	15	3	...	...	1	1	3	19	1	...	...	1	...
...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8	1	75	127	195	...	12	40	63	19	4	16	212	170	191	76	64	11	196	...
5	25	2	297	310	...	106	95	66	28	...	...	114	29	172	12	48	55	6	...
65	214	1077	593	612	86	311	161	249	287	72	86	351	718	<u>746</u>	36	154	44	198	...
1	...	6	2	...	...	...	...	3	2	...	...	...	3	3	...	1	5	3	...
...
...	...	13	7	5	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	7	1	2	1	1	...	4	...
36	13	<u>482</u>	311	240	6	104	113	94	73	13	24	267	396	<u>495</u>	90	175	59	<u>292</u>	...
...
...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
43	49	85	101	73	41	65	72	69	73	30	50	71	89	82	65	69	60	68	...
1204	1530	10,556	286,108	11,214	784	19,050	24,185	14,946	4007	430	2086	8029	10,672	11,603	3246	17,108	14,210	4152	...
9	19	113	189	129	20	53	108	63	33	20	29	83	146	113	56	54	23	74	...
2	9	43	50	37	2	19	29	20	19	6	12	26	40	38	18	13	7	19	...

into Virginia, and two others—Crisfield and Point Lookout, Maryland, may have extended slightly into the state. All four of these were submitted to *American Birds*. This summary is of necessity confined to those counts appearing in *The Raven*.

Ten of the counts went over the 100-species figure, nine of these on the Coastal Plain. Top honors in each physiographic region went to Cape Charles on the Coastal Plain with 157 species, Warren on the Piedmont with 89, and—from the Blue Ridge westward—Northern Shenandoah Valley with 101 species. The prize for the best coverage was bestowed on Fort Belvoir with an impressive 268 party-hours (a state record?), followed not-too-closely by Chincoteague with 200, Northern Shenandoah Valley with 189, and Cape Charles and Roanoke with 146 each.

The count tabulation given in Table 2 is more or less in order of distance inland from the coast. Counts 1-10 were on the Coastal Plain with 1-4 being directly on the coast and 5 and 6 being on the western shore of Chesapeake Bay. Counts 11-18 were on the Piedmont, and 19-34 were from the Blue Ridge westward. Abbreviated details on each count are given at the end of this summary. As in the past few years, the initial tabulation of these counts was performed by Walter P. Smith.

The 421 Common Loons at Back Bay was the best number on a Christmas count in many years, whereas the numbers of Horned Grebes was pitifully low in comparison with past years. Impressive—and probably a record winter count for the Piedmont—were the 45 Pied-billed Grebes at Chancellorsville. Little Creek produced 6 Great and a spectacular 1150 Double-crested Cormorants, the latter probably a record winter count for the state, and a single Double-crested at Lake Anna was distinctly unusual for the Piedmont. Waders were generally in poor numbers. One Green Heron at Chincoteague was the only record of this species, and single Cattle Egrets were found at Chincoteague and Back Bay. A White Ibis at Hopewell was a first record for a Virginia Christmas count.

Considering the amount of ice, waterfowl showed up very well inland. Rockingham County, for example, noted that with temperatures of 10° to 20°F., water was frozen. Yet they then proceeded to list 339 ducks of seven species. Presumably, at least a few holes in the ice were kept open! Piedmont numbers were enhanced by the new Lake Anna count, which listed an impressive 17 species of waterfowl. Hooded Mergansers, which have received much comment in the past few years, were down in numbers for the second successive year. Still, they were recorded on 19 counts with a peak of 183 at Hopewell. Other good counts around the state included 600 Redheads at Mathews, 519 Ring-necked Ducks at Hopewell, 1182 Common Mergansers at Fort Belvoir, and 7 of the last at Roanoke. Some individual records of interest were 2 Whistling Swans at Lexington, a Snow Goose (white) at Gordonsville, single "Blue" Geese at Brooke, Fort Belvoir, and Northern Shenandoah Valley, and 2 male European Wigeon with 3 female unidentified wigeon at Mathews.

The best vulture counts this year were at Northern Shenandoah Valley and Rockingham County. Hawk numbers remained relatively high, most interesting being 28 Red-shouldered Hawks at Fort Belvoir and 18 Bald Eagles at Hopewell; there were no Golden Eagles on the counts this year. Rough-legged Hawks were reported from a record eight counts with 7 at Northern Shenandoah Valley, and a single Osprey was found at Cape Charles. The highest

number of American Coots was 887 on the new Lake Anna count followed closely by 715 at Chancellorsville, both Piedmont localities. Roanoke, which often gets good Killdeer concentrations in winter, outdid itself this year with 209, probably a record winter count west of the Blue Ridge. Unusual for Little Creek were 22 American Oystercatchers as was a Whimbrel for Newport News. Cape Charles produced an American Golden Plover, a third record for a Virginia Christmas count, and a well-described White-rumped Sandpiper, a first winter record for the state. The American Woodcock count of 272 at Cape Charles was astonishing. Not only did it surpass the previous peak count for Virginia, it was also the highest number ever recorded on *any* U. S. Christmas count! Inland records of note were 25 Dunlin at Fort Belvoir and one at Hopewell and one each Greater Yellowlegs and Least Sandpiper at Northern Shenandoah Valley.

A Parasitic Jaeger at Back Bay, a Glaucous Gull at Chincoteague, and a Lesser Black-backed Gull at Little Creek were the only reports of these species, and Fort Belvoir's totals of Great Black-backed, Herring, and Ring-billed Gulls were impressive for this upper Coastal Plain area. Evidence of late migration of gulls was given by the 75 Ring-bills at Roanoke and the many Bonaparte's Gulls at Hopewell, Fort Belvoir, and Lake Anna. The total of 210 Bonaparte's at Lake Anna was probably a record winter number for Piedmont Virginia. A Thick-billed Murre picked up injured at Back Bay was a first record for a state Christmas count.

Single Monk Parakeets were found at Cape Charles and Newport News, only the second year this bird has appeared on a state Christmas count. As on the last occurrence in 1972, the species is not being added to the cumulative list since it is felt these birds were undoubtedly escapes. An amazing 9 Barn Owls were totaled at Northern Shenandoah Valley, and Short-eared Owls were found only at Cape Charles and Roanoke. No Long-ears or Saw-whets were reported this year. Only three counts missed the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and the total of 281 birds (9.3 per 100 party-hours) was up slightly from the 244 (7.6 per 100 party-hours) of 1979. The 2453 Fish Crows at Waynesboro broke the record number for the state west of the Blue Ridge which this count established last year, and Black-capped Chickadees continued to appear in a spotty fashion in nontraditional wintering localities, such as Charlottesville, Big Flat Mountain, Waynesboro, Peaks of Otter, Fincastle, Roanoke, and Wise County. In more normal wintering areas, such as Northern Shenandoah Valley and Shenandoah Park, numbers were high. It was pleasant to note that three counts listing both species this year reported also substantial numbers of unidentified chickadees rather than making unsupportable assumptions. In relatively comparable numbers to last year were Winter and Carolina Wrens, whereas for Red-breasted Nuthatches it was obviously a flight year with a total of 499 birds (16.4 per 100 party-hours) and only four of the 34 counts *not* reporting the species. Last year the comparable figures were 76 birds or 2.4 per 100 party-hours. Mockingbirds showed a marked recovery for the second year going from 2791 to 3245 birds, or 87 to 107 birds per 100 party-hours, and Hermit Thrushes, with a total of 398 versus 323 in 1979, increased from 10.0 to 13.1 birds per 100 party-hours, still low by some recent standards (*Raven*, 49: 29, 1978).

The best news, however, concerned the Eastern Bluebird, which extended its recovery to 2638 birds, or 87 per 100 party-hours, a 14% increase over 1979. For the second successive year, the kinglets went different paths, the Golden-

crown continuing its recovery to 1563 birds from 1425 in 1979 (52 from 44 birds per 100 party-hours) while the Ruby-crown continued downward from 611 last year to only 354 this year (19 to 12 per 100 party-hours). From its peak of 79 per 100 party-hours in 1975 (*loc. cit.*), the latter species has thus declined some 85%. Sad to say, the Loggerhead Shrike total was only 54, or 1.8 per 100 party-hours, a 44% decline from 1979. Note the distribution of this species. Only one Coastal Plain and four Piedmont counts listed it, but it was noted on 11 of the counts from the Blue Ridge westward.

Some unusual species included a Bewick's Wren and a remarkable 13 Brown Thrashers at Wise County, a Long-billed Marsh Wren at Fort Belvoir, and a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Hopewell. Significant counts of American Robins included 1910 at Mathews and 5479 at Charlottesville, and Cedar Waxwings broke a couple of records on the same counts with 1104 at Mathews and 1315 at Charlottesville. Black-and-white Warblers appeared at Cape Charles, Back Bay, and Chancellorsville and a Prairie Warbler at Back Bay, while Little Creek had an *Oporornis* warbler, thought to be probably a Connecticut Warbler. A Common Yellowthroat at Gordonsville and 3 at Warren were unusual for the upper Piedmont. Blackbird concentrations were few and relatively small, the best being at Chincoteague, Fort Belvoir, and Glade Spring. Williamsburg totaled 15 Northern Orioles, but they were found elsewhere only at Newport News and Hopewell.

House Finches increased again to a record total of 3711 or 122 per 100 party-hours, a 16% increase over 1979. Note the record-shattering count of 641 at Northern Shenandoah Valley. Northern finches did moderately well, the 1035 Evening Grosbeaks (34 per 100 party-hours) being the best numbers since 1977, whereas the 4170 Purple Finches (137 per 100 party-hours) were the best numbers for this species on recent record. Those who think the House Finch is supplanting this species, please take note. Only 18 Christmas counts reported the Pine Siskin for a total of 401 (13 per 100 party-hours), and most of these were on the Coastal Plain. The last really good siskin total on the Christmas counts was in 1977 with 1260 (42 per 100 party-hours), and the highest ever was in 1969 with 2019 (176 per 100 party-hours). The only other northern finches were Red Crossbills reported at Fort Belvoir and Lynchburg. An Indigo Bunting at Warren was only the second record for a Virginia Christmas count, the first being at Chincoteague in 1961, whereas the Dickcissel, recorded this year at Darlington Heights, has been found on eight different counts since 1971. The Lark Sparrow at Back Bay was the fifth time this species has appeared on a state count, and Lincoln's Sparrows appeared at both Cape Charles and Gordonsville. A Lapland Longspur at Newport News was the only report of this species which in recent years has shown up annually on one or more counts, while the Snow Bunting was not only noted on all six coastal and Chesapeake Bay counts, but it was also found inland at Warren and Shenandoah Park.

