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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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THE ACCOMACK COUNTY BREEDING-BIRD FORAY OF 1981

BARRY L. KINZIE AND F. R. SCOTT

The series of breeding-bird forays sponsored by the Virginia Society of Ornithology began in 1966, and the fourteenth of these was held in Accomack County, Virginia, between 2 and 7 June 1981. Foray headquarters was the Whispering Pines Motel near the town of Accomac, and Barry Kinzie served as foray director. Although registration totaled 23, the accompanying annotated list contains records by an additional 11 observers, most of whom engaged in field work outside the 6-day foray period.

Accomack County lies on the Eastern Shore and is the easternmost county in Virginia, abutting Worcester County, Maryland, on the north and Northampton County, Virginia, on the south. The Atlantic Ocean forms its eastern boundary, whereas its western border is delimited by Pocomoke and Tangier Sounds and Chesapeake Bay. A series of low barrier islands face the ocean, separated from the mainland by 1.5 to roughly 7 miles of salt marsh, tidal bays, and sand and mud flats. The principal islands in this group, from north to south, are Assateague (which also extends many miles into Maryland), Wallops (the NASA experimental station), Assawoman, Metomkin, Cedar, and Parramore. In addition, shoals often form in the various inlets, such as Dawson Shoals between Cedar and Parramore Islands. Chincoteague Island, which contains the town of Chincoteague, lies close to and just west of Assateague but is not itself technically one of the barrier islands. Only Assateague and Wallops are reachable by motor vehicles, and Wallops is not open to the general public. There are extensive salt and brackish marshes on the western side of the mainland, though not as extensive as those on the eastern side. The marshes of the county are described in detail in Special Report No. 138 in Applied Marine Science and Ocean Engineering of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (October 1977).

The mainland part of the county is roughly 42 miles long (northeast to southwest) and averages about 9 to 10 miles wide. It tends to be low and sandy with few if any permanent freshwater streams, although the Pocomoke River borders the northwestern corner for about 2 miles before emptying into Pocomoke Sound from Maryland. Most of the named rivers and creeks are actually tidal inlets and estuaries. Land use of the mainland is roughly 35 to 40% agricultural with grain farming now replacing much of the areas formerly devoted to truck farming. Some vegetables, however, mainly white potatoes and cucumbers, are still extensively grown. Although wooded areas are principally pine, there are some sizable mixed and hardwood forests. Fairly large pine stands also occur on most of the larger islands (but not Assawoman or Metomkin). Elevation of the mainland varies from sea level to about 55 feet. For purposes of the foray field work, the mainland areas of the county were divided into six sectors. The railroad line down the middle of the county separated the eastern and western divisions, and each of these was further divided into a northern, central, and southern sector by lines drawn across the county approximately at Hallwood and Onley.

Since Virginia's Eastern Shore has been famous for a century or more for its colonial water birds, the emphasis of this foray was directed to the land

birds. Nevertheless, extensive field work was done on Assateague, which contains both Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge and Assateague National Seashore, and visits were also made to Wallops and Parramore Islands during the foray period. These are often referred to as the "major" barrier islands in the annotated list. Later in the summer (24-27 June) all the barrier islands south of Wallops were censused for colonial nesting birds by Bill Akers, Leigh E. Jones, Jerry W. Via, Thomas F. Wieboldt, and Bill Williams for The Nature Conservancy, the principal owner of the islands. The Chesapeake Bay islands of the county, however, of which Great Fox, Tangier, and Watts Islands are the main ones, were not visited by the foray parties. Many known or suspected colonies of breeding birds in the eastern marshes between the barrier islands and the mainland were also not visited.

Although many breeding-season land-bird records from this area have appeared in the pages of *American Birds* and its predecessor, *Audubon Field Notes*, as well as *The Raven*, these records have never been compiled, and there appear to have been no publications devoted to the breeding land birds of the county, although Brooke Meanley's fine booklet, *Birds at Chincoteague and the Virginia Barrier Islands* (Tidewater Publishers, 1981) does mention some of the breeding land birds of the islands. Hence, in this report there are few if any comparisons with previous field work, and the authors have tried to refrain from too much commentary on individual records or the lack of records for some species. Some of the species actively looked for, but not found, included Least and American Bitterns, Sharp-shinned and Red-shouldered Hawks, Black Rail, American Coot, Black-necked Stilt, Barred Owl, White-breasted Nuthatch, Loggerhead Shrike, Warbling Vireo, Northern Parula, Hooded Warbler, American Redstart, House Finch, and Savannah Sparrow. Some of these have been found here before during the breeding season, and further field work will undoubtedly reveal some of them in the future.

All birds satisfactorily observed during the foray period have been included in the annotated list, including obviously late migrating shorebirds, and general statements on distribution and abundance in the list refer only to the 2-7 June period. In addition, however, breeding or possibly breeding birds found at other times during the 1981 breeding season were also noted, but obvious migrants or vagrants seen outside the foray dates were excluded. Nevertheless, there are still 166 species in the final list, of which only about 138 were probable breeding birds. There were obviously many summering nonbreeding birds as well as late spring transients. One feature of the list deserves special mention: if a land bird was noted on any of the barrier islands, it is specifically noted under that species' heading; if no such mention is made, there was no island report of that bird. Island avifauna is of particular interest to many ornithologists, and this is a first effort to document the probable breeding land birds of some of Virginia's islands.

As in all short-term field work of this kind, particularly over so large an area, many areas were poorly covered or not covered at all, and many birds were undoubtedly missed which further field work might have revealed. It is suspected that the abundance of at least some of the species found has been understated in the annotated list. Thus care should be taken in evaluating this report, which, it is hoped, will form a base for other observers to build on. This might also encourage unpublished field notes to be brought to light for the first time.

The weather during the foray period can be stated very simply: hot (90° and more) and humid with strong southwesterly winds. Both the heat and the wind inhibited bird singing, which made the efforts of the field parties doubly difficult. There were also one or more extremely high tides just prior to the foray period, which undoubtedly account for the little breeding evidence found by the foray parties for marsh and beach nesting birds. Foray procedures were similar to those of previous years. Field parties covered different areas each day, and the more productive areas were covered repeatedly by different parties on different days, thus compensating—at least in part—for varying weather conditions, time of day, and abilities of observers. One or more detailed field cards were turned in by each party each day, and these were then edited, tabulated, and summarized for this report. There were 38 cards in all, plus many incidental observations.

The following observers are mentioned by last name only in the following list: Bill Akers, Ruth A. Beck, Jeff Carlton, Keith Cline, John H. Dalmas, Thelma Dalmas, Fenton Day, John W. Dillard, Emily Grey, Hugh Hanson, Barry L. Kinzie, Brooke Meanley, Norwood C. Middleton, Dorothy Mitchell, James P. Oland, Bill J. Opengari, George W. Reiger, Robert P. Russell, F. R. Scott, Brian Taber, Leonard Teuber, Charles R. Vaughn, Jerry W. Via, John S. Weske, Thomas F. Wieboldt, Claudia Wilds, and Bill Williams.

Common Loon. Reported by three parties on the southern end of Assateague between 4 and 6 June with a peak count of 4 on 4 June (Middleton and Teuber).

Pied-billed Grebe. Surprisingly, there were only two reports of this species, both single birds on Assateague Island on 5 June (Grey; Dillard and Scott).

White Pelican. One record, a single bird at Metomkin Inlet on 2 June (Day).

Double-crested Cormorant. Small numbers were noted in most of the water areas on both the eastern and western sides of the county. The best numbers were 23 on Assateague on 4 and 5 June (Wilds) and 30 on Wallops Island on 6 June (Hanson and Vaughn).

Great Blue Heron. Fairly common and widespread but in small numbers. Sixteen parties reported the species but the top count was only 6 birds. The only known breeding colony in the county, on Watts Island in Pocomoke Sound, was not visited.

Green Heron. Fairly common in most areas though the peak count was only 8. However, Wieboldt had 16 adults at a colony on Metomkin Island on 27 June where there were also young in the nest.

Little Blue Heron. Common on Assateague where the best count was 25 on 5 June. The Club Point colony near Wachapreague had 80 adults on 6 June with many nests with young (Dillard and Scott), and Wieboldt noted 16 adults plus many nestlings on Metomkin Island on 27 June. Elsewhere, from 1 to 4 birds were reported at several locations near Chincoteague Bay, Saxis, and elsewhere.

Cattle Egret. Common in most areas. The best counts on the mainland were 63 near Horntown on 4 June (Scott) and 56 at the Wallops airfield on 6 June

(Hanson and Vaughn). Many were also present on Assateague, and 160 adults plus nestlings were on Metomkin Island on 27 June (Wieboldt).

Great Egret. Common at Assateague and in the eastern salt marshes with peak counts of 45 at Assateague on 4 June (Middleton and Teuber) and 126 adults at Metomkin with nestlings in 2 colonies on 27 June (Wieboldt). Elsewhere, the birds were fairly common in the western marshes with counts of up to 7 birds. There were also young in the nest near Wachapreague on 6 June (Dillard and Scott).

Snowy Egret. Abundant at Assateague and in the eastern marshes. The top counts were 162 at Assateague on 4 and 5 June (Wilds) and 200 near Wachapreague on 6 June (Dillard and Scott) where there were also many young in nests. Wieboldt counted 352 adults plus many young in nests in 2 colonies on Metomkin on 27 June. Common in the western marshes where Kinzie and Grey found 18 at Saxis on 4 June.