1. CHINCOTEAGUE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. Center 2 miles N of center of Chincoteague. Dec. 28. Forty-six observers in 27 parties. Total party-hours, 200 (180 on foot, 20 by car) plus 3 hours owling; total party-miles, 436 (145 on foot, 291 by car). Compiler: F. R. Scott.

2. CAPE CHARLES. Center 1.5 miles SE of Capeville P.O. Dec. 27. Forty-one observers in 22 parties. Total party-hours, 146 (120 on foot, 19 by car, 7 by boat) plus 5 hours owling; total party-miles, 286 (103 on foot, 161 by car, 22 by boat). Compiler: Henry Armistead.

3. LITTLE CREEK. Center 3.8 miles NE of Kempsville in Virginia Beach. Dec. 31. Thirty-three observers in 10 parties. Total party-hours, 137 (114 on foot, 23 by car) plus 2 hours owling; total party-miles, 483 (72 on foot, 411 by car). Compiler: Paul Sykes.

4. BACK BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. Center 1.5 miles E of Back Bay. Jan. 1. Twenty-five observers in 10 parties. Total party-hours, 133 (105 on foot, 23 by car, 5 by boat) plus 2 hours owling; total party-miles, 452 (77 on foot, 369 by car, 6 by boat). Compiler: Paul Sykes.

5. NEWPORT NEWS. Center SW corner of Langley Air Force Base. Dec. 20. Thirty-four observers in 7 parties. Total party-hours, 60 (44 on foot, 16 by car) plus 2 hours owling; total party-miles, 218 (54 on foot, 164 by car). Compiler: W. P. Smith.

6. MATHEWS. Center 0.5 mile E of Beaverlette P.O. Jan. 4. Thirty-nine observers in 12 parties. Total party-hours, 91 (38.5 on foot, 52.5 by car) plus 3.5 hours owling; total party-miles, 431 (39 on foot, 392 by car). Compiler: Mary Pulley.

7. WILLIAMSBURG. Center Colonial Williamsburg Information Center. Dec. 21. Twenty-eight observers in 11 parties. Total party-hours, 133 (59 on foot, 74 by car) plus 6 hours at feeders, 7 owling; total party-miles, 491 (63.5 on foot, 427.5 by car). Compiler: Bill Williams.

8. HOPEWELL. Center Curles Neck. Dec. 20. Thirty observers in 11 parties. Total party-hours, 100 (86 on foot, 11 by car, 3 by boat) plus 5 hours owling; total party-miles, 285 (57 on foot, 216 by car, 12 by boat). Compiler: F. R. Scott.

9. BROOKE. Center 3 miles ESE of Brooke. Dec. 22. Fifteen observers in 11 parties. Total party-hours, 81 (72 on foot, 9 by car) plus 1 hour owling; total party-miles, 157 (42 on foot, 115 by car). Compiler: E. T. McKnight.

10. FORT BELVOIR. Center Pohick Church. Jan. 3. Fifty-nine observers, 58 in 35 parties, 1 at feeders. Total party-hours, 268 (232.5 on foot, 32.5 by car, 3 by boat) plus 2 hours at feeders, 3.5 owling; total party-miles, 476 (174 on foot, 290 by car, 12 by boat). Compiler: Jackson Abbott.

11. CHANCELLORSVILLE. Center junction Sickles Drive and McClaws Drive. Dec. 21. Fifteen observers, 14 in 6 parties, 1 at feeders. Total party-hours, 42 (23 on foot, 19 by car) plus 7 hours at feeders, 5.5 owling; total party-miles, 328 (24 on foot, 304 by car). Compiler: Sam Cooper.

12. LAKE ANNA. Center rt. 208 bridge over Lake Anna. Jan. 4. Ten observers, 7-10 in 5 parties, up to 3 at feeders. Total party-hours, 47 (19 on foot, 22 by car, 6 by boat) plus 1.5 hours at feeders, 3 owling; total party-miles, 285 (38 on foot, 230 by car, 17 by boat). Compiler: Jack Mozingo.

13. GORDONSVILLE. Center junction rts. 15 and 33. Dec. 21. Eleven observers, 10-11 in 5 parties, 1 at feeders. Total party-hours, 45 (23.5 on foot, 21.5 by car) plus 1 hour at feeders, 1 owling; total party-miles, 243 (20 on foot, 223 by car). Compiler: Helen Goldstick.

14. CHARLOTTESVILLE. Center near Ivy. Dec. 28. Twenty-four observers in 15 parties. Total party-hours, 120 (111 on foot, 9 by car); total party-miles, 234 (134 on foot, 100 by car). Compiler: Charles Stevens.

15. WARREN. Center near Keene. Dec. 21. Seventeen observers in 10 parties. Total party-hours, 97 (87 on foot, 10 by car) plus 3 hours owling; total party-miles, 219 (86 on foot, 133 by car). Compiler: Charles Stevens.

16. DARLINGTON HEIGHTS. Center Darlington Heights P.O. Dec. 30. Two observers in one party. Total party-hours, 9 (5 on foot, 4 by car); total party-miles, 69 (6 on foot, 63 by car). Compiler: Vera Copple.

17. SWEET BRIAR. Center Sweet Briar College campus. Jan. 3. Nine observers, 8 in 5 parties, 1 at feeders. Total party-hours, 19 (18 on foot, 1 by car) plus 3 hours at feeders, 2 owling; total party-miles, 19 (14 on foot, 5 by car). Compiler: Gertrude Prior.

18. LYNCHBURG. Center Lynchburg College. Dec. 20. Forty-three observers, 40 in 14 parties, 3 at feeders. Total party-hours, 113 (78 on foot, 35 by car) plus 8 hours at feeders, 13 owling; total party-miles, 431 (66 on foot, 365 by car). Compiler: Myriam Moore.

19. NORTHERN SHENANDOAH VALLEY. Center junction Crooked Run and rt. 606. Dec. 20. Fifty observers in 21 parties. Total party-hours, 189 (62.5 on foot, 113.5 by car, 13 by canoe) plus 10 hours owling; total party-miles, 1228 (67 on foot, 1143 by car, 18 by canoe). Compiler: Rob Simpson.

20. SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK-LURAY. Center Hershberger Hill. Dec. 21. Thirty-seven observers, 34 in 16 parties, 3 at feeders. Total party-hours, 129 (84 on foot, 45 by car) plus 7 hours at feeders, 3 owling; total party-miles, 488 (87 on foot, 401 by car). Compiler: Dennis Carter.

21. BIG FLAT MOUNTAIN. Center Pasture Fence Mountain. Dec. 30. Two observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours, 20 (all on foot) plus 1 hour owling; total party-miles, 39 (all on foot). Compiler: Charles Stevens.

22. ROCKINGHAM COUNTY. Center Ottobine. Dec. 20. Nineteen observers in 12 parties. Total party-hours, 53 (22.5 on foot, 30.5 by car); total party-miles, 365 (26 on foot, 339 by car). Compiler: Max Carpenter.

23. AUGUSTA COUNTY. Center junction rts. 780 and 781. Dec. 27. Twenty-nine observers, 28 in 11 parties, 1 at feeders. Total party-hours, 108 (47 on foot, 61 by car) plus 3 hours at feeders; total party-miles, 496 (43 on foot, 453 by car). Compiler: John Mehner.

24. WAYNESBORO. Center Sherando. Dec. 20. Twenty observers, 16 in 9 parties, 4 at feeders. Total party-hours, 63 (29 on foot, 34 by car) plus 10 hours at feeders, 1.5 owling; total party-miles, 461 (22 on foot, 439 by car). Compiler: Ruth Snyder.

25. LEXINGTON. Center Big Spring Pond. Dec. 27. Nineteen observers, 14 in 5 parties, 5 at feeders. Total party-hours, 33 (19 on foot, 14 by car) plus 5 hours at feeders, 3 owling; total party-miles, 168 (19 on foot, 149 by car). Compiler: Bob Paxton.

26. PEAKS OF OTTER. Center Peaks of Otter Visitor Center. Dec. 30. Six observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours, 20 (6 on foot, 14 by car); total party-miles, 20 (6 on foot, 14 by car). Compiler: Almon English.

27. CLIFTON FORGE. Center junction rts. 42 and 60. Dec. 21. Twelve observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours, 29 (23 on foot, 6 by car); total party-miles, 136 (18 on foot, 118 by car). Compiler: Allen Lebew.

28. FINCASTLE. Center near junction rts. 220 and 679. Dec. 21. Twenty-six observers, 25 in 14 parties, 1 at feeders. Total party-hours, 83 (35 on foot, 48 by car) plus 2 hours at feeders, 8 owling; total party-miles, 416 (29 on foot, 387 by car). Compiler: Barry Kinzie.

29. ROANOKE. Center junction Oakland Blvd. and Williamson Rd. Dec. 20. Forty observers in 16 parties. Total party-hours, 146 (101 on foot, 40 by car, 5 by canoe) plus 3 hours at feeders, 13 owling; total party-miles, 522 (106 on foot, 411 by car, 5 by canoe). Compiler: Barry Kinzie.

30. BLACKSBURG. Center near Linkous Store. Dec. 22. Thirty-eight observers, 36 in 14 parties, 2 at feeders. Total party-hours, 113 (80 on foot, 28 by car, 5 by canoe) plus 8 hours at feeders, 2 owling; total party-miles, 388 (81.5 on foot, 298.5 by car, 8 by canoe). Compiler: Curtis Adkisson.

31. TAZEWEEL. Center Fourway. Dec. 20. Eighteen observers, 17 in 7 parties, 1 at feeders. Total party-hours, 56 (19 on foot, 37 by car) plus 8 hours at feeders; total party-miles, 331 (15 on foot, 316 by car). Compiler: Sarah Cromer.

32. GLADE SPRING. Center junction rts. 750 and 609. Dec. 20. Thirteen observers, 12 in 6 parties, 1 at feeders. Total party-hours, 54 (19.5 on foot, 34.5 by car) plus 2 hours at feeders, 1.5 owling; total party-miles, 401 (22 on foot, 379 by car). Compiler: Charles Byrd.

33. NICKELSVILLE. Center Nickelsville. Dec. 21. Seven observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours, 23 (5.5 on foot, 17.5 by car); total party-miles, 120 (6 on foot, 114 by car). Compiler: E. E. Scott.

34. WISE COUNTY. Center Dorchester. Dec. 27. Nineteen observers, 18 in 9 parties, 1 at feeders. Total party-hours, 74 (49 on foot, 25 by car) plus 4 hours at feeders, 4 owling; total party-miles, 374 (35 on foot, 339 by car). Compiler: Richard Peake.