Louisiana Heron. Common to abundant at Assateague and in the eastern marshes with maximum counts of 120 near Wachapreague on 6 June (Dillard and Scott) and 300 adults on Metomkin on 27 June (Williams). Both of these sites had many young in nests. Uncommon in the western marshes where the best count was only 5.

Black-crowned Night Heron. Very local and uncommon during the foray period in the Assateague and Wallops Island area where the top count was only 8 on the refuge on 4 June (Middleton and Teuber). Two were also near Wachapreague on 6 June (Dillard and Scott). There were no reports elsewhere during the foray, although Wieboldt had 80 adults and many nests with eggs at Metomkin on 27 June.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron. Three records. Three were found in the Assateague area on 4 June (Middleton and Teuber) and 2 here the next day (Dillard and Scott). The last observers also noted an immature near Wachapreague on 6 June. None were reported at Metomkin, and a nesting colony reported near the south end of Chincoteague Island in previous years was not found this year.

Glossy Ibis. Common at Assateague and in the eastern marshes with a top count of 194 on the refuge on 5 June (Dillard and Scott). Only a few records from the western marshes where Grey and Kinzie found 7 on 4 June. Wieboldt had 70 adults plus many young in nests at Metomkin on 27 June.

Mute Swan. Locally fairly common at Assateague where the peak count of 26 was obtained on 5 June (Dillard and Scott). No reports elsewhere.

Canada Goose. Common at Assateague where 55 were totaled on 3 June (Scott). The only other reports were of two groups of 3 and 8 birds of unknown origin in the southeastern and east-central parts of the county. The Assateague birds were believed to have been introduced from wild stock.

Brant. Two reports. One was seen near Chincoteague on 4 June (Middleton and Teuber), and 5 were noted in the marshes between Wachapreague and Parramore Island on 5 June (Akers, Beck, and Taber).

Snow Goose. One to two birds were noted by three parties on Assateague 4-5 June (Middleton *et al.*).

Mallard. Common at Assateague where Middleton and Teuber found the maximum count of 53 on 4 June. Elsewhere up to 5 birds were seen in numerous localities, including Saxis. Broods of young were observed at Assateague on 3, 4, and 5 June (Teuber *et al.*).

Black Duck. Common at Assateague and Wallops Islands and at Saxis with a few records elsewhere in the eastern and western marshes. Middleton and Teuber had the peak count of 124 mostly on the refuge on 4 June. A brood of 5 young was found on Swansgut Creek in northeastern Accomack on 4 June (Scott), 7 young were seen on Assateague on the same date (Middleton and Teuber), and 11 were noted at Saxis on 7 June (Dillard and Scott).

Gadwall. Common at Assateague and Wallops Islands with a maximum on the refuge of 41 birds on 5 June (Dillard and Scott). Grey and Kinzie also found 5 at Saxis on 4 June. No reports elsewhere. Three broods were found on Assateague on 3 and 5 June (Dillard and Scott).

Blue-winged Teal. Fairly common at Assateague and Saxis with a top count of 12. Not found elsewhere.

Northern Shoveler. Noted by three parties on Assateague where Middleton and Teuber had the best count of 5 on 4 June. Not known to breed here.

Wood Duck. Common on Assateague where Middleton and Teuber recorded 27 on 4 June. Few records on the mainland though Reiger counted 14 in southeastern Accomack on 7 June. A brood of 13 young was noted on Assateague on 4 June (Middleton and Teuber) and one of 6 young on 5 June (Dillard and Scott).

Greater Scaup. One record. A single bird was seen on Assateague on 4 June (Middleton and Teuber).

Ruddy Duck. One record. Grey found one on Assateague on 5 June.

Turkey Vulture. Common on the mainland with a peak count of 24 in northeastern Accomack on 4 June (Scott). Not reported from any of the islands.

Black Vulture. Uncommon on the mainland where six parties reported a total of 12 birds. The maximum count was only 3.

Red-tailed Hawk. Fairly common and widely distributed in all parts of the mainland. Four birds were also seen on Parramore Island on 5 June (Akers *et al.*) though no more than 2 were reported by any mainland party.

Broad-winged Hawk. One record. A single bird was noted near Mappsburg in southeastern Accomack on 6 June (Kinzie).

Bald Eagle. Only one bird was reported during the foray, an immature at Hog Neck in east-central Accomack on 6 June (Middleton and Teuber). However, an adult was found on a nest with young near Swansgut Creek in extreme northeastern Accomack on 3 April, and 2 young were banded in this nest on 8 May (Cline *et al.*).

Marsh Hawk. Uncommon. Up to 2 birds were seen by four parties at Assateague, at Wallops Island, near Saxis, and in east-central Accomack.

Osprey. Common wherever there was tidal water. Mitchell *et al.* had the best count of 10 in southeastern Accomack on 4 June. Vaughn reported 4 occupied nests on Wallops Island on 6 June, there were young in a nest near Wachapreague on 7 June (Middleton and Teuber), and Williams *et al.* found many occupied nests on channel markers in the eastern marshes from 24 to 27 June.

Peregrine Falcon. Six nestling Peregrines from Cornell University were placed in a hack box on Assateague on 20 May and released on 30 May (*vide* Carlton). Some of these were subsequently reported by four of the foray parties. A pair consisting of an adult male and a subadult female (also thought to be introduced birds) were noted on Wallops Island between 3 and 6 June (Day and Vaughn) and also appeared irregularly on Assateague from 4 June into July, the male often harrassing the newly fledged birds (Carlton).

American Kestrel. One record. Mitchell and others found one bird near Wachapreague on 4 June.

Bobwhite. Abundant on the mainland and common on Assateague and Wallops Islands. Dillard and Scott had the best count of 75 in southeastern Accomack on 6 June.

Ring-necked Pheasant. Three parties reported single birds in southeastern Accomack on 6 June (Dillard and Scott; Kinzie) and 7 June (Reiger). These may well have been the Japanese Green Pheasant, which is considered by some to be specifically distinct from the Ring-neck.

King Rail. One record. One was observed closely on Assateague on 5 June by Dillard and Scott.

Clapper Rail. Common in both the eastern and western marshes. The peak count was 15 in east-central Accomack on 6 June (Middleton and Teuber). Meanley found 22 nests with eggs in a 47-acre tract of salt marsh near the Chincoteague causeway during the last week of May, and several late broods of young were seen on Metomkin Island on 27 June (William *et al.*).

Virginia Rail. The only report of this species was of 5 birds in the Wachapreague area on 4 June (Mitchell *et al.*).

Common Gallinule. Up to 4 adults were seen at Assateague by four parties. Not recorded elsewhere.

American Oystercatcher. Common on all the barrier islands and in the eastern marshes. Not recorded elsewhere. The best count during the foray was 20 on the south end of Assateague on 6 June (Dalmases), but Williams and others counted 171 on Cedar Island on 26 June and 377 on Metomkin on 27 June. According to Oland, 4 nests with eggs were found on southern Assateague during May.

Semipalmated Plover. Common transient on the barrier islands. Wilds had the best count of 12 on Assateague on 4 and 5 June.

Wilson's Plover. Uncommon and local on the barrier islands. Two pairs were found on Wallops on 6 June (Hanson and Vaughn) and single pairs on Assa-

teague on 4 and 5 June (Wilds) and Parramore on 5 June (Akers *et al.*). Additionally, the survey by Williams and others totaled 6 adults on Cedar Island on 26 June and 12 on Metomkin on 27 June.

Killdeer. Surprisingly uncommon. Only 9 birds were found by six different parties on both Assateague and the mainland.

Piping Plover. Fairly common on the barrier islands, the peak count being 39 on Assateague on 4 and 5 June (Wilds). Lesser numbers were also reported from Wallops, Assawoman, Metomkin, Cedar, and Parramore Islands. Wilds had 4 downy young on Assateague on 5 June, and refuge personnel found 6 nests with eggs during May and 3 nests with eggs during June (*vide* Oland).

Black-bellied Plover. Common transient on the barrier islands and in the eastern marshes. The Dalmases had the high count of 50 at the south end of Assateague on 5 June.

Whimbrel. Two records. One was noted on Assateague on 4 and 5 June (Wilds), and 5 were seen near Parramore Island on 5 June (Akers, Beck, and Taber).

Greater Yellowlegs. Common transient on Assateague with a few records elsewhere. Dillard and Scott had the peak count of 29 on 5 June.

Lesser Yellowlegs. Scarce. Up to 2 transient birds were noted by three parties on Assateague and Wallops Islands.

Willet. Abundant on the barrier islands and eastern marshes and common in the western marshes. Top counts for both areas were 161 on Wallops Island on 6 June (Hanson and Vaughn) and 36 in northwestern Accomack on 7 June (Dillard and Scott). Hanson and Vaughn had 2 nests with eggs on Wallops on 6 June.

Spotted Sandpiper. Three records. Single birds were reported in southeastern Accomack (Mitchell *et al.*) and near Chincoteague (Middleton and Teuber), both on 4 June, and 2 were noted on Parramore Island on 5 June (Akers, Beck, and Taber).

Ruddy Turnstone. Abundant transient on the barrier islands, especially Assateague and Wallops. Wilds had the best count of 1120 on Assateague on 4 and 5 June.

Wilson's Phalarope. Two records. A pair in full breeding plumage—obviously migrants—were seen on Assateague on 5 June (Dillard and Scott), and probably one of the same birds was noted by Wilds the same or the previous day.

American Woodcock. One record. A single bird was reported on Wallops Island on 4 June (Day).

Short-billed Dowitcher. Abundant transient on Assateague where the peak count was 700 on the south end on 6 June (Dalmases).