115 Kennondale Lane, Richmond, Virginia 23226

FIFTH EAST COAST PASSAGE OF WHITE-FACED IBIS

DAVID F. ABBOTT

When the January-February 1976 issue of *Birding* came, I read with interest the article on field identification of White-faced and Glossy Ibises, *Plegadis chihi* and *P. falcinellus*, respectively. It seemed likely to me, because of similarities between the two, that White-faced Ibises had been overlooked in the past at spots in the East where numerous Glossies occurred. Douglas Pratt, in the above article, as well as notes in *American Birds* (31: 979 and 1050, 1977) refer to the red iris of the White-faced Ibis as positive separation from the Glossy; as Pratt said, "If one sees a red iris, the bird is surely a White-face. . . ." I have since been checking critically every dark ibis I have seen well specifically for red eyes.

At 4 p.m. on 8 July 1979 Richard A. Rowlett and I were driving south from Newfield on Assateague Island, Virginia, during a shorebird survey. Newfield is a large flat prairie which lies approximately 8 miles north of the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge Wildlife Drive along the service road. When we reached the north end of the Wash Flats, we proceeded to scan across a wide expanse, noting that most of the shorebirds were far across the flats, leaving only dowitchers identifiable. There was a deep canal that separated the service road from the flats, so we did not cross here to walk closer to the shorebirds.

We were about 50 or 60 feet away from the edge of the Wash Flats and the far edge of the canal when a string of about 10 ibis came down to a small grassy spot on the flats about 100 feet away. They stood for a minute and looked about before beginning to feed. I looked at 2, 3, and 4 ibis with a 20x telescope when I did a double-take on the fifth. At the last second I caught a glimmer of red in its eye as the sun hit it full in the face when it moved into a "right" position. I was looking east so the sun was high up behind us and

lighting was excellent. I double-checked the bird and it did indeed have a red eye. I then said, "Rich, how would you like a White-faced Ibis?" We looked at the flock and soon found the bird, and Rowlett immediately commented on the obvious red eye. The bird fed more actively than the Glossies, and some of the Glossies were aggressive towards it. It moved repeatedly, seeming to want to stay out of reach of the Glossy Ibises. We noted threatening advances towards our bird by two of the Glossies though the 9 of them remained benevolent towards their own kind. The above repeated moves took the White-face towards the water where it stopped at the edge of the flats and preened, turning and twisting to provide good views of all parts of its body, especially the head. Shortly, the bird resumed its feeding.

We thought for a minute how to document the bird's occurrence and decided to gamble that it was close enough and the light was good enough for photographs to reveal the red eye. Rowlett took several photographs when he saw the red eyes in the view finder and felt it probable that they would turn out. The bird posed the most problems during the time that it preened because of the quick movement of its head. The red eyes and face were always noticeable and the red iris was remarkably eye-catching. Within 5 minutes the bird began feeding again and some more satisfactory pictures were taken. Again he preened, but this time he seemed more involved, and though his face and eye color was visible to us at all times even through binoculars, we feared that his head, neck, and bill would appear blurred for all the movement. So, I got out of the car in an effort to capture its attention but only succeeded in frightening the flock. The group flew south about 100 yards, then crossed the service road and disappeared behind some trees. We pulled up but didn't see any ibis on the large tidal flat that was there.

Some note on identification may be of interest. First, the most noticeable feature was the gleaming eye. To us it was obvious at all times except when the bird had its head facing away or in a shadow. Besides the eye, the facial area was noticeable, though it was more pink than red. There was some touches of gray, but the overall color was pink, which contrasted with the sooty-gray faces of all the Glossies. The bill, which was cream-colored throughout, had some pinkish tinges towards the tip. But the most obvious point here was how the bill became more pink at the base, and the color merged right into the face. The bill alone was not striking because of a few certain pink-billed Glossy Ibises (several of which were present), but those bills did not turn redder at the base; that is, the faces of the Glossies were gray and clashed with the bills. While the legs of the Glossies were gray (some tinged pink around the ankles), our bird's legs were cream-colored tinged with gray around the ankles. The rest of the plumage was extremely like that of the Glossy Ibises, though it seemed to take on a more metallic shine, especially along the scapulars where there were pinkish reflections (this was present in both species but to a lesser extent in the Glossies). The brown forehead had a few white feathers which may have been all that remained of the "white face."

This is the first recorded occurrence of the White-faced Ibis in Virginia and probably the fifth on the East Coast.

8501 Doter Drive, Alexandria, Virginia 22308

LAUGHING GULL PREDATION ON MIGRATING BIRDS

THOMAS E. ARMOUR

On 26 October 1979 while about 2 miles off the North Carolina coast near Oregon Inlet, I observed a Laughing Gull, *Larus atricilla*, catch and consume a small migrating bird, probably a warbler. The small bird was flying in from the ocean when it was intercepted by the gull, and the gull easily caught it. The warbler-sized bird appeared almost spent and attempted unsuccessfully to avoid the gull by fluttering in an upward spiral.

As soon as the gull had caught the bird, two other Laughing Gulls attempted to take the catch away in a scene similar to that one sees when a gull carries a fish. The small bird was consumed in about 60 seconds, at which time the gulls dispersed.

I observed two other incidents that day that lead me to believe this may not have been an isolated incident. The first time was as I was proceeding out of the inlet in a fishing boat about 11 a.m. I observed a Laughing Gull in what I thought was harrassing behavior chasing a warbler-sized bird. This small bird avoided the gull and made shore safely. The other incident happened after the capture of the small bird, and it occurred on the beach about 4 miles north of Oregon Inlet. A Laughing Gull made several diving passes at a single Sanderling, *Calidris alba*. The Sanderling avoided the gull, flew up the beach, and joined a small group of other Sanderlings. The gull then gave up the chase.

I have, in the past, had warblers, Dark-eyed Juncos (*Junco hyemalis*), and a Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) land on my fishing boat when offshore in the fall, and I have even picked a kinglet out of the water. All these birds were in a severe state of exhaustion and would be easy prey. Because the Outer Banks project out into the Atlantic, it may be that a great number of migrating birds come ashore there, and possibly the Laughing Gulls in that area have discovered a supplemental fall food source.

132 Holdsworth Road, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

WINTER HUMMINGBIRD AT FEEDER IN NORFOLK

EMILY V. MOORE

On 14 November 1979, as I was looking out at my sugar-water feeders that I had out for the Northern Orioles, I saw what if I didn't know better I would have thought was a hummingbird. Two or three times that week I saw it, but I figured it must have been my imagination as I had never had a hummingbird before except for one fleeting second.

On 20 November as I was going to put fresh water in the feeders, I got within a foot or two of the bird and found that it was indeed a female Ruby-

throated Hummingbird, *Archilochus colubris*. I immediately put out more feeders so that she would be sure to find food as all of the natural foods were gone. She sampled all of the feeders every day and then would perch on a redbud for as long as 40 minutes to an hour at a time. There were a few seed pods left on the tree, so I pulled them off so I would be sure of the bird when I saw her.

Each morning I got up at 6 o'clock to put out sugar water for her. I would leave a little out the night before just in case I didn't wake up in time. As the days got colder, I began to worry about what freezing weather would do to her, but she survived several nights of 17° weather and even one night of 9° temperature.

Between 19 and 30 January 1980 I didn't see her, even though she must have been there. On the 30th I looked out at 4:30 p.m. and she was on the feeder. It snowed that night, and the next morning I put sugar water out at 6:42 a.m., and before I could get back in the house she was on the feeder. She came back every 3 to 5 minutes that day and up to 5:25 p.m. The temperature was 17° on the night before and the chill factor was -10. Each day during the bitter weather the water froze, and even though I had the flu I felt I had to keep her alive, so I changed it every 20 to 30 minutes. Sometimes I would barely get in the house before it started to freeze.

On 2 March after our biggest snow I put out fresh sugar water at 5:40 p.m., and before I got in the house she was on the feeder. I felt pretty good about her because I knew if she hid somewhere she might survive, but the winds of 55 to 60 mph evidently got to her, for that was the last time I saw her. She was here through five snows and 9° weather.

For a few days after that even though I felt sure she was gone I looked on her favorite perch on the redbud tree for her. Anyway, she gave my husband and me and quite a few members of the Cape Henry Audubon Society some happy memories. She had stayed for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years, so I couldn't ask for more.

I have pictures of her perched on the tree and on the feeder made in the snow with the sun shining through the feeder. It was a most unusual and beautiful sight.

403 Oak Grove Road, Norfolk, Virginia 23505

FIRST RECORD OF GROOVE-BILLED ANI IN VIRGINIA

YULEE LARNER

A Groove-billed Ani, *Crotophaga sulcirostris*, was discovered in Tazewell County on 20 October 1979 by Bryan Boyd and Edwin Kinser. The bird was observed for approximately 3 hours in the afternoon as it moved about an orchard and along a brushy streamside. This sighting was at Shawvers Mill 10 miles east of Tazewell on Virginia route 61.

The bird was not seen again in this location but was found on 28 October about 1 mile west of the first area. The second location was a brushy 5-acre

field that was overgrown with hawthorn, blackberry, elderberry, and sugar maple saplings. It was usually seen in the thickest hawthorn but at various times was in all parts of the field, sometimes on fenceposts, and once or twice was seen flying down into the ungrazed grass. It was once observed about 1000 yards away from its regular haunts across the highway in another small patch of hawthorn.

The bird frequently sat with its feathers fluffed up as if it were cold, and on such occasions it could be approached within 20 to 25 feet. It called often when it was active, especially just before taking flight. The call was of two notes, unlike any local bird (until a Starling began mimicking it). The only definite feeding observed occurred once when the bird flew from a post into the neighboring grazed field and seized an insect, believed to be a grasshopper, ate it, and returned to the fence.

The Groove-billed Ani was seen by many birders from across the state. It was photographed by several observers, including Ed Kinser and Robert L. Ake, and a photo taken by Philip C. Shelton on 4 November appeared in *American Birds* (34: 160, 1980). It was seen or heard almost daily from 28 October. The last known sighting was by John W. Dillard on 18 November 1979.

These observations constitute the first documented record of a Groove-billed Ani in Virginia. Thanks are due to Ed Kinser, who supplied most of the information for this note.

1020 West Beverley Street, Staunton, Virginia 24401

BANDING RESULTS AT KIPTOPEKE BEACH IN 1979

F. R. SCOTT

The seventeenth consecutive year of operation of the Kiptopeke Beach Field Station opened on 30 August and ran continuously through 28 October 1979 (except for 5 and 22 September when it was rained out), a total of 60 days. The station, which overlooks Chesapeake Bay in southern Northampton County, Virginia, is operated by the Research Committee of the Virginia Society of Ornithology. A maximum of 46 mist nets was operated as time and personnel permitted, and station procedures were essentially similar to those of previous years.