Red Knot. Abundant transient on the barrier islands. The top count was 300 on Wallops Island on 6 June (Hanson and Vaughn).

Sanderling. Abundant transient on the barrier islands. Wilds totaled the best count of 1800 on Assateague on 4 and 5 June.

Semipalmated Sandpiper. Abundant transient on the barrier islands and in the eastern marshes. Wilds again had the peak count of 4148 on Assateague on 4 and 5 June.

Least Sandpiper. Reported by three parties on Assateague where the Dalmases got the maximum number of 40 on 6 June.

White-rusted Sandpiper. Two reports from Assateague. Wilds had 43 on 4 and 5 June and Dillard and Scott 6 birds on 5 June.

Pectoral Sandpiper. Three records. One was found in northeastern Accomack on 3 June (Kinzie), 4 were reported near Chincoteague on 4 June (Middleton and Teuber), and 6 were seen on the south end of Assateague on 6 June (Dalmases).

Dunlin. Reported by five parties on Assateague and Wallops with a top count of 8 on Assateague on 4 June (Middleton and Teuber).

Stilt Sandpiper. Two records. A single bird, probably the same one, was seen on Assateague on 5 June by Grey and the following day by the Dalmases.

Great Black-backed Gull. Locally common in the Chincoteague-Assateague area where Wilds recorded 58 on 4 and 5 June. Less common elsewhere on the barrier islands and in the eastern marshes, and single birds were found at Saxis by two parties. Williams noted downy young accompanied by 4 adults in a gull colony on Metomkin Island on 27 June.

Herring Gull. Common on the barrier islands and in both the eastern and western marshes. The foray peak count obtained by Wilds on Assateague on 4 and 5 June was 194, but Via *et al.* counted 694 adults in three colonies on Metomkin Island on 27 June. Both downy and feathered young were also in these colonies.

Ring-billed Gull. Rather common if somewhat local in the Chincoteague-Assateague area, in extreme northeastern Accomack, and in the western marshes. The peak count was 33 on Assateague on 4 and 5 June (Wilds).

Laughing Gull. Abundant on the barrier islands, in the eastern and western marshes, and in the mainland fields. Wilds totaled the high count of 1240 on Assateague on 4 and 5 June. Via and others found downy young in a large colony on Metomkin Island on 27 June, and large colonies were noted from a distance by several parties along the Chincoteague causeway and on Bradford Creek near Wachapreague, but neither could be examined closely.

Gull-billed Tern. Fairly common locally on the barrier islands and also locally on the mainland, the latter mostly on the eastern side opposite Metomkin Island. Peak counts during the foray were 7 on Assateague Island on 4 June (Middleton and Teuber) and 15 on the east-central mainland on 6 June (same observers). Via and others found 462 adults and both eggs and downy young in seven different colonies on Metomkin Island on 27 June.

Forster's Tern. Common in both the eastern and western marshes, the best counts being 55 in the Chincoteague-Assateague area on 4 June (Middleton and Teuber) and 31 in the Saxis area on 3 June (same observers). There were eggs in a colony on Metomkin Island on 27 June (Williams).

Common Tern. Common on the barrier islands and in some of the bays in the eastern marshes. A few were also noted in the Saxis area. The best foray count, however, was only 17 in the Wachapreague area on 5 June (Mitchell *et al.*). On Metomkin Island, however, Via and others counted 1718 adults plus eggs and downy young in seven colonies on 27 June. On 26 June three colonies with downy young were located on Cedar Island (Via), and there was one small colony with eggs on Dawson Shoals (Wieboldt). Several attempts by this species to nest on Assateague Island were unsuccessful (*vide* Oland).

Least Tern. Common on the barrier islands and in the tidal creeks of both the eastern and western marshes. The top foray count was a concentration of 120 on the south end of Assateague on 6 June (Dalmases). On Metomkin Island Via and others counted 688 adults plus both eggs and downy young in five colonies on 27 June, whereas on 26 June Via found 453 adults plus downy young in three colonies on Cedar Island. According to Oland, of 84 nests with eggs found on Assateague in May, all but 5 were destroyed by high tides, heavy rains, or predators.

Royal Tern. Fairly common on the barrier islands and in the eastern bays and marshes, but the best foray count was only 15. Up to 4 birds were also seen in the Saxis area. On Metomkin Island, however, the two colonies found on 27 June totaled 1262 adults plus both eggs and downy young (Via, Williams, *et al.*).

Sandwich Tern. One record. Three individuals were recorded on Assateague on 4 June by Middleton and Teuber. None were found with the Royal Terns on Metomkin Island.

Caspian Tern. None were found during the foray period, but on Metomkin Island 2 adult birds and a nest with hatching eggs were located by Via and others on 27 June. One of the resulting young was later banded by Weske (*American Birds*, 35: 928, 1981).

Black Tern. One record. Two were seen at the south end of Assateague on 6 June by the Dalmases.

Black Skimmer. Common locally on the barrier islands and in the eastern marshes. The maximum foray count was 65 in the Wachapreague area on 6 June (Dillard and Scott). The only report from the Chesapeake Bay side was 7 along a tidal creek in southwestern Accomack on 2 June (Kinzie). Wieboldt found 480 adults in a colony with many nests with eggs on Dawson Shoals on 26 June, and Via *et al.* totaled 4116 adults in five colonies with both eggs and downy young on Metomkin Island on 27 June.

Rock Dove. Fairly common on the mainland. There were no reports from the barrier islands.

Mourning Dove. Common on both the mainland and the major barrier islands with a peak count of 36 in the Wachapreague area on 6 June (Dillard and Scott).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Common on the mainland and fairly common on Assateague. The best count was 15 in west-central Accomack on 5 June (Middleton and Teuber).

Black-billed Cuckoo. One record. A single bird was found by Kinzie in west-central Accomack on 7 June.

Barn Owl. One record. An adult and 3 young were reported from Parramore Island on 5 June (Akers, Beck, and Taber).

Screech Owl. Common on the mainland with several records from Assateague. Kinzie had the maximum count of 7 in southwestern Accomack on 2 June.

Great Horned Owl. Two reports. Two birds were recorded in northeastern Accomack (J. Dalmás) and 2 near Locustville (Reiger), both on 7 June.

Chuck-will's-widow. Common throughout the mainland with two top counts of 9 each. The only barrier island report was one on Assateague on 5 June (Dillard and Scott).

Whip-poor-will. Two reports. One was heard singing on Wallops Island on 3 June (Day) and another in northeastern Accomack on 7 June (J. Dalmás).

Common Nighthawk. Two reports. Three were seen in southwestern Accomack on 2 June (Kinzie) and one in southeastern Accomack on 7 June (Middleton and Teuber).

Chimney Swift. Common on the mainland with a few birds also reported from Assateague. Kinzie reported the maximum count of 46 in southwestern Accomack on 2 June.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Fairly common on the mainland where three different parties reported the high count of 3 birds each. The only barrier island report was 4 on Parramore on 5 June (Akers, Beck, and Taber).

Belted Kingfisher. Quite uncommon with only 4 birds reported by three parties.

Common Flicker. Common on the mainland with three counts of 8 birds each. Also common on Chincoteague, Assateague, and Wallops Islands, and there was one reported from Parramore. Akers and Opengari found adults at a nest hole near Saxs on 4 June.

Pileated Woodpecker. Uncommon. Only 6 birds were located by five parties.

Red-bellied Woodpecker. Common on the mainland with a top count of 6 birds.

Red-headed Woodpecker. Three records, two of single birds. On 7 June Middleton and Teuber found 2 pairs in southeastern Accomack. According to Vaughn, the colony known from the NASA Wallops mainland base in previous years could not be found.

Hairy Woodpecker. Uncommon with only 6 birds reported by four parties, all on the mainland.

Downy Woodpecker. Common on the mainland where the peak count was 25 in east-central Accomack on 5 June (Mitchell *et al.*).

Eastern Kingbird. Common on both the mainland and the major barrier islands. The top count of 19 was obtained on Parramore Island on 5 June by Akers, Beck, and Taber.

Great Crested Flycatcher. Common on the mainland as well as on Assateague, Chincoteague, and Parramore Islands. The best count was 26 on Assateague on 5 June (Dillard and Scott).

Eastern Phoebe. One record. A single bird was found in the Saxis area on 3 June by Middleton and Teuber.

Acadian Flycatcher. Common on the mainland. The peak count of 11 was obtained in northeastern Accomack on 4 June (Scott).

Eastern Wood Pewee. Common on both the mainland and the major barrier islands. Scott had the maximum count of 18 in northeastern Accomack on 4 June.

Horned Lark. Common and widely distributed over the mainland fields and in the dune areas of the barrier islands, where it was reported from Assateague, Wallops, Metomkin, and Parramore. The best counts were 11 in east-central Accomack on 5 June (Middleton and Teuber) and 10 on the south end of Assateague on 6 June (Dalmases).

Tree Swallow. Common on Assateague and Chincoteague Islands and in the Saxis area. Elsewhere fairly common if somewhat local on the mainland and on Wallops and Parramore Islands. Peak counts included 56 in the Chincoteague-Assateague area on 4 June (Middleton and Teuber) and 19 in the Saxis area on the same date (Grey and Kinzie). Breeding evidence included 10-15 occupied nests in the Chincoteague-Assateague area on 4 June (Middleton and Teuber), an adult feeding young in the nest on Assateague on 5 June (Dillard and Scott), and an occupied nest box at Wachapreague on 6 June (Dillard and Scott).