During the 1979 season 11,903 new birds of 92 species were banded in 17,568 net-hours, an increase over 1978 of 33% for birds banded and a decrease of 26% in total net-hours. The trapping efficiency increased from 37 to 68 new birds per 100 net-hours. The improvement over 1978 was considered to be due to the more favorable weather for producing concentrations of migrating birds. Other results included 4 returns of previously banded birds, 540 repeats of birds banded here earlier in the same season, and 9 foreign retraps of birds banded elsewhere. A summary of the station operation for the past four years was published in 1980 (*Raven*, 51: 11-13, 1980).

The most commonly banded birds this year were Yellow-rumped Warbler, 6126; American Redstart, 1165; Gray Catbird, 584; Common Yellowthroat, 386; Veery, 293; and Black-and-white Warbler, 267. The Yellow-rumped Warbler total, which was a seasonal record for this station, was primarily responsible for the large increase in birds banded this year, this species comprising 51% of all birds trapped in 1979. Only 4038 Yellow-rumps were banded here in 1978. The Black-and-white Warbler total of 267 was second only to the 272 banded in 1973. On the low side were 75 Swainson's Thrushes, which was close to this species' 17-year low. The peak for this bird occurred in 1968 when 794 were trapped and banded.

The best flight days during the banding period included 8 September with 691 birds banded, of which 357 were American Redstarts, and 8 October with a banding total of 373, of which 133 were Gray Catbirds. Beginning on 14 October, Yellow-rumped Warblers predominated every day. For example, 766 of the 1159 birds banded on the 14th were Yellow-rumps as were 1043 of the 1199 birds banded on 25 October. This last was a record one-day banding total for this species at Kiptopeke. Other peak one-day banding totals of interest included 17 Traill's Flycatchers, 86 Veeries, and 73 Black-and-white Warblers on 8 September, the last a record for this station, and 53 Black-throated Blue Warblers on 14 October. Unusual birds for this station included a Virginia Rail on 20 September, 4 Yellow-throated Vireos between 10 September and 7 October, 2 Prothonotary Warblers on 7 September, and a Clay-colored Sparrow on 15 October.

Eight of the 9 foreign retraps were first-year Sharp-shinned Hawks which had been banded in New Jersey from 2 to 10 days before being recaptured here. Seven of these had been originally banded at Cape May Point and one near Stillwater. The most interesting retrap was a first-year female Black-and-white Warbler banded near Seaside Park, New Jersey, on 16 September 1979 by B. G. Murray, Jr., and recaptured at Kiptopeke 10 days later on 26 September by W. P. Smith.

Age ratios of the trapped birds were roughly comparable to those of previous years, with most species being 90% or more HY birds (i.e., young of the year). On the low side were Veeries with 81% HY and White-eyed Vireos with 84%, while Sharp-shins were high with 99% HY as were Hermit Thrushes with 100%.

Licensed banders who alternated in charge of the station this year or who assisted in the banding were James Carter, Tom Drumheller, Mr. and Mrs. Roger Foy, C. W. Hacker, Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Mitchell, F. S. Schaeffer, F. R. Scott, and W. P. Smith. As in the past they were aided by nearly 100 assistants whose help was primarily responsible for the good results obtained. Permission to use the private land on which the station was located was kindly extended by John Maddox, of Virginia Beach, and Robert E. Hillman, of Amagansett, New York, agent for Kiptopeke Terminal Property. The initial editing and tabulation of the daily field records was again done by Walter P. Smith.

115 Kennondale Lane, Richmond, Virginia 23226

REVIEW

The World of Roger Tory Peterson: an Authorized Biography. By John C. Devlin and Grace Naismith. Times Books, New York, 1977, 27 illustrations, xxi + 266 pp. Price, \$14.95.

What person more than mildly interested in birds has not heard of Roger Tory Peterson? It is difficult to imagine a serious birder who has not used one of Peterson's bird guides. Though today there are other, more up-to-date guides for the eastern United States, none has supplanted Peterson, and we look forward to a new version of *A Field Guide to the Birds*.

Devlin and Naismith have written a very interesting account of Peterson's life. Beginning with his boyhood as a third-generation Swede in Jamestown, New York, the authors trace Peterson's "obsession" with birds through the depression and World War II to his third wife, Virginia, whom he married in 1976. The reader gains insight into the complexity of Peterson as well as learning much of the history of American ornithology from 1925 to 1975. The latter thread of the story begins before Peterson goes to New York City to begin his formal training in art, when he attended the 1925 A.O.U. meeting at the American Museum of Natural History. At this meeting he submitted two watercolor paintings, one of a hummingbird and the other of a kingbird. These were praised by Louis Agassiz Fuertes, who gave young Peterson one of his paint brushes. Two years later Roger was in New York, first at the Art Students League, then the National Academy of Design. He continued to earn a meager salary at his old trade, furniture painting, and saved enough money to make a trip to South Carolina, where he saw Wayne and spent time birding with Alexander Sprunt and Burnham Chamberlain at Cape Romain.

Two chapters deal with Peterson's time at Rivers School in Brookline, Massachusetts, where he wrote *A Field Guide*. The success of this guide brought the author to the attention of the Audubon Society. At the Audubon camp at Maine, Roger met his first wife, Mildred. With her, he did his work for his western guide. They experienced together the thrill of seeing Ivory-bellied Woodpeckers on the Singer Tract in Louisiana. Mildred and Roger soon separated, however. At Audubon Peterson also met his second wife, Barbara, who for 30 years organized his life, typed his manuscripts, and raised his children. After World War II, Peterson became a free-lance artist and a much-traveled naturalist. Devlin and Naismith describe his friendship with British ornithologist James Fisher and his work on the *Lindblad Explorer* as well as his activities in conservation. His work in securing control of DDT use was somewhat ironic, since he had helped test DDT and had met Rachel Carson during his stint in the U.S. Army.

This book contains 15 reproductions of Peterson paintings including the Barn Swallow, the Bobolink, and Great Horned Owls. These excellent reproductions are taken primarily from the artist's work during 1975 and 1976. A gallery of photographs of Peterson, his family, and his friends also add greatly to the book.

The authors do at times touch upon Peterson's foibles—his temper and vanity, for example; but the chief weakness of the book is its tendency to gloss over the rough edges of the great man, so that a sort of Jack Armstrong of American birding sometimes submerges the real Roger Tory Peterson. The

book is, nevertheless, genuinely interesting, especially to birders who have always wondered about the man behind the Peterson guides.

Richard H. Peake

NEWS AND NOTES

COMPILED BY YULEE LARNER AND F. R. SCOTT

CORRIGENDUM. An error that occurred some 12 years ago has just recently come to light and is important enough to correct even at this late date. During the 1968 VSO foray to the Northern Neck, a flock of 45 late-migrating Broad-winged Hawks was observed at Stratford, Westmoreland County, on 25 May 1968 by R. J. Watson and others. By some editorial or transcription error, this record appeared erroneously in the foray report (*Raven*, 40: 72, 1969) as Red-shouldered Hawks. Although the error should be obvious to anyone familiar with the spring migration of hawks in Virginia, it has taken this long for it to come to light.

OLDSQUAWS INLAND IN MIDWINTER. Although Oldsquaws migrate irregularly across inland Virginia, finding them here in midwinter is quite unusual. At Carvins Cove Reservoir in Botetourt County, Bill Hunley and John Pancake found one on 13 and 21 January 1980, and there were 4 here on 26 January (Pancake and Barry Kinzie).

DICKCISSELS NESTING IN AUGUSTA COUNTY. On 2 June 1979 Leonard Teuber and Isabel Obenschain discovered a singing male Dickcissel on route 778 near its intersection with route 779 in northeastern Augusta County, Virginia, and on 5 June three birds were present, two singing males and one female. They were seen again on 8 June by Yulee Larner and Bill and Virginia Francis, and on 12 and 15 June Tom Wieboldt observed two birds at the same location. On 13 June Brooke Meanley found a nest with 4 eggs in the hayfield, but this was soon destroyed by mowing. There appears to be only one previous nesting record of this species west of the Blue Ridge in Virginia (*Raven*, 45: 41-42, 1974).

EARLY EVENING GROSBEAKS. While observing migrating birds along the Blue Ridge Parkway near Waynesboro, Virginia, Stanley Walens recorded two early flocks of Evening Grosbeaks. The first flock of 6 birds was noted on 15 September 1979, and the second, of 14 birds, was seen the next day about 15 miles farther south. Both were following the same paths as the other migrating birds. These are extremely early dates for these birds, which normally do not appear until late October at the earliest.

LE CONTE'S SPARROWS IN AUGUSTA. Records of this species continue to increase in Virginia. Yulee Larner found one in her yard in Staunton during a snow storm on 10 October 1979 and was later able to show it to Leonard Teuber the same day. Another was seen at the Stuarts Draft sewage treatment plant on 23 October 1979 by Ruth Snyder. This last record was incorrectly given as 13 October in *American Birds* (34: 163, 1980).

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, \$150.00 for life members, and \$9.00 for family members (limited to husband, wife, and their dependent children).

OFFICERS OF THE VSO

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Vice President: Mrs. YuLee Larner, 1020 West Beverley Street, Staunton, Virginia 24401.

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SWAINSON'S WARBLER IN ROANOKE COUNTY

NORWOOD C. MIDDLETON

A casual Sunday morning birdwalk along a quiet rural Roanoke County road 1 June 1980 took a surprise turn when it suddenly dawned on me that what I was assuming to be a waterthrush song was somehow different from those I had been hearing every few hundred yards the past hour or so. On a hunch, I fast-forwarded my warbler cassette to the song of the Swainson's Warbler, turned up the volume, and within seconds *Limnothlypis swainsonii* perched momentarily in view as it flittered about in waist-high undergrowth. It was 8:20 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time.

Two or three more quick binocular views with the bird 15 to 20 feet away convinced me beyond doubt that it indeed was a Swainson's Warbler. And in the unlikely event none of my birding friends would be interested in checking out the sighting, I tape-recorded its song and later matched it with the bird song records of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists and Peterson Field Guide Series.

Before noon, my alert by phone led Barry Kinzie of Troutville and Jim Ayers of Roanoke to the site, where they almost immediately heard what they concluded were three Swainson's singing. They made their way through the brush and heard one bird singing from the direction in which they were moving as well as one to the east and another to the west. Kinzie played what he said was a poor-quality Swainson's tape that brought no response. Then he and Ayers tried shushing, and the bird came in for a close observation by both. By then, the bird they had heard to the west was quiet, so they set off to the east with Joyce Holt of Roanoke County, who had arrived on the scene. There they played a Screech Owl tape, and a second bird was observed. They concluded that they had heard the advertising song of three male Swainson's Warblers and had seen two of them.

Tom and Janet Krakauer of the Roanoke Valley Science Museum and the Roanoke Valley Bird Club got glimpses of one of the warblers by about mid-day. Shortly thereafter, my wife, Lucille Middleton, and I returned to the site and got an excellent view of a singing Swainson's near a pulloff 100 yards east of the original sighting. That was the last really good observation of the bird. George Stubbs of Rocky Mount reported a fleeting glimpse of it on Friday, 6 June 1980. However, on 2 June YuLee Lerner and Isabel Obenschain of Staunton and Leonard Teuber of Weyers Cave heard the Swainson's Warbler's clear, loud song several times but could not locate the bird for viewing. And on Wednesday, 4 June, Bill Opengari, John Pancake, and Mike Purdy of the Roanoke Valley Bird Club and I heard the warbler singing its song a couple of times as we stood on the road, but then it was quiet.

Since the birds were not seen or heard after 6 June, they must be assumed to have been transients and not local breeders. These dates, however, do seem quite late for migrants. In Dismal Swamp, Virginia, eggs have been found

as early as 1 May 1969 (Meanley, 1977), and the only eggs found in western Virginia were collected in Washington County on 4 June 1932 (Jones, 1933). Meanley (1971) did not have any data on early June transients.

The site occupies a small corner of the Havens Wildlife Management Area of the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries where, from its main tract on nearby Fort Lewis Mountain, it extends across Virginia route 622. The site is 5.5 miles west of the Mason Cove fire station on route 622 in northwestern Roanoke County. The elevation is about 1660 feet. Through the site flows a stream in the headwaters system of Mason Creek. There is an upper story of mixed deciduous hardwoods and a few hemlocks, and below there is deep shade and moderately dense undergrowth, including some rhododendron.

The habitat had attracted my attention as possible Swainson's Warbler territory ever since a day in May 1976 when several of us from the Roanoke Valley Bird Club and the Lynchburg Bird Club saw our first Swainson's Warbler just across the Tennessee border from Damascus, Virginia, along Beaver Dam Creek. And oddly enough, on the day before my discovery, I mentioned that possibility to Bill Opengari, who was with us that day in 1976. We were birding together on Poor Mountain in Roanoke County and discussing the possibility and hope of finding a Swainson's Warbler on the then-approaching breeding-bird foray of the Virginia Society of Ornithology in the Mount Rogers area. Opengari told me later he almost sounded off with a you've-gotta-be-kidding laugh at my presumptuousness.

This is the first record of the Swainson's Warbler for Roanoke County (Almon O. English, personal communication) and the second for Virginia west of the Blue Ridge and east of Grayson County. A bird of this species was banded by J. William Oberman about 170 miles northeast of here in Clarke County, Virginia, on 23 May 1976 (Oberman and Osborn, 1976).

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NESTING OF THE FISH CROW IN THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY, VIRGINIA

BROOKE MEANLEY

On 20 April 1979 and 23 April 1980, I found active nests of Fish Crows, *Corvus ossifragus*, approximately one mile south of Fishersville, Augusta County, Virginia. The 1980 nest was about one-half mile from the location of the 1979 nest. These are the first actual nests of the Fish Crow reported in Virginia in the Shenandoah Valley and west of the Piedmont Province (see Lerner, 1979).

Both nests were located at heights slightly above 100 feet. The 1979 nest was placed in a sycamore, *Platanus occidentalis*, beside a stream in a relatively open situation and about 150 feet from an occupied house. The 1980 nest was in a two-acre woodlot in a hickory, *Carya* sp., and approximately 160 feet from an active nest of the Common Crow, *Corvus brachyrhynchos*. The Common Crow nest was about 35 feet above the ground.

I spent a total of 45 hours during the two seasons observing the nesting behavior, foraging behavior, and other activities of the two pairs of Fish Crows.

Nesting Behavior

When discovered, both Fish Crow nests were under construction but nearly completed. Both sexes participated in the construction of the two nests. Materials were gathered at various times of the day from about 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Most of the twigs used in construction of the nests were broken from trees close by (often within 100 feet). Hay used as lining for the nests was gathered by the pairs from nearby fields.

Most of the observations during the incubation period were made at the 1979 nest because it was completely exposed. Bendire (quoted in Bent, 1946: 278) stated that both sexes incubated but gave no details. My observations seem to indicate that only one of the pair incubates. At no time was there an exchange at the nest; and often when the incubating bird left the nest to feed nearby, I was able to keep track of it and see it return to incubate. The non-incubating bird frequently flew to the edge of the nest, sometimes feeding its mate, or merely perching on the edge for a few seconds before departing. On several occasions when the incubating bird left to feed nearby, its mate flew to the nest, stood on the edge, but did not incubate, leaving in less than a minute. Fewer observations at the 1980 nest also indicated that only one of the pair incubated.

On the basis of 12 observations at the 1979 nest, it was determined that the incubating bird spent an average of 38 minutes on the nest. This does not include one observation when the bird incubated without a break for 170 minutes or nearly three hours! In 15 observations it was determined that the incubating bird spent an average of 10 minutes off the nest, not including

one observation on 6 May when the bird was off for two hours. For some unknown reason the nest was abandoned on 23 May.

In the 1980 nest, both parents participated in the feeding of the young. One young crow fledged from the nest on 1 July. Other eggs or young may have been lost as a part of the nest was blown out of the tree by high winds.

Comparative Behavior of Fish and Common Crows

Both the Fish and Common Crows that nested 160 feet apart in 1980 in the two-acre woodlot were successful in fledging young. During my observations there was no conflict between the two nesting pairs. The Common Crows were much quieter and secretive than the Fish Crows while in the vicinity of their nests.

In flying to and from their nests, the Common Crows, whose nest was much lower in elevation, flew *through* the woods; whereas the Fish Crows, whose nest was over 100 feet above the ground, most often flew *over* the woods. Also, the Common Crows often obtained food for their young from the nest woods, whereas the Fish Crows foraged in the open country, mostly in pastures and hay fields, usually at least one-half mile from the nest.

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POSTBREEDING WADERS IN THE BLUE RIDGE

MICHAEL R. BOATWRIGHT

While birding along the Blue Ridge Parkway in Amherst County, Virginia, on 20 July 1980, I stopped at Otter Lake near the James River to check for any late-summer water birds. As I scanned the edges of the lake with 7x35 binoculars, the first birds to come into view were two Great Blue Herons, *Ardea herodias*. These birds are not known to breed in the area, and Freer (1973) listed the Great Blue Heron as an occasional visitor with only a few summer records. As I was watching these birds, Sandra Burch, who was also scanning the lake, called my attention to 5 white waders feeding in the edge

of a marsh on the far side of the lake. I then turned my attention to these birds and noted the pure white plumage, dark-tipped bluish bills, and the greenish-yellow legs, which led me to the conclusion that these 5 birds were immature Little Blue Herons, *Florida caerulea*. Immatures of this species were formerly common in the Lynchburg area in late summer but are now rarely seen (Freer, 1973).

On 5 August 1980 I returned to Otter Lake and again observed 5 Little Blue Herons feeding in the marsh. As I was watching the Little Blues with binoculars, I noticed two other waders resting in a tree at the edge of the marsh. These birds displayed dark brown backs and brownish-gray mottled heads and necks contrasting sharply with a pure white breast and belly. I also noticed their decurved, reddish-orange, black-tipped bills. It was evident that these were White Ibises, *Eudocimus albus*, in immature plumage. While I was watching the ibises, something spooked the Little Blues, and the ibises flew up with them. As they circled the lake, I was able to observe the white rump patch as well as the alternate flapping and gliding flight of the two ibises. These birds are rare visitors to the Blue Ridge, and Freer (1973) listed only one record. There are several records of this species from west of the Blue Ridge from Botetourt and Rockingham Counties (Larner, 1979; Rowlett, 1973).

The ibises and the Little Blue Herons circled the lake several times, turned south, and were finally lost to sight. All of these birds were apparently post-breeding wanderers which often stray north in late summer.

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SANDWICH TERN FLYCATCHING

JACKSON M. ABBOTT

While birding at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, Virginia, on 6 August 1980 I found a large mixed flock of terns, skimmers, gulls, shorebirds, and herons on a mudflat close to the road on the west side of Swan Cove. This

is a favorite resting place for terns when the tide is low in Tom's Cove. Near the east end of the flock of terns was a single immature Royal Tern, *Sterna maximum*, and close to it, an immature Sandwich Tern, *S. sandvicensis*. Smaller than the Royal but much larger than the nearby Forster's, *S. forsteri*, Common, *S. hirundo*, Least, *S. albifrons*, and Black Terns, *Chlidonias niger*, the young Sandwich had an all-black bill, black legs, white forehead, shaggy black crest, and black barring on its scapulars. Within the space of 5 minutes another immature and an adult Sandwich Tern flew in and settled near the first bird. The adult had a yellow-tipped black bill, and its forehead was molting—nearly white, freckled with black feathers; the rest of the plumage was normal for an adult. Within the next hour, 15 young and adult Royal Terns joined the crowd, all close to where the first Royal and the Sandwich Terns were sitting. All spent considerable time bathing in the shallow water and preening.

Suddenly, several Forster's Terns flew up and began rapidly darting back and forth. I thought they were playing at first, but then I could see rather large, blackish insects which the terns were busily snapping up. Soon, both immature Sandwich Terns joined them, their longer wings and strong, faster flight outmaneuvering the Forster's when pursuing a common insect objective. One Sandwich Tern chased a bug through several convoluted maneuvers to the water and caught it just at the surface, the tern making a big splash. This hawking for insects continued for only three or four minutes and ended as quickly as it had begun when the prey disappeared and the terns returned to rest.

I have seen Forster's, Gull-billed, *Gelochelidon nilotica*, and Black Terns hawking for insects low over the water and have observed Caspian Terns, *Sterna caspia*, flycatching high in the air with Laughing, *Larus atricilla*, and Ring-billed Gulls, *L. delawarensis*, but have never seen a Sandwich Tern behave in this manner before. Apparently, neither has any other ornithologist or birder, since all the references available to me make no mention of insects as a prey item for Sandwich Terns. The European as well as American references state that their food is fish (occasionally mollusks and squid) which is obtained by plunging into the water, often from great heights.

The flycatching actions of the Sandwich Terns I watched were spectacular and successful, certainly not the actions of novices. These terns have probably been hawking for insects as an opportunistic prey item for many generations, perhaps triggered by their occasional association with other insect-eating terns.