Bank Swallow. One record. Kinzie and Opengari found one bird near Wachapreague on 5 June. There are no known nesting colonies of this species on the Virginia part of the Eastern Shore.

Rough-winged Swallow. Uncommon and local on the mainland with reports from only five parties. The top count of 8 birds was obtained in southeastern Accomack on both 6 June (Kinzie) and 7 June (Middleton and Teuber). Kinzie noted one bird entering a nest hole in a bank in northeastern Accomack on 3 June, and Middleton and Teuber observed adults with fledged young near Mappsburg on 7 June.

Barn Swallow. Common on both the mainland and the barrier islands wherever there were suitable structures for nesting. The best counts were 62 in northeastern Accomack on 4 June (Scott) and 54 in the Chincoteague-Assateague area on the same date (Middleton and Teuber). One occupied nest was noted near Saxis on 3 June (Middleton and Teuber).

Purple Martin. Common and widespread on the mainland and on both Chincoteague and Assateague Islands, but not reported from any of the other barrier islands. Kinzie had the maximum count of 52 in northeastern Accomack on 3 June, and there were many counts of 30 or more. Adults were feeding young in two colonies on Assateague on 5 June, and there were many occupied colonies in the Wachapreague area on 6 June and at Saxis on 7 June (all Dillard and Scott).

Blue Jay. Fairly common on the mainland with counts of up to 15 birds. The only barrier island report was 7 on Assateague on 5 June (Dillard and Scott).

Common Crow. Very common on the mainland with a top count of 125 in southeastern Accomack on 7 June (Middleton and Teuber). Four birds on Assateague on 5 June (Dillard and Scott) were the only island report.

Fish Crow. Common on both the mainland and the major barrier islands. Middleton and Teuber totaled the high count of 48 in east-central Accomack on 6 June.

Carolina Chickadee. Common on the mainland where the peak count of 41 was obtained by Middleton and Teuber in east-central Accomack on 6 June. Vaughn and Hanson recorded 4 on Wallops Island on 6 June for the only barrier island report.

Tufted Titmouse. Common on the mainland. The maximum number of 18 was totaled in southeastern Accomack on 6 June (Dillard and Scott).

Brown-headed Nuthatch. Surprisingly uncommon on the mainland where only 5 birds were reported by three parties. On the islands it was recorded only on Assateague where the best count was 15 on 5 June (Dillard and Scott).

House Wren. Common on both the mainland and the major barrier islands. The best counts were 30 on Parramore Island on 5 June (Akers, Beck, and Taber) and 23 in northwestern Accomack on 7 June (Dillard and Scott).

Carolina Wren. Common on the mainland as well as on Chincoteague and Assateague Islands. The top count of 31 was totaled by Dillard and Scott in southeastern Accomack on 6 June.

Long-billed Marsh Wren. Very common in the western marshes where Middleton and Teuber's count of 47 in the Saxis area on 3 June was the peak one. Much less common in the eastern marshes where there were relatively few records.

Short-billed Marsh Wren. Not found during the foray, but there was one singing bird at Saxis on 24 May (Russell, *vide* H. T. Armistead). Although this date is well within the migration period of this species, the bird has summered at Saxis in some prior years.

Mockingbird. Common on the mainland where the top count of 38 was in southeastern Accomack on 6 June (Dillard and Scott). One bird on Assateague on 5 June (same observers) was the only barrier island report.

Gray Catbird. Common on both the mainland and the major barrier islands. Akers, Beck, and Taber had the maximum count of 23 on Parramore Island on 5 June.

Brown Thrasher. Fairly common on the mainland where the peak count of 6 was recorded by two different parties. Several were also seen on Assateague and Wallops Islands.

American Robin. Common on the mainland with a few birds noted also on Assateague and Parramore Islands. The top count of 55 was totaled by Middleton and Teuber in southeastern Accomack on 7 June.

Wood Thrush. Common on the mainland. Scott had the high count of 22 in northeastern Accomack on 4 June. Adults were feeding fledged young near Saxis on the same date (Grey and Kinzie).

Eastern Bluebird. Surprisingly uncommon. Only 7 birds were reported in all by six different parties. One of these records was of an adult feeding young in a nest box in west-central Accomack on 7 June (Kinzie).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Common on the mainland in relatively small numbers with a peak count of 10 in northeastern Accomack on 3 June (Kinzie).

Cedar Waxwing. Two records. Five birds were reported from Parramore Island on 5 June (Akers, Beck, and Taber), and one was seen in west-central Accomack on 7 June (Kinzie). Given this species' propensity for late spring migrations, these could well have been migrants.

Starling. Abundant on the mainland and common at least on Chincoteague, Assateague, and Wallops Islands. Individual counts ranged up to 140 birds.

White-eyed Vireo. Common on the mainland as well as on the major barrier islands. The best count of 44 was obtained in west-central Accomack on 5 June (Middleton and Teuber), while the top island count was 15 on Parramore on the same date (Akers, Beck, and Taber). An adult was feeding fledged young in southwestern Accomack on 2 June (Kinzie).

Yellow-throated Vireo. One record. A single bird was recorded in northeastern Accomack on 3 June (Kinzie).

Red-eyed Vireo. Very common on the mainland where a maximum count of 58 was achieved in northeastern Accomack on 4 June (Scott). The only island report was of 11 on Assateague on 5 June (Dillard and Scott). Grey and Kinzie found an adult feeding fledged young in northwestern Accomack on 4 June.

Black-and-white Warbler. Rather common on the mainland where the peak count of 13 was found in southwestern Accomack on 2 June (Kinzie). The same observer noted an adult feeding a fledged young in southeastern Accomack on 6 June.

Prothonotary Warbler. Locally fairly common on the mainland with reports from seven parties. More common near the Maryland line than elsewhere. Middleton and Teuber had the high count of 8 in northwestern Accomack on 3 June.

Worm-eating Warbler. Uncommon and local on the mainland, being highly dependent on extensive stands of hardwood. Reported by five parties with a peak count of 4 in the Saxis area on 4 June (Akers and Opengari).

Yellow Warbler. Common on both the mainland and the major barrier islands. Top counts included 14 in northwestern Accomack on 7 June (Dillard and Scott) and 13 on Parramore Island on 5 June (Akers, Beck, and Taber).

Yellow-throated Warbler. Fairly common on the mainland where the high count of 6 was obtained in northeastern Accomack on 4 June (Scott).

Pine Warbler. Very common on the mainland and common on the barrier islands having stands of pines (at least on Assateague, Wallops, and Parra-

more). Southeastern Accomack produced the peak count of 44 on 6 June (Dillard and Scott), and the top island count was 28 on Assateague on 5 June (same observers).

Prairie Warbler. Common on both the mainland and the major barrier islands (Assateague, Wallops, Cedar, and Parramore). Akers, Beck, and Taber totaled the maximum count of 25 on Parramore Island on 5 June, and the best mainland count was 23 in east-central Accomack on 6 June (Middleton and Teuber).

Ovenbird. Very common on the mainland. The top count of 57 was obtained in southeastern Accomack on 6 June (Dillard and Scott). On the barrier islands, the only reports were 2 on Parramore on 5 June (Akers, Beck, and Taber) and 6 (all singing males) on Assateague on the same date (Dillard and Scott).

Louisiana Waterthrush. Fairly common on the mainland. Although this bird was recorded by ten parties with a peak count of 5, seven of the reports were of single birds. Proper habitat for this species seemed very limited.

Kentucky Warbler. Fairly common on the mainland although the best count was of only 4 birds. In all, it was reported by 12 parties.

Common Yellowthroat. Very common on both the mainland and the major barrier islands. Dillard and Scott had the top count of 56 in northwestern Accomack on 7 June.

Yellow-breasted Chat. Common on the mainland where the maximum count of 21 was obtained in northwestern Accomack on 7 June (Dillard and Scott). A few birds were also noted on Assateague, Wallops, and Parramore Islands.

House Sparrow. Very common on the mainland where there were two counts of 45 birds and two of 40. While not reported on any of the strictly barrier islands, it was common on Chincoteague Island. Grey and Kinzie found an occupied nest in northwestern Accomack on 4 June.

Bobolink. One record. Dillard and Scott found a singing male and a female along rt. 647 near Locustville on 6 June.

Eastern Meadowlark. Common on the mainland as well as on Assateague and Wallops Islands. The best count of 24 was totaled on Assateague on 5 June (Dillard and Scott).

Red-winged Blackbird. Abundant throughout the county on the islands as well as on the mainland. Middleton and Teuber recorded the peak count of 266 in the Chincoteague-Assateague area on 4 June.

Orchard Oriole. Common on the mainland. The most impressive count of 35 was gotten by Mitchell *et al.* in southeastern Accomack on 4 June, but the next highest count was 17.

Northern Oriole. One record. Middleton and Teuber found a single bird in Sanford in northwestern Accomack on 3 June.

Boat-tailed Grackle. Very common on the barrier islands and in both the eastern and western marshes. Found on the mainland only immediately adjacent to the marshes. The peak number in the east was 104 in the Chincoteague-

Assateague area on 4 June (Middleton and Teuber) and in the west, 59 near Saxis on 3 June (same observers).

Common Grackle. Abundant on the mainland where the best count was 199 in east-central Accomack on 6 June (Middleton and Teuber). Common on Chincoteague and Assateague Islands, and a few were reported from Wallops and Parramore. There were many newly fledged young in northwestern Accomack on 7 June (Dillard and Scott).