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SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER OBSERVED IN AUGUSTA COUNTY

YULEE LARNER

On 29 July 1980 while driving along Virginia route 773 in extreme northern Augusta County, Virginia, Leonard Teuber observed a flycatcher perched on a post beside the road. The bird flew along the fence row ahead of the car and

was in sight long enough for him to make a positive identification of the bird as an immature Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, *Muscivora forficata*. The time was about 1:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time. A hurried telephone call brought me to the scene, and the two of us searched in the vicinity for the bird until about 2:45 when it was found perched on a power line a few hundred yards from the place it was first discovered. Just about the time the scope was in focus, a Cooper's Hawk, *Accipiter cooperii*, flew low over the wire, and the flycatcher disappeared into the weeds in a field across the road.

About a half hour later the bird reappeared on the wire and was observed carefully for at least 20 minutes through binoculars and telescope from a distance sometimes as close as 25 to 30 feet. The bird was very light gray, its head looking almost white in the sunlight with a dark line through the eye. There was a pinkish wash along the sides and the wings were dark. The tail was about as long as the bird's body and unmistakably "scissor-tailed" when seen in flight.

The bird perched in typical flycatcher fashion and moved its head or flew short distances to catch insects. It was harassed by an Eastern Kingbird, *Tyrannus tyrannus*, that was feeding in the area and was finally chased by the kingbird a short distance into a Horsechestnut tree, *Aesculus hippocastanum*, from which it flew out of sight over the crest of a hill in the field. Other birders searched through the area later that day and again on 30 July. At about 9:30 a.m. on 30 July, while driving about a half mile from the site of the original observation, a bird believed to be this species was observed by Cindy Fletcher and Richard Goll. The bird was flying away from the observers and was not seen again for a more detailed examination. It was not seen at all by more than 20 other birders who came from many directions and who monitored the area all day on 30 July.

This constitutes only the sixth record of a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Virginia (*Virginia's Birdlife: An Annotated Checklist*, 1979: 62). It is the fourth record in this century and the first record for the state west of the Blue Ridge.

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MORE ON THE BACHMAN'S WARBLER IN VIRGINIA

F. R. SCOTT

The occurrence of a singing male Bachman's Warbler, *Vermivora bachmanii*, along Pohick Creek in extreme southern Fairfax County, Virginia, from 8 May to 1 June 1954 has been well documented (Barnes, 1954). First discovered by Morgan Gilbert and Harriet Sutton, it was observed later by over a hun-

dred persons and its songs and notes recorded. Unfortunately, although the presence of a female was suspected, it was never proved.

What is not well known is that another (or the same) singing Bachman's Warbler appeared in the same place in 1958 between 10 and 31 May. Apparently first seen on the Audubon Naturalist Society's May Regional Count by Irston R. Barnes and possible others, this record was omitted from the Lebanon field party's report (Berry, 1958) and was kept as secret as possible in the hope that the bird would remain undisturbed, find a mate, and nest successfully. As in the 1954 occurrence, this apparently did not occur.

For the VSO Records Committee, the 1958 observation did not begin to come to light until the final preparations of the 1979 Virginia checklist (Larner *et al.*, 1979), and by the publication deadline the information was still fragmentary. Since then, however, more material has come to light.

In the more than 23 years since the 1958 observations, people have died or moved away, memories have grown dim, and written records have been lost or misplaced. Nevertheless, enough information was still available to reconstruct at least in part the three weeks the bird was present. Following the discovery of the bird on 10 May, Barnes clamped a lid on the publication of the observation with the apparent concurrence of the property owners, Dr. and Mrs. Paul Bartsch. Several friends were told of the bird, however, and were allowed to spend some time in studying it. On 11 May Brooke and Anna Meanley and John W. Hanes, Jr., were shown the bird by Barnes, and the Meanleys returned again on the 17th. The last observation of the bird was on 31 May when it was again studied by the Meanleys together with Shirley A. Briggs. Unfortunately, because of Barnes's opposition, no photographs were taken of this bird, or if they were, I am not aware of them.

The 1958 occurrence of the Bachman's Warbler in Fairfax County was previously published with no details in the Audubon Naturalist Society's revised *Field List* (Briggs *et al.*, 1968). If this publication elicited any comment, it is unknown to me. It was also mentioned in the new Virginia checklist (Larner *et al.*, 1979) though that was inaccurate since it was based on incomplete information. According to Hanes (personal communication), his fascinating paper on the Bachman's Warbler song (Hanes, 1958) was based entirely on the 1958 Fairfax County bird, although no mention of this fact was made in the paper.

Writing about the 1958 bird, Meanley (personal communication) commented that "It was in a relatively open area, the woods bordering the creek, and thus was easy to see. In fact, it was hardly out of the sight of any of us at any time. On May 17 it was in my view almost constantly from 12 noon until 3 p.m. At one time on May 11, it landed on a branch at about 10 feet over Dr. Barnes' head. It sang almost all the time during my three visits. I never heard a territorial male of any species sing so incessantly.

"It fed from heights varying from ground level at the base of trees to about 60 feet; the optimum feeding height was about 25 feet. Much time was spent

feeding among the leaves and fruits of the terminal part of branches of River Birch (*Betula nigra*). In its forays near the ground it probed the growths of honeysuckle that enveloped some of the shrubs and grew at the base of some trees. It also foraged among flowers of Poison Ivy that grew along the trunks of trees. It sometimes probed beneath the loose bark of a River Birch and into galls on oak leaves. On numerous occasions I saw it feeding on small green larva (caterpillars). It sang much of the time it was feeding. I was surprised to see it forage so close to the ground at the base of a tree, often virtually at ground level."

Since I was not privileged to see this bird, this report is based entirely on personal communications from Irston R. Barnes, Shirley A. Briggs, Harriet S. Gilbert, John W. Hanes, Jr., and Brooke Meanley. Shirley Briggs was particularly helpful in trying to track down other people who could supply additional information on the event. Without this help so freely given, the details of this important occurrence might never have come to light.

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THE 1981 VSO ANNUAL MEETING

ROBERT J. WATSON

The 1981 annual meeting of the Virginia Society of Ornithology took place at the Mountain Lake Hotel, Mountain Lake, Virginia, from 29 to 31 May. The meeting was opened on Friday evening, 29 May, by Dr. Jerry Via of the New River Valley Bird Club. After welcoming the attendees, Dr. Via called on Mrs. Myriam Moore to preside at the regular Local Chapters Workshop,

the theme of which was "Games Birders Play." Various helpful birding techniques were described by Dr. Robert Ake, Dr. John Mehner, Mr. Bill Akers, Mr. Bill Opengari, and Mrs. Thelma Dalmas. Mrs. YuLee Larner summarized changes in the state's avifauna since the publication of the "Red Book" (*Virginia's Birdlife*). Mr. Woody Middleton described a new method for quick censusing of raptorial birds. Dr. Richard Peake presented the newly completed Birding Site Guide for Virginia. The Workshop concluded with several entertaining ornithological games.

A business meeting followed, conducted by President Robert L. Ake. He announced that applications will be accepted during 1981 for the first J. J. Murray, Sr., Award. Details will be announced in forthcoming issues of the VSO Newsletter; a choice among applicants will be made by a Review Committee, which will be appointed in the near future.

The Treasurer, Mrs. Dalmas, reported total assets of \$16,028.87 and a paid membership of 658 members.

The Conservation Chairman, Mrs. Kerrie Kirkpatrick, submitted three resolutions, which would place the VSO on record as (1) favoring a strengthening of the Clean Air Act, (2) expressing concern over permission granted to the State of Virginia to haul gravel through the Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge, and (3) opposing development plans for the new Caledon State Park that are likely to damage habitat for the Bald Eagle. All three resolutions were approved.

For the Nominating Committee, Dr. Peake submitted the following slate:

President: Robert L. Ake, Norfolk

Vice President: Mrs. YuLee Larner, Staunton

Secretary: Robert J. Watson, Arlington

Treasurer: Mrs. Thelma Dalmas, Lynchburg

Editor: F. R. Scott, Richmond

Board of Directors, Class of 1984:

A. Clair Mellinger, Harrisonburg

Norwood C. Middleton, Salem

Mrs. Sally Moxley, Richmond

A motion to accept the nominees by acclamation was unanimously approved. The formal meeting then closed.

The field trips on Saturday morning, 30 May, had been planned to emphasize coverage of the higher elevations, although the nearby river valleys were not overlooked. A total of 200 persons signed up for the Saturday trips and 161 on Sunday.

Vice President YuLee Larner presided over the presentation of papers on Saturday afternoon. Dr. John Mehner described the Breeding Bird Survey organized by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which has been conducted in Virginia since 1966. The number of routes covered has risen from 12 to 43. As of 1979, a total of 165 species had been recorded on the Survey in

Virginia. The Eastern Bluebird, Blue Grosbeak, and Indigo Bunting have been shown to be increasing; the Bobwhite, Loggerhead Shrike, Yellow-breasted Chat, American Redstart, Eastern Meadowlark, and Rufous-sided Towhee have been decreasing.

Mr. Thomas F. Wieboldt described the Natural Diversity Information Program which has been launched by The Nature Conservancy in Virginia, after the Conservancy tried without success to persuade the state government to take action. The first step will be to identify unique natural areas; these will then be classified and analyzed to determine the most important, after which preservation plans can be made. Mr. Wieboldt urged VSO members to assist in identifying areas.

Hawk watching in autumn has traditionally centered along the mountains in Virginia, but the Eastern Shore also offers great opportunities. This was the message of Mr. Bill Williams, who had found Kiptopeke a fruitful source of observations of numerous species of hawks, notably the Sharp-shinned, which seems to be particularly abundant there. The project is just beginning and many questions remain to be answered.

Expansion of the House Finch in and around Lynchburg was the subject of Mr. Mike Stinson. The House Finch first reached Lynchburg in 1966. Since then it has increased greatly and for the most part steadily, interrupted by some declines probably attributable to weather. The first breeding record for the Lynchburg area was in 1977.

"Peregrine Falcon Reintroductions: Can They Succeed?" was an important question asked by Dr. Mitchell A. Byrd. Attempts to introduce partly grown fledgling Peregrines in Virginia, mostly along the Eastern Shore, have shown cautiously encouraging results. If present trends continue, a small breeding population will be established on the Eastern Shore in a few years. Plans will then be made to establish the bird inland, provided a solution can be found to the problem of predation by the Great Horned Owl, the chief natural enemy of fledgling Peregrines.

Mr. James D. Fraser had studied Bald Eagle nests adjacent to human activities on the Chippewa National Forest in Minnesota. The Forest provides good eagle habitat but also draws people for outdoor sports, logging, and housing development. In general, eagles were found to select nest sites away from housing developments but near openings in the trees. The distance from the nest at which brooding birds flushed varied widely, from 57 to 991 meter. Not many nest failures were attributable to human activities; the major cause appeared to be pesticides. The reproductive rate seems to be increasing, probably because pesticide contamination has been declining.