Brown-headed Cowbird. Common on both the mainland and on Chincoteague and Assateague Islands. A few were also reported on Wallops and Parramore. Kinzie recorded the maximum number of 18 in northeastern Accomack on 3 June.

Scarlet Tanager. Rather uncommon on the mainland with only 10 birds reported by five parties. The peak count was only 4 in east-central Accomack on 5 June (Mitchell *et al.*).

Summer Tanager. Common and widespread on the mainland. The best count of 11 was totaled in northeastern Accomack on 4 June (Scott). This bird was reported by 16 parties in all.

Cardinal. Common on both the mainland and the major barrier islands. Southeastern Accomack produced the top count of 42 on 6 June (Dillard and Scott).

Blue Grosbeak. Common and widespread on the mainland. Mitchell *et al.* obtained the maximum count of 15 in east-central Accomack on 5 June.

Indigo Bunting. Very common on the mainland with a peak count of 72 in southeastern Accomack on 6 June (Dillard and Scott). Two on Assateague on 5 June (same observers) were the only island report.

American Goldfinch. Common in small numbers on both the mainland and Chincoteague and Assateague Islands. There was also a single report from Wallops Island. The top one-party count was only 8.

Rufous-sided Towhee. Common on both the mainland and the major barrier islands. There were two peak counts of 18 birds each.

Grasshopper Sparrow. Common locally in Captain's Cove, a subdivision in extreme northeastern Accomack near Greenbackville. The top count here was 38, all but 2 singing birds, on 4 June (Scott). Elsewhere, only 5 birds were reported by four parties.

Henslow's Sparrow. Although none were found during the foray period, in spite of being searched for very diligently, there were two other records that indicate the bird probably occurred here during the breeding season. Russell found 5 singing males at Saxis on 24 May (personal communication to H. T. Armistead), and Opengari had one singing bird at the same place on 29 July.

Sharp-tailed Sparrow. Apparently locally fairly common in brackish marshes on both the eastern and western sides of the county. There were, however, only four reports: 10 in the Saxis area on 3 June (Middleton and Teuber), 6 in the Machipongo River marshes of southeastern Accomack on 5 June (Kinzie and

Opengari), 1 on Wallops Island on 6 June (Hanson and Vaughn), and 2 in west-central Accomack on 7 June (Kinzie).

Seaside Sparrow. Common in both the eastern and western marshes, but much more so on the western side. Middleton and Teuber had the peak count of 76 in the Saxis area on 3 June where they also saw an adult carrying food. The best count on the eastern side was 24 in the marshes near Wallops Island on 6 June (Hanson and Vaughn).

Vesper Sparrow. There were four reports of this species between 5 and 7 June, each of 2 birds, and all on the eastern side of the mainland between Modest Town on the north and Wachapreague on the south. There were apparently at least 4 different singing males.

Chipping Sparrow. Common on the mainland where the peak count of 15 was obtained in northeastern Accomack on 4 June (Scott).

Field Sparrow. Common in the Captain's Cove area of extreme northeastern Accomack where 23 were counted on 4 June (Scott). Less common elsewhere on the mainland with no other counts above 10. A few were also found on Assateague. Fledged young were observed in southeastern Accomack on 6 June (Kinzie).

Swamp Sparrow. One record. Two singing birds, 1 seen, were found in northwestern Accomack east of Saxis about 1.5 miles up Messongo Creek from Tims Point on 4 June (Akers and Opengari). This appears to be a first breeding-season record for the Virginia Coastal Plain.

Song Sparrow. Common on both the mainland and on the major barrier islands. Dillard and Scott recorded the top count of 25 in northwestern Accomack on 7 June. A nest with 5 eggs was found on Wallops Island on 6 June (Hanson and Vaughn).

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THE BLACK-HEADED GULL INLAND IN VIRGINIA

C. O. HANDLEY, JR.

At 1430 hours EST on 19 December 1981 during the Blacksburg Christmas bird count Jim Craig and I encountered a Black-headed Gull, *Larus ridibundus*, on the New River about a mile below the mouth of Tom's Creek (9.25 miles west-southwest of Blacksburg) in Montgomery County, Virginia. This species has not been observed previously in the Appalachians or so far inland anywhere in North America, except around the Great Lakes.

The gull was flying up the river, passed us at a distance of about 100 meters, turned and flew towards us, and alighted on the water about 75 to 100 meters from us. Its flight was light but gull-like as it flew upstream, quartering against a northwest wind gusting to 35 mph. When it wheeled to fly toward us, its flight was more buoyant and ternlike.

Light conditions were excellent. It was sunny. We observed the gull on the water at about 90° from the sun with 7x35 Leitz Trinovid binoculars and a 20x Bausch and Lomb spotting scope. We watched the bird for 5 or 10 minutes, recorded field marks, and left it still on the water.

The gull was an adult in winter plumage with white tail, bluish back and mantle, white head (except for black ear spot), and white outer primaries tipped with black. We initially supposed that we were seeing a Bonaparte's Gull, *Larus philadelphia*, also rare in winter at Blacksburg, with records only for 17 November 1956 and 16 December 1961 (John Murray, personal communication) and 1 January 1924 (Smyth, 1927). However, the rather heavy red bill with blackish tip and the black undersurface of the inner primaries, characteristic of the Black-headed Gull, were well seen.

Until this century the Black-headed Gull was an accidental vagrant in eastern North America. In the past 50 years it has become increasingly frequent along the northeastern coast, and it is now known to breed in Newfoundland (Finch, 1978). It is a regular winter visitor along the coast south to Virginia and is rare elsewhere along the coast of the southeastern United States and around the Great Lakes (Richard Banks, Roger Clapp, and George Hall, personal communications). Except in the Great Lakes region this gull has been found inland only on the Potomac River at and near Alexandria, Virginia (Abbott, 1980).

How this gull came to be in Southwest Virginia on 19 December is puzzling. The first three weeks of December 1981 were relatively mild (highs 32° to 56°F at Washington, D. C., and 20° to 40°F at Detroit), and the weather was dominated by high pressure. The period 5 to 19 December had strong northwesterly winds on 10 of 15 days (at Washington, 15-29 mph, gusting to 26-49 mph). The week of 8 to 12 December was continuously windy, with northwest winds at Washington 24 to 44 mph on the 8th, peaking at 29 to 49 on the 9th, and diminishing gradually to 16 to 26 mph on the 12th. Rapidly moving lows passed northeastward from the Gulf States on 3-4 December, 13-14 December, and 16-17 December. However, the northeasterly winds associated with these storms were light (6-9 mph, gusting to 10-13 mph at Washington). Cold fronts passed through the area on 4, 7, 15, and 18 December.

If this individual gull was a recent arrival in Southwest Virginia and if the weather had any bearing on its presence there, then it probably reached the area via the Great Lakes rather than directly from the Atlantic Coast. If on the other hand the bird was merely a wanderer, not influenced by weather, the observation may presage a further expansion of the North American range of the Black-headed Gull.

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LARGE CONCENTRATIONS OF GULLS IN ROANOKE AREA

BARRY L. KINZIE

On 19 December 1981 on the Roanoke Christmas bird count Mike Purdy found 118 Ring-billed Gulls, *Larus delawarensis*, at the Roanoke landfill in the southeastern section of the City of Roanoke, Virginia. As winter progressed into 1982, Purdy visited the landfill weekly and noted that the numbers of gulls increased until on 29 January he found 125 Herring Gulls, *Larus argentatus*, and 900 Ring-billed Gulls there.

Numbers gradually decreased until about 200 were left in the early spring. During the winter and early spring gulls could regularly be seen in route to and from the landfill, Carvins Cove Reservoir (in Botetourt County), the Roanoke sewage treatment plant, and the Roanoke River southeast towards Smith Mountain Lake. The concentrations were found daily at the landfill and at dusk seemed to head toward Smith Mountain Lake, possibly spending the night there on the water.

It is difficult to say whether the 1500 Ring-billed Gulls and 22 Herring Gulls found at Carvins Cove Reservoir on 14 February 1982 by Jim Ayers were a part of the Roanoke wintering concentration or a separate group of early spring transients. In either case, these appear to be record counts of both species of gull for Virginia west of the Blue Ridge.

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BROAD-WINGED HAWK NESTING IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY

JAMES D. FRASER AND JOYCE E. PERRITT

Ellison Smyth (*Auk*, 29: 516, 1912) reported that the Broad-winged Hawk, *Buteo platypterus*, was a "not uncommon" breeder in Montgomery County, Virginia, and John W. Murray (*Raven*, 45: 58, 1974, and personal communication, 1982) called it an "uncommon summer resident" but reported no recent nesting records.

On 25 June and 27 June 1982 we observed an incubating adult Broad-winged Hawk in Montgomery County about 2 km southeast of Newport, Virginia, and

100 m south of route 460. On 7 July we banded the two partially feathered young.

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NEWS AND NOTES

COMPILED BY YULEE LARNER AND F. R. SCOTT

AN ANHINGA INVASION. A remarkable and record count of 6 Anhingas was made at the Stumpy Lake golf course on the boundary between Chesapeake and Virginia Beach, Virginia, on 16 May 1981 by Jorn and Robert L. Ake. Many other observers, including Edward S. Brinkley, David L. Hughes, Grayson Pearce, David Witham, and Townley R. Wolfe, saw the birds over the next few days, and they were last seen here on 23 May by R. L. Ake and Paul G. DuMont. According to Brinkley, one of the three males was observed placing sticks in a cypress tree in an apparent attempt to attract a female. This individual's loreal skin was a turquoise color, indicative of breeding condition, although none of the males had the silver-edged feathers of full breeding adults. On 18 May Pearce noted one of the males apparently engaged in several kinds of courtship displays.