Dr. Cutis S. Adkisson and Dr. F. Scott Orcutt, Jr., described a confused picture of chickadee distribution in the Mountain Lake area, based on a study of vocalizations. They attempted to separate the two species on the basis of song (the *chick-a-dee* call note having been judged unreliable as an indicator). "Typical" Black-capped Chickadee songs had been heard as low as 2500 feet

and Carolina songs at 3700 feet or more. Both types of songs had been heard at intermediate ranges. Moreover, songs not typical of either species occurred at widely varying elevations. There appears to have been a change since 1971, when David Johnston found an orderly distribution of Black-caps and Carolinas at high and low elevations, respectively.

A social hour on Friday evening was followed by the banquet, for which 268 people had registered. Members then adjourned to the ballroom for the evening session. Dr. Ake announced that the Board of Directors had voted to give the 1981 Conservation Award to Citizens for Southwest Virginia, a group of people who had worked with the U. S. Forest Service to assure that development of the Mount Rogers Recreation Area would not destroy the natural beauty of the region. Mr. Tony Decker, of Marion, accepted the award from Dr. Ake.

Mrs. Claire Eike submitted resolutions expressing thanks to the two host societies for the meeting (the New River Valley and Clinch Valley Bird Clubs), the Mountain Lake Hotel, and all others responsible for the success of the occasion. Dr. Ake ruled that the resolutions would stand as approved.

Dr. Ake announced that 284 persons had registered for the meeting; this was a new record, three more than the previous record of 281 set at the fiftieth anniversary meeting in 1979.

Dr. Via introduced the featured speaker, Mr. Ellison A. Smyth, III, of Charlotte, North Carolina. He presented a program of slides in honor of the late Frederick Truslow, whom he described as the finest bird photographer who ever lived. The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Following field trips on Sunday morning, 31 May, members assembled for the final lunch, served by the Mountain Lake Hotel. En route home, many persons accepted an invitation to visit the ornithological research facilities at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

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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 May 1981. 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 Chapter (40), Bristol
4. Cape Henry Audubon Society (375), Norfolk

5. Charlottesville-Albemarle Bird Club (60), Charlottesville
6. Clinch Mountain Bird Club (20), Nickelsville
7. Clinch Valley Bird Club (35), Tazewell
8. Cumberland Nature Club (30), Wise
9. Hampton Roads Bird Club (130), Newport News-Hampton
10. Lynchburg Bird Club (200), Lynchburg
11. Marion Bird Club (25), Marion
12. Montpelier Bird Club (25), Gordonsville-Orange
13. New River Valley Bird Club (30), Blacksburg-Radford
14. Northern Neck of Virginia Audubon Society (250), Kilmarnock-White Stone
15. Northern Virginia Chapter (150), Arlington-Fairfax
16. Northern Shenandoah Valley Audubon Society (120), Middletown
17. Richmond Audubon Society (665), Richmond
18. Roanoke Valley Bird Club (180), Roanoke-Salem
19. Rockbridge Bird Club (15), Lexington
20. Rockingham Bird Club (80), Harrisonburg
21. Virginia Beach Audubon Society (260), Virginia Beach
22. Margaret H. Watson Bird Club (20), Darlington Heights
23. Westmoreland Bird Club (25), Montross
24. Williamsburg Bird Club (60), Williamsburg

NEWS AND NOTES

COMPILED BY YULEE LARNER AND F. R. SCOTT

COMMON LOON INLAND IN MIDWINTER. A Common Loon was present on a lake in Gypsy Hill Park in Staunton, Virginia, from 16 January to 18 February 1980. First discovered by John Mehner, it was also seen later by Yulee Lerner, Leonard Teuber, and others. Mehner was also the last one to see it. There are very few midwinter records of loons from Virginia west of the Blue Ridge.

GREBE IN JUNE. A single Pied-billed Grebe was located at Berkeley Plantation, southwestern Charles City County, Virginia, on 1 June 1980 by Paul Murphy. This species is not known to be a regular summer resident of this area, although a young bird was found near here at Lake Harrison on 4 August 1968 (*Audubon Field Notes*, 22: 594, 1968).

PELAGIC BIRDS OFFSHORE. Among the pelagic birds seen at sea off Virginia during the winter of 1979-80 by Richard A. Rowlett and not adequately covered in other publications were 4 Manx Shearwaters 55-60 miles southeast of Ocean City in both Maryland and Virginia waters on 3 December 1979. Two more were seen in the same area on 6 December. A Northern

Fulmar was found 90 miles southeast of Chincoteague on 15 and 16 January 1980, and 1 to 6 Great Skuas were noted daily 60-100 miles east of Maryland and Virginia from 12 to 21 January 1980.

WILSON'S PLOVER IN HAMPTON ROADS. According to Bill Williams, a Wilson's Plover was found at the Craney Island spoil area, Portsmouth, Virginia, on 19 April 1980 by a group from the Williamsburg Bird Club. This was not only an early date but it was also one of the few records of this species away from the immediate coast.

WINTER SHOREBIRDS IN AUGUSTA COUNTY. The presence of any shorebird in winter west of the Blue Ridge other than American Woodcock, Common Snipe, and Killdeer is a great rarity, but the winter of 1979-80 produced two unusual species at a pond along route 776 near New Hope in northeastern Augusta County, Virginia. A Pectoral Sandpiper and a Dunlin were discovered here on the Augusta County Christmas bird count on 29 December 1979 by Isabel Obenschain and Ruth Snyder, and the Pectoral was later seen on a number of occasions during January and February by Leonard Teuber, the last observation being on 5 March 1980. The single Dunlin, which was also seen repeatedly in January, was joined by a second bird on 18 February 1980 (Mozelle Henkel), and Teuber saw both birds on 5 March and possibly the same birds on 21 April and 5 May. These were apparently the first winter records of either species for western Virginia.

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW AT BLACKSBURG. A Chuck-will's-widow was shot at Blacksburg in late March 1980 by someone who thought the bird was a "fierce looking owl." Jerry Via was notified about the bird on 27 March and picked it up the next day. The bird died a few days later and is now in the collection of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. This appears to be the first record of this species for Montgomery County, Virginia.

RARE SPARROWS IN AUGUSTA COUNTY. On 15 December 1979 during the Waynesboro Christmas bird count Julie Russell and James Gum located a Lark Sparrow at the Waynesboro Airport. Within three weeks it had been seen by at least 30 observers including YuLee Lerner, Isabel Obenschain, Leonard Teuber, and a group from Roanoke. It was seen periodically through the winter, the last observations being on 21 March 1980 by Teuber and 26 March by Mozelle Henkel. This appears to be the first wintering record for Virginia west of the Blue Ridge.

While searching for the Lark Sparrow on 18 December 1979 Brian Keelan identified a Clay-colored Sparrow, also at the Waynesboro Airport. This was later seen by Henkel, Obenschain, and many others and was last noted on 2 January 1980 by Lerner and Teuber. This was also a first winter record for the state west of the Blue Ridge.

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, \$150.00 for life members, and \$9.00 for family members (limited to husband, wife, and their dependent children).

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A DARK-EYED JUNCO × WHITE-THROATED SPARROW HYBRID

CHARLES R. BLEM

In 1883 the first hybrid of the Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*) X White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) cross was reported (Townsend, 1883; Stone, 1893). Since that time a total of at least 10 such hybrids have been described (L. Snyder, 1954; Peacock, 1956; Hamilton and Hamilton, 1957; Warburton, 1959; Dickerman, 1961; Short and Simon, 1965; M. Snyder, 1967), and at least two specimens remain unmentioned in the literature (the present paper and M. A. Byrd, personal communication). Although detailed descriptions of recent specimens are only of value as a running record of occurrences of this cross, I feel that it is important that Virginia birders be alerted to the existence of such hybrids; 6 of the 12 known specimens have been taken in Virginia (3) and Maryland (3).

The present specimen (VCUVC 1028) was snap-trapped by Martin Gochle in an old field in Richmond, Virginia, on 26 November 1977 during a survey of small mammal populations. The specimen's crown is gray with black mottling that barely suggests streaking. There is no yellow in the lores. The throat is white, but the area is more restricted than that of typical *Z. albicollis*. The upper breast and lower throat are gray, the lower breast an off-white. The sides and undertail coverts are streaked with brown. The back is brown with black streaks and generally resembles *Z. albicollis*. The wings also suggest *albicollis* except that wing-bars are faint and there is no yellow in the bend of the wing. The tail resembles that of *albicollis* except the outermost rectrix (6) is white on the outer vane with a dusky base and the inner vane is white on the distal half. Rectrix 5 is brownish-gray except for a white triangle on the inner vane along about one fourth of the length of the feather. Rectrix 4 has only a tiny terminal spot of white. The bill was horn-colored to pink in the fresh specimen. Sex of the hybrid was not distinguishable as no gonads were visible.

Morphometrics of the present specimen seem to be typical of previously collected hybrids (Table 1). In general, measurements of hybrids are most similar to the junco parent. Bill length (from nostril) and tarsus tend to be intermediate to parental stock, but all other measurements average less than the smallest parent except for exposed culmen length which averages longer than parental species.

The rate of discovery of these hybrids gives a false sense of their abundance. In the period 1967 to 1977, approximately 388,000 Dark-eyed Juncos and 282,000 White-throated Sparrows were listed in the banding totals from the Bird Banding Laboratory of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. No hybrids of the two species were listed. Since these birds are fairly obvious, it appears that their absolute frequency of occurrence is extremely rare.

Bird students should be alert to such birds in order to obtain information on living specimens. Do they associate with juncos or sparrows? Do they feed

TABLE 1. *Measurements of Dark-eyed Junco X White-throated Sparrow hybrids and the parental species. Except for the present specimen, values are means plus or minus one standard error. Values in parentheses are sampling sizes. The sample size for ZONOTRICHIA ALBICOLLIS is 99, JUNCO HYEMALIS 11.*

	<i>Present Specimen</i>	<i>Other Specimens</i>	<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>
Weight, g	18.8	20.5 (2)	29.0 \pm 0.2	23.6 \pm 0.4
Wing chord, mm	76.0	73.2 \pm 1.3 (5)	73.7 \pm 0.3	76.7 \pm 1.1
Tail, mm	69.0	66.7 \pm 0.8 (3)	75.0 \pm 0.7	74.2 \pm 0.8
Tarsus, mm	21.9	21.8 \pm 0.5 (4)	22.7 \pm 0.1	20.9 \pm 0.2
Exposed culmen, mm	10.0	11.1 \pm 0.1 (3)	10.5 \pm 0.2	9.7 \pm 0.3
Bill from nostril, mm	7.5	8.0 \pm 0.2 (4)	8.2 \pm 0.1	7.7 \pm 0.1

in a manner similar to either species or both? Do they freely associate with conspecific flocks or tend to be more solitary? Notes on living specimens would be of considerable interest.

I am indebted to Dr. Richard C. Banks of the National Museum of Natural History for confirming the identity of this specimen and for diagnostic comments regarding it.

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EARED GREBE IN AUGUSTA COUNTY

YULEE LARNER

On Saturday, 16 August 1980, following a heavy rain on Friday night, Mozelle and John Henkel were checking area ponds to see if any birds might have come in with the frontal system. At the sewage lagoon on route 639 in Augusta County, Virginia, near Stuarts Draft, they spotted two grebes, one a Pied-billed, *Podilymbus podiceps*, and the other, about the same size but with a longer neck, they thought must be an Eared Grebe, *Podiceps nigricollis*.

I saw the birds at 11:30 a.m., and my husband, Si Larner, photographed them with a 200-mm lens. About 3 p.m. the birds were observed by Leonard Teuber and Brooke Meanley, and later in the afternoon Mozelle Henkel returned with Jane Nichol and studied the birds again.

After observing the Eared Grebe at length in excellent light, all of the observers concurred in the following facts: (1) size—about the same as the Pied-billed; (2) neck—completely black; (3) bill—very thin; (4) tufts—buffy ear tufts extended from eye level back and down on the neck—at the end of the tuft feathers was a slight suggestion of white on the neck; (5) back—black; and (6) sides—cinnamon.

This appears to be the second summer record for Virginia (*American Birds*, 26: 841, 1972) and the first record west of the Blue Ridge.

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EVIDENCE FOR A RESIDENT CROSSBILL POPULATION ON SHENANDOAH MOUNTAIN

F. R. SCOTT

The modern history of the Red Crossbill, *Loxia curvirostra*, in Virginia really began in 1963 and 1964 with a great flight of both Red and White-winged Crossbills, *L. leucoptera*, that occurred over much of the northern and western parts of the state during the winter and spring (Scott, 1964). Prior to that time

there were relatively few summer records, and Murray (1952) considered it an "erratic winter visitor, . . . never common." The abrupt change in status since 1964 is summarized in the "Red Book" (Larner, 1979). There is some evidence, however, that the bird was more common in Virginia in the late nineteenth century (Cooke, 1929; Maynard, 1898).

There seems little question but there is a resident population of Red Crossbills in the Mount Rogers area of southwestern Virginia which has been present at least since 1949 when S. M. Russell (personal communication) found 23 on Mount Rogers on 13 June, of which at least 8 appeared to be young. Since then it has been found here and on other nearby mountains on all three of the VSO breeding-bird forays to the area (in 1966, 1974, and 1980) with such awesome counts as 114 on Mount Rogers on 20 June 1974 by C. E. Stevens and others (Scott, 1975). There are also many other published and unpublished records from this area in summer as well as at other times of the year. Although actual nesting here has not been definitely proved since Jones (1932) found a nest under construction on 1 June 1932, a number of juvenile birds have been found (e.g., Scott, 1975).

Since the Red Crossbill is known to breed at almost any time of the year (Bailey *et al.*, 1953; Griscom, 1937), their appearance in summer in small numbers in many other parts of western Virginia does not necessarily indicate a resident breeding population. However, one area, Shenandoah Mountain along the western edge of the Shenandoah Valley, has had such a consistent recent history of Red Crossbill records that the evidence for a resident population here seems overwhelming.

The area in question is a mountain ridge constituting the boundaries between Augusta and Rockingham Counties, Virginia, on the east and Highland County, Virginia, and Pendleton County, West Virginia, on the west. The section of this ridge and adjacent uplands that has received the most field work lies between U.S. route 250 on the south and an interesting stand of Red Spruce, *Picea rubens*, about 6 miles north of U.S. route 33 on the north, most of this area lying within George Washington National Forest. Descriptions of parts of the area have been given by Stevens (1968) and Stewart (1943). The elevation of the ridge varies between about 2920 feet at U.S. 250 to 4397 feet at Reddish Knob. Other named peaks along this ridge include Tearjacket Knob (4229 feet), Dyers Knob (4060 feet), Bother Knob (4344 feet), and High Knob (4050 feet).

Stewart (1943) did not record the Red Crossbill here, and it appears that the first published record of this species in the area was one near Headwaters, Highland County, on 6 June 1964 (C. E. Stevens and R. J. Watson—Scott, 1964). Other records have been published by Murray (1967 and 1970) and Stevens (1965, 1966, 1968, and 1976), and observations on a nesting pair found by Max Carpenter and Ellen Goetz in extreme southwestern Rockingham County in May and June 1980 were described by Goetz (1981). In recent years a number of other records have appeared in various issues of

American Birds (e.g., Hall, 1980). I am indebted to Kathleen Finnegan and YuLee Larner for supplying many unpublished records from the files of the Rockingham and Augusta Bird Clubs, the former beginning in 1976 and the latter in 1974. Mrs. Finnegan also informed me about the crossbill reference in J. Lawrence Smith's book (1968).

In all, the records in hand total well over 80 observations, and these constitute only an incomplete sample, since the Shenandoah Mountain crossings at routes 250 and 33 are well known for producing Red Crossbills and are visited regularly by many birders who do not always report their findings. The largest number reported in this area was two flocks totaling 28 birds on and near Slate Springs Mountain, Rockingham County, on 12 June 1968 (Stevens, 1968). This may have been unusual, however, for the other peak counts in hand are 16 at Ramsey Draft, Augusta County, on 31 October 1979 (T. F. Wieboldt), 11 near route 250 on 10 November 1978 (Leonard Teuber), and three reports of 10 each at Headwaters, Highland County, on 24 May 1970 (Stevens, 1976), route 250 on 9 March 1979 (Teuber), and route 33 on 16 May 1980 (Finnegan). There are multiple records for every month of the year. Habitats utilized by the birds were in quite varied forest types, ranging from pine-oak woods and northern hardwoods to hemlocks and the single stands of Red Spruce and Balsam Fir, *Abies balsamea*, known to the area. The only nest found (Goetz, 1981) was in a Table Mountain Pine, *Pinus pungens*.

Aside from the successful nest, probable breeding in the area is also indicated by several reports of juvenile birds. These were adults with fledgling young, route 33, 1 July 1968 (John Derby—Murray, 1970); pair of adults with 3 to 5 young, Briery Branch Lake, Rockingham County, 1 June 1976 and later (S. Cominsky and R. H. Smith); 1 juvenile, Briery Branch Lake, 15 July 1978 (Teuber); pair of adults feeding one short-tailed young, route 250, 6 April 1979 (Finnegan and Teuber); pair with one young, route 33, late August 1979 (S. Cominsky); 2 immatures, route 33, 4 September 1979 (Finnegan); and pair of adults and 3 juveniles, route 250, 3 April 1980 (Teuber). Singing by a male Red Crossbill was reported repeatedly on route 33 from 12 to 23 June 1978 (Finnegan), but singing was not heard anywhere around the 1980 nesting (Goetz, 1981). Singing was also reported somewhere near Reddish Knob by J. Lawrence Smith (1968: 107). No date was given, but the context indicates that it was probably early summer.

This apparently resident population of Red Crossbills may extend southward to Rockbridge and Bath Counties. Hubbard (1970 and 1973) recorded the species on 48 different dates at Rockbridge Alum Springs between January 1969 and March 1971 with records in every month except August. None of his birds, however, were obvious juveniles.

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NEWS AND NOTES

COMPILED BY YULEE LARNER AND F. R. SCOTT

LEAST BITTERNS INLAND. Inland records of Least Bitterns seem to be increasing. Two new localities for this species were established on Virginia's Piedmont: one was noted flying several times at Lake Anna, Louisa County, on 31 May 1980 by John B. Bazuin, Jr., and another was seen by Leonard A. Smock on 24 June 1980 when it flushed from a marsh in northern Nottoway County where route 614 crosses Deep Creek. The bird flew about 75 feet before dropping back into the marsh. These dates should indicate probable breeding. Another Least Bittern was picked up freshly killed near a large building in Roanoke, Virginia, on 26 September 1980 by Mike Purdy.

WHITE IBIS IN 1980. White Ibis again made a great showing in Virginia in 1980, the first one appearing at Hog Island, Northhampton County, on 18 April (G. J. Hennessey and Barry Truitt), possibly the state's earliest spring record. They next appeared at Chincoteague in mid June (*American Birds*, 34: 883, 1980) and then spread over much of the eastern part of the state, though there were no really large numbers. The more significant inland records—all immature birds—included one on a power line over the Tye River in southern Nelson County on 12 July (Richard Ayers), one near Arcadia, Boteourt County, on 20 July (Bill Opengari) and again on 31 August (Opengari and Tom Krakauer), 2 at the Roanoke sewage treatment plant on 29 July (Sally Nelson and Ernest and Hazel Moore), one photographed near Churchville, Augusta County, on 31 July (Mrs. Wip Robinson), and 2 in Rockingham County on 16 August (Leonard Teuber and others). The five records above from west of the Blue Ridge more than double the number of previous reports from this area of the state.

After August all reported birds were from the Coastal Plain and included such areas as Chincoteague, Chesterfield County, Charles City County, and Newport News. The last records were a single immature at Shirley, Charles City County, on 2 November (J. W. Dillard and F. R. Scott) and one on the Hopewell Christmas count near Varina, Henrico County, on 20 December (Chris Foster, Betsy Roszell, Darrell Peterson, *et al.*). This last observation appears to be the latest "fall" date for Virginia.

EAGLE NEST SURVEY IN 1980. Many persons contributed to the 1980 Bald Eagle nest survey in Virginia. Those making survey flights included Jackson Abbott, Mitchell Byrd, and F. R. Scott, while Keith Cline of the National Wildlife Federation led the banding crew. In Virginia 35 active Bald Eagle nests were found, of which 23 were successful and 12 failed. Thirty-five young were produced, 31 of which were banded. Seven of the young were fitted with radio transmitters. For the Chesapeake Bay Region as a whole (Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware), there were 85 active nests, with the 49 successful ones producing a total of 72 young. Sixty-three of the young were banded. In terms of the number of successful nests and the number of young produced, this was the best year since the survey began.

NORTHERN PHALAROPE AT DALEVILLE. A male Northern Phalarope in breeding plumage was found at a pond at Daleville, Botetourt County, Virginia, on 18 May 1980 by Carol Hawkins, Jerry Via, Bill Opengari, Barry Kinzie, and others. George Hall (*American Birds*, 34: 776, 1980) reported that there were five other reports of Northern Phalaropes in the Appalachian Region on 17 or 18 May, probably due to a storm system. Although only two records of this species west of the Blue Ridge were listed in the 1979 Virginia *Checklist*, there have been several records since that time (see *Raven*, 52: 16, 1981).

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