Where these birds summered is unknown, since high water levels in June made the southernmost end of the lake all but inaccessible. The next record here was a single adult male found by Brinkley on 11 November 1981, by far the latest record for Virginia. However, on 26 November there were 3 birds, an adult male, an adult female, and what appeared to be an immature male (Brinkley, Jorn and R. L. Ake, Hughes, and others). During the VSO field trip to Back Bay about 8 days later, many observers were able to see 4 birds at Stumpy Lake on both 4 and 5 December. According to Brinkley, the numbers declined during the month, and the last bird was seen during the Little Creek Christmas bird count on 1 January 1982 by Brinkley and Pearce. The lake was frozen solidly for three days right after 15 December, and it seems incredible that a subtropical bird like this could survive this kind of weather for any period of time.

WHITE-FRONTED GEESE IN WINTER. Considering how few White-fronted Geese show up in Virginia, it was of decided interest that the species appeared in three localities in the state during the winter of 1981-82. Four birds were discovered at Hog Island, Surry County, on 28 November 1981 by Leigh Jones and Bill Williams. On the following day they were examined by many other observers, including E. C. Brinkley, Grayson Pearce, and Townley R. Wolfe, and 50 or more persons found the birds on 4 and 6 December on their way to or from the VSO trip at Back Bay. Apparently, the last observation of these birds was by Mitchell A. Byrd and others on the Williamsburg Christmas bird count on 20 December.

Elsewhere 2 White-fronted Geese were seen on Nolting Pond, near Boswells Tavern in Louisa County, on 20 December 1981 by John B. Bazuin, Jr., during

the Gordonsville Christmas bird count. This is the same area where this species has been found repeatedly since 1975 (see *Raven*, 51: 60, 1980). The last record was of a bird shot in northern Accomack County at the mouth of the Pocomoke River on 23 January 1982 by Kevin Griffin. According to Dennis F. Holland, the identification of the specimen as a White-fronted Goose was confirmed by Paul Benvenuti of the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge staff.

MIDWINTER SCOTER IN ROCKINGHAM. Although there are several records of scoters in western Virginia during migration periods, they are still considered quite rare there, and midwinter records are practically nonexistent. Leonard Teuber found a female Surf Scoter at Silver Lake, Rockingham County, on 21 January 1982 which was later seen the same day by Kathleen Finnegan. This record recalls the remarkable report of 10 Surf Scoters near Blacksburg on 21 January 1968 by John W. Murray (*Raven*, 45: 58, 1974).

RECORD BROAD-WING FLIGHT. On 21 September 1981 Kerrie L. Kirkpatrick, counting hawks from Linden Fire Tower, amassed a total of 17,374 Broad-winged Hawks moving southward, mostly between 12 noon and 3 p.m. This was by far a record one-day count for Virginia. Linden Fire Tower is on the crest of the Blue Ridge 8 miles north of route 55 on the shared boundary of Fauquier and Warren Counties, Virginia. This observation was written up in detail in the fall 1981 publication of The Raptor Society of Metropolitan Washington.

GALLINULES IN AMHERST COUNTY. The sludge ponds of the Virginia Fibre Corporation lie 0.5 mile south-southwest of Riverville in Amherst County, Virginia, on the James River. Ray Chandler checked these ponds for the first time on 30 August 1981 and found 3 Common Gallinules. The species was also found here on a number of days following this with a maximum of 5 on 2 and 3 September, and 2 were last seen on 20 September. Since this species is not known to migrate as early as late August and early September, these may well have been birds that bred locally. A number of interesting shorebirds also seen here during this period were noted in *American Birds* (36: 163, 1982).

SPRING TERNS IN THE VALLEY. Four species of tern were recorded in the Great Valley of Virginia during the spring of 1981. Forster's Terns were found only in Rockingham County where on 20 April there were 1 at Lake Shenandoah, 4 at Newman Lake, and 4 at Silver Lake (Mozelle Henkel). There were also 4 at Lake Shenandoah from 24 to 27 April (Leonard Teuber, Charles Ziegenfus, and Kathleen Finnegan). At Carvins Cove Reservoir in Botetourt County, James Ayers observed 8 Common Terns on 23 April 1981, whereas on 19 May there were 19 at Lake Shenandoah (Henkel) and 10 at Swoope, southwest of Staunton in Augusta County (YuLee Larner). The only Caspian Tern appeared to be one at the Staunton fairgrounds lake on 24 April observed by Larner, Henkel, and Ruth Snyder. Black Terns appeared on 15 May with 1 at Swoope (Larner) and 1 at Lake Shenandoah (Henkel), and the last record was of 5 at Swoope on 19 May 1981 (Larner). Since all four of these species are considered rare west of the Coastal Plain in Virginia, finding all of them in one season was decidedly unusual.

A PERSISTENT NUTHATCH. When Eugene Kerby first positively identified the Brown-headed Nuthatch in his yard near Waynesboro, Virginia, on 27 November 1978, it was only the third state record west of the Blue Ridge. By dint of much patience, Kerby was able to win the trust of this little bird and soon had it taking sunflower seeds and even water from the palm of his hand, much to the delight of the many birders who came to view the bird. It remained all winter and was last seen on 15 May 1979. Later that year Kerby heard it calling on one day in August, but it returned for its second winter on 27 October 1979 and stayed till 9 May 1980. YuLee Lerner wrote up the occurrences in her column in the Staunton *News-Leader* on 20 January. The by-now familiar scenario was repeated between 17 August 1980 and 3 May 1981, the bird continuing to accept hand feeding from Kerby. On its fourth and last annual appearance, the nuthatch showed up on 10 July 1981, but this time it was last seen on 12 November of the same year. With an age of at least 3½ years, the bird apparently finally met its end in some unknown manner.

How did this bird of the Coastal Plain and southern Piedmont ever cross the Blue Ridge, or did it sneak through at low elevations at Roanoke or Big Island and work its way northward to Waynesboro? There were no tropical storms during the summer and fall of 1978, and in any event, nonmigratory species like this are rarely displaced by storms. First-year immature birds of several permanent residents are known to wander widely (e.g., Tufted Titmouse, Mockingbird, and Cardinal), but this is not a normal characteristic of Brown-headed Nuthatches.

WESTERN TANAGER AT VIRGINIA BEACH. An adult male Western Tanager appeared at the Virginia Beach feeder of Mrs. Harry L. Watts on 49th Street about 28 January 1981 and fed on sunflower seeds, grits, and fruit. The presence of the bird became known to birders on 11 February, and it was subsequently seen by many observers, some of whom came from out-of-state to see it. These included David Abbott, Paul G. DuMont, Helen Irving, and David L. Hughes. The last report of it was on 25 March when it was seen by Edward S. Brinkley and Larry Mottl. By this last date, the red color around the lower mandible was becoming quite intense and extensive, and there was a rosy cast over the entire head. This note extends the information previously given in *American Birds* (35: 289 and 811, 1981).

BLUE GROSBEAK IN WINTER. According to Charles E. Stevens, a Blue Grosbeak was seen by Allen Hale from 8:35 to 9:05 a.m. on 20 December 1981 in an extensive weed and Japanese honeysuckle thicket in a long-abandoned canal bed by a railroad beside the James River at Scottsville, Virginia. The bird was well observed, sometimes as close as 20 feet, in the morning sunlight on a clear day with 8 x 40 binoculars. The head was cinnamon brown, the back brown with faint dark streaks, the wings and tail dark, and the lower back and rump slaty gray. The breast was creamy to light brown, and the wing bars were light buff. The bill was of characteristic grosbeak size and shape, and the bird was slightly larger than a Song Sparrow perched near it. It was with a group of Cardinals and Song, White-throated, and Field Sparrows. No vocalizations were noted. Two days later, on 22 December, Hale returned, found the bird in the same place, and was able to take several good photographs.

REDPOLLS AGAIN IN STATE. After a virtual absence for four years (see *Raven*, 50: 40, 1979), Common Redpolls returned to Virginia during the winter of 1981-82. Although the records on hand are undoubtedly incomplete, there were at least eight reports beginning with one seen in Radford on 25 December 1981 (Pat Rutherford), which was also the southernmost record in the state. At Blacksburg Clyde Kessler found one with American Goldfinches and Pine Siskins on 27 February 1982, and in Augusta County one was seen—also with a flock of siskins—at Stuarts Draft on 18 February (Alexandra Minarik). There were two occurrences in Highland County, 10 birds with about 50 siskins near routes 220 and 642 on 6 February (John and Thelma Dalmas) and 3 in Blue Grass Valley on 10 March (Kathleen Finnegan and Richard and Mary Smith). East of the Blue Ridge, 2 were present at Gwynn's Island, Mathews County, from 28 February to 4 March (Mary Pulley and others), whereas there were two records in northern Virginia, one at a feeder in Vienna on 8 March (Rock Comstock) and 8 at Great Falls on 9 March (James Schlesinger).

ROAD KILL OF PINE SISKINS. Pine Siskins were present in large numbers throughout the area west of the Blue Ridge during the winter of 1981-82, the best numbers occurring after late January. On 18 February 1982 along U. S. 250 and U. S. 220 in Augusta and Highland Counties, Virginia, at least 700 were observed by John and Mozelle Henkel, YuLee Lerner, Jane Nichol, Isabel Obenschain, and Leonard Teuber. They were feeding along the highway and in evergreen trees. On 6 February 1982, following a light snowfall, Mrs. Marie Wilson of Staunton reported seeing literally thousands of siskins in two groups about one-quarter mile apart just east of the village of McDowell, in Highland County. The birds made a solid mass across the highway and did not fly up in the face of oncoming traffic. As a result, hundreds were killed. Mrs. Wilson and her husband stopped their car to investigate, and in both locations they reported seeing dead birds in such numbers that they were unable to count them.

LARK SPARROW IN AUGUSTA. A Lark Sparrow wintered for the second time at the Waynesboro airport in Augusta County (see *Raven*, 52: 56, 1981). First found here on 6 September 1981 by Mozelle Henkel and Ruth Snyder, it—or another bird—was next seen on 9 January 1982 (Snyder) and then fairly regularly through March by several observers and finally on 12 April, again by Snyder.

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—1982-83 SEASON

F. R. SCOTT

For the sixth successive year there were 34 Virginia Christmas bird counts submitted for publication here, and participation in this annual ritual remained high though down a bit from the peak attained in 1979. This year there were 854 listed participants of which 75%, or 643, were different. Last year these figures were 860 and 636, respectively, whereas the comparable ones in 1979 were 949 and 714. Despite the apparent decline of 10% from 1979, the Christmas counts are still by far the largest birding activity involving VSO members.

Coverage this year at 2861 reported party-hours was a tiny fraction above last year's 2851 and 11% below the record high of 3222 in 1979. One hundred ninety-eight species were recorded this year plus one additional color phase and two additional subspecies. There were two species new to Virginia Christmas counts—Barn Swallow and Summer Tanager—and the cumulative list of all species seen on the counts is now 288.

The only changes from last year in the counts submitted were the loss of Bristol and the return of Gordonsville. As usual, however, there were several counts submitted to *American Birds* but not to *The Raven*; these were Calmes Neck, Danville, Manassas Bull Run, and Wachapreague. On the other hand, the Sweet Briar count appearing here was apparently not submitted to *American Birds*. Three other counts overlapped into Virginia from out-of-state locations—Washington, D. C.; Seneca, Maryland, and Bristol, Tennessee—and several others may have overlapped, notably Crisfield and Point Lookout, Maryland, and Cumberland Gap, Kentucky. The Washington and Seneca counts were both major ones with over 100 observers each and party-hour totals of 287 and 308, respectively, both far larger than any of the Virginia counts. This summary, however, is necessarily confined to those counts printed here.

In spite of heavy snow over much of the state on December 11 and 12 (rain in the southeast), temperatures were far above normal for the month both prior to and during the Christmas count period. This period, 18 December through 2 January, consisted as usual of two full weeks and three weekends (i.e., 16 days). Weather during the count period was fairly innocuous; light or moderate intermittent snow or rain and snow mixed on the six counts on the 19th and moderate to heavy rain at Back Bay on the 29th were the only major hurdles the counters had to overcome. With a warm late fall, it was not surprising that at least a few late fall holdovers appeared in the count totals; what was surprising, perhaps, is that there were not more of them. The distribution of the counts during the period was interesting: half of the 34 were on the first two days; then there were only one or two per day until 2 January, when four were held. No counts at all occurred on the 20th or the 23rd through the 25th.

Only six of the counts exceeded 100 species this year versus eight last year and ten in 1980, and Cape Charles as usual led the list with 164 species. Pied-

TABLE 1 (following 8 pages). The 1982-83 Christmas bird counts in Virginia. The underlined figures indicate an unusual species or an unusual number of individuals for that particular count.

	1. Chinoateague	2. Cape Charles	3. Little Creek	4. Back Bay	5. Newport News	6. Mathews	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	1/1	12/29	12/18	1/2	12/19	12/18	12/21	1/2	12/19	1/2	12/19	12/26	1/2
Common Loon	187	177	18	129	4	161	...	3	1	2	...	8	...	...	...
Red-throated Loon	50	195	84	167	7	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Loon sp.	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Red-necked Grebe	6	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Horned Grebe	122	44	17	50	19	116	3	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Pied-billed Grebe	8	32	22	5	5	...	20	6	...	...	9	9	1	7	1
Brown Pelican	...	...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gannet	18	67	134	820	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Great Cormorant	...	1	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Double-crested Cormorant	8	102	366	11	88	7	112	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Great Blue Heron	62	95	83	51	32	47	112	83	33	41	...	14	3	4	5
Green Heron	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Little Blue Heron	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Great Egret	41	19	22	56	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Snowy Egret	20	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Louisiana Heron	19	35	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Black-crowned Night Heron	14	5	3	11	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
American Bittern	2	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Glossy Ibis	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mute Swan	43	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whistling Swan	1083	127	20	1600	28	384	165	3	37	4	...	...	...	...	...
Canada Goose	3365	4191	63	1730	40	229	3019	12,500	620	1229	60	7	345	827	90
Brant	5695	2445	1100	...	100	75	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Snow Goose (white form)	9430	363	41	6650	5	...	3	27	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Snow Goose (blue form)	5	1	...	2	...	...	...	230	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mallard	1274	782	1340	528	596	157	252	506	84	1329	63	42	32	22	113
Black Duck	6830	1567	252	735	19	11	119	163	200	717	14	2	...	9	27
Redhead	524	62	46	340	60	...	19	3	...	86	...	...	3	...	10
Pintail	3437	34	...	566	1	...	192	75	...	22	2	...	...	...	...
Green-winged Teal	56	102	47	102	34	...	35	...	...	81	...	...	1	...	...
Blue-winged Teal	...	...	...	9	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
European Wigeon	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
American Wigeon	659	205	168	163	289	...	59	...	...	15	...	6	...	...	1
Northern Shoveler	354	23	4	11	...	...	...	4	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Wood Duck	1	5	83	12	...	...	9	59	...	5	...	...	...	...	...
Redhead	6	1	...	...	10	...	1	...	...	3	1	...	1	...	...
Ring-necked Duck	...	70	12	5	17	...	145	31	...	33	4	...			
Canvasback	2	...	11	2	90	...	299	1	1	151	...	...	...	...	...
Greater Scaup	26	14	12	1	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
Lesser Scaup	10	40	5	...	27	...	...	...	90	2214	3	1	...	2	5
Scaup sp.	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Common Goldeneye	19	76	...	1	207	281	13	75	69	56	...	...	...	1	3
Bufflehead	241	959	490	6	558	1265	96	1	12	273	20	...	9	...	...
Oldsquaw	599	303	10	2	65	292	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
Common Eider	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
King Eider	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
White-winged Scoter	186	238	31	10	...	11	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...
Surf Scoter	600	1532	265	39	32	2302	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Black Scoter	1079	949	259	320	11	49	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scoter sp.	615	1500	...	...	...	60	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ruddy Duck	168	6	...	...	402	2	3183	...	1	153	14	...	...	...	...
Hooded Merganser	20	108	214	2	29	7	162	36	14	19	6	4	8	...	3
Common Merganser	...	...	...	...	...	40	2	8	41	440	...	1	...	3	3
Red-breasted Merganser	364	255	636	208	524	144	16	...	19	23	...	...	...	...	...
Merganser sp.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Duck sp.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...
Turkey Vulture	260	300	...	19	5	2	128	24	42	...	76	40	33	408	36
Black Vulture	26	11	...	9	...	...	184	12	4	...	65	3	...	102	7
Sharp-shinned Hawk	11	20	7	12	9	8	13	4	5	7	1	1	1	3	1
Cooper's Hawk	3	2	1	1	...	2	...	...	...	1	3	...	...	1	...

	16. Sweet Briar	17. Lynchburg	18. No. Shenandoah Valley	19. Shenandoah Park	20. Big Flat Mtn.	21. Rockingham Co.	22. Augusta Co.	23. Waynesboro	24. Lexington	25. Peaks of Otter	26. Clifton Forge	27. Fincastle	28. Roanoke	29. Blacksburg	30. Tuswell	31. Glade Spring	32. Nickelsville	33. Breaks Interstate Park	34. Wise Co.
	12/31	12/18	12/18	12/19	12/30	12/18	12/31	12/18	12/26	12/21	12/18	12/19	12/18	12/18	12/18	12/18	12/19	1/1	12/18
...	1
...	1
...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	5	3	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1
...
...
...
...	...	7	56	8	...	7	10	3	7	...	...	5	9	6	2	6	3	1	...
...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...
...
...
...
...
...	205	6	...	17	9	65	...	...	16	...	...	135	...	...	...	...	1
...	2	...	...	...	...	...
...	1	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	39	733	130	...	126	46	117	20	...	4	10	207	517	26	75	31	5	12
...	...	12	159	48	...	3	3	1	7	5	49	15	6	8	...	3	...
...	5	8	1
...	7	2
...	10	4
...
...
...
...	17	67	2	2	20	...	10
...	3
...	...	2	29	3	4	5	...
...	1	1
...	6	23	1	10	1
...	4
...	3
...	...	4	1	1	...
...
...	...	2	2	1
...	13	6
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	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. Chancellorville	12. Lake Anna	13. Gordonsville	14. Charlottesville	15. Warren
Date	12/26	12/27	1/1	12/29	12/18	1/2	12/19	12/18	12/21	1/2	12/19	1/2	12/19	12/26	1/2
House Sparrow	239	132	304	165	508	110	131	122	90	574	63	75	18	60	22
Eastern Meadowlark	241	148	35	188	145	51	158	110	47	13	4	42	51	189	185
Red-winged Blackbird	1226	638	941	4100	1191	906	6424	3300	929	7	...	...	10	44	492
Northern Oriole	...	...	1	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rusty Blackbird	65	18	194	9	...	...	16	32	10	10	...	...	...	...	15
Boat-tailed Grackle	1245	292	65	66	25	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Common Grackle	445	764	15,000	1745	159	282	2561	329	200	174	34	8	...	43	...
Brown-headed Cowbird	93	206	420	210	492	47	...	379	1	100	225	...	...	...	5
Blackbird sp.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Summer Tanager	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cardinal	111	330	201	414	165	303	281	396	200	744	74	136	105	315	393
Evening Grosbeak	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	9	...	...	...	...	8
Purple Finch	74	37	91	66	70	197	155	77	120	423	27	32	11	139	83
House Finch	56	73	111	1	67	55	69	171	70	192	194	67	98	269	401
Pine Siskin	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	...	...	...
American Goldfinch	107	523	87	177	79	390	373	190	210	491	115	122	25	201	271
Red Crossbill	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rufous-sided Towhee	61	79	54	98	33	59	33	65	1	8	2	4	...	14	21
Savannah Sparrow	125	181	23	99	18	18	13	28	...	1	...	...	...	2	1
Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow	6	12	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Grasshopper Sparrow	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sharp-tailed Sparrow	7	30	26	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Seaside Sparrow	1	7	11	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Vesper Sparrow	...	7	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	3	...	...	...	...	...
Dark-eyed (Slate-col.) Junco	172	78	452	671	214	970	952	841	700	1212	467	465	297	665	1195
Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tree Sparrow	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	17	1	...	...	...	2	...
Chipping Sparrow	17	46	36	38	3	62	15	4	1	...	2	...	...	1	...
Field Sparrow	73	351	110	229	42	244	41	102	70	172	32	167	30	125	192
White-crowned Sparrow	1	3	...	2	...	...	...	28	15	1	6	4	13	9	200
White-throated Sparrow	714	2458	665	1050	454	677	1034	2012	400	1352	91	322	197	1008	1287
Fox Sparrow	6	13	31	11	3	1	2	28	...	4	...	1	1	14	18
Lincoln's Sparrow	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Swamp Sparrow	150	204	58	185	3	23	18	24	16	101	3	9	...	17	19
Song Sparrow	325	835	286	413	116	285	208	413	100	431	55	146	32	453	477
Snow Bunting	63	15	...	6	...	...	...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total Species	153	164	132	139	113	104	97	98	85	97	72	67	62	76	78
Total Individuals	69,100	59,983	63,719	55,656	32,790	26,286	28,454	33,195	13,701	51,171	5115	5586	3581	11,299	12,327
Total Party-hours	142	185	119	132	81	94	86	110	87	187	31	50	28	110	96
Number of Observers	30	39	28	46	32	39	34	32	18	55	11	16	10	20	18

	16. Sweet Briar	17. Lynchburg	18. No. Shenandoah Valley	19. Shenandoah Park	20. Big Flat Mtn.	21. Rockingham Co.	22. Augusta Co.	23. Waynesboro	24. Lexington	25. Peaks of Otter	26. Clifton Forge	27. Fincastle	28. Rounde	29. Blacksburg	30. Tazewell	31. Glade Spring	32. Nickelsville	33. Breake Interstate Park	34. Wise Co.
	12/31	12/18	12/18	12/19	12/30	12/18	12/31	12/18	12/26	12/21	12/18	12/19	12/18	12/18	12/18	12/18	12/19	1/1	12/18
22	160	1373	857	...	789	754	382	61	...	64	153	229	497	200	299	141	17	168	
11	103	114	248	...	92	132	82	6	...	6	60	72	166	9	34	25	...	37	
...	79	718	45	...	...	5360	33	3	...	1	4	2	...	...	1	6	...	84
...	
...	...	23	40	...	1	8	1	...	...	...	...	...	16	...	...	...	...	...
...	
2	2	167	6	...	9	4165	642	10	...	13	...	1	7	4	2	4	...	25	
...	27	3413	47	...	530	3045	56	...	...	...	60	28	...	...	6	4	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	275	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
49	446	605	352	16	216	309	196	227	38	101	282	436	416	98	155	228	37	107	
...	...	...	16	1	...	...	...	...	...	15	...	...	...	...	1	12	...	3
26	97	467	204	290	139	114	110	99	20	98	45	63	198	18	37	71	15	29	
3	248	475	529	...	83	222	141	159	...	39	123	110	401	9	26	200	...	...
...	2	4	5	...	...	...	1	...	...	8	1	...	...	...	...	42	...	...
18	234	627	310	14	181	234	169	216	24	110	124	402	352	27	119	299	9	149	
...	41	12	1	...	1	...	3	5	1	9	24	24	38	7	26	13	1	2	
...	6	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
...	
...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
130	1063	2207	1207	91	505	927	727	467	378	269	412	745	732	84	89	510	48	197	
...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	33	5	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	39	103	108	...	13	65	74	25	21	...	102	59	93	51	34	93	18	60	
10	18	253	101	...	100	62	47	20	...	1	116	30	63	...	29	119	...	4	
148	1249	185	421	97	451	320	283	308	147	109	365	811	556	15	166	84	43	30	
...	7	...	3	1	...	1	1	1	...	...	2	7	1	3	1	2	2	...
...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	4	6	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	1	3	7	6	4	...	...	2
11	498	413	184	2	153	138	127	81	15	18	123	382	419	94	137	101	11	212	
...	
45	81	93	75	39	65	69	72	69	33	53	66	89	82	57	63	65	44	59	
1154	10,955	385,035	12,617	923	11,007	31,613	13,846	4836	956	2907	4887	10,397	13,862	2162	5618	11,902	457	3074	
17	132	204	89	23	60	90	68	47	25	24	68	135	144	42	56	24	16	59	
9	52	51	33	4	26	36	22	20	6	12	20	33	41	14	16	8	9	15	

mont honors went to Lynchburg with 81, while Northern Shenandoah Valley grabbed the gold ring for the mountain and valley area with 93. Northern Shenandoah also had the most complete coverage with 204 party-hours followed by Fort Belvoir with 187 and Cape Charles with 185. Hardly unexpectedly, some of these also had the greatest number of participants: 55 for Fort Belvoir, 52 for Lynchburg, and 51 for Northern Shenandoah.

The count tabulation in Table 1 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 on the western shore of Chesapeake Bay. Counts 11-17 were on the Piedmont, and 18-34 from the Blue Ridge westward. Abbreviated details on each count are given at the end of this summary. As in the past eight years, the initial tabulation of these counts was performed by Walter P. Smith.

Loons were in relatively good numbers near the coast, and there were several inland records of Common Loons, including 9 at Fort Belvoir, 8 at Lake Anna, and 1 at Wise. Given the occasionally late migration of this species, these inland birds were most likely transients and not winter residents. Six Red-necked Grebes at Chincoteague were one of our better winter counts, and single birds were also reported from Cape Charles, Back Bay, and Mathews. Little Creek produced an impressive 6 Brown Pelicans, only our second Christmas count record, the only other being a single bird at Back Bay in 1957. These were obviously holdovers from the invasion of the previous summer and fall. Also notable were the 15 Great Cormorants at Little Creek and the 9 Double-crested Cormorants inland at Hopewell.

In spite of the warm lead-up to winter, herons and egrets were in only moderate to low numbers in their usual concentration spots along the coast. Note that a total of only 6 Little Blue Herons were seen on only two counts, and numbers of Black-crowned Night Herons were well below normal. Although no Cattle Egrets were noted this year, 2 Glossy Ibis were seen at Chincoteague. Unusual inland were single Green Herons at Northern Shenandoah Valley and Big Flat Mountain (the latter bird, I am assured, on the margin of a reservoir and not on the mountain!). Northern Shenandoah also produced 56 Great Blue Herons, probably a record count west of the Blue Ridge for any time of year.

Waterfowl produced only a few surprises, most notable being a male European Wigeon at Cape Charles, only the fourth record for a Virginia Christmas count. Other locally unusual records included 3 Snow Geese (2 white and 1 blue phase) at Blacksburg, 3 Blue-winged Teal at Hopewell, a Common Eider at Cape Charles, single King Eiders at both Cape Charles and Little Creek, and 4 White-winged Scoters at Brooke. Several rather high concentrations showed up with Mathews reporting 1265 Bufflehead and 3303 Surf Scoters while Williamsburg had 3183 Ruddy Ducks. In spite of a lack of ice, inland counts on the whole produced average or below numbers of waterfowl, Lake Anna being especially disappointing in comparison to previous years.

Vultures were well represented on the Coastal Plain with peak counts of 300 Turkey Vultures at Cape Charles and 184 Blacks at Williamsburg. The best vulture counts, however, were as usual in the mountains where Northern Shenandoah totaled 675 Turkeys and 777 Blacks. Most of the regular hawk species were in numbers comparable to those of last year with no large

changes. As customary, Bald Eagles were concentrated on the upper Coastal Plain with 22 at Hopewell, 16 at Fort Belvoir, 11 at Williamsburg, and 4 at Brooke. Elsewhere in the state there were only 6 Bald Eagles total on five counts. Rough-legged Hawks dropped from 24 on eleven counts last year to 7 on six counts this year, but this highly irruptive species is notoriously irregular from year to year. Northern Shenandoah reported the only Osprey, while Williamsburg had the only Merlin away from the coast. The Turkey, a bird rarely commented on here, had probably its best showing during the Christmas counts yet: 19 counts reported a total of 143 birds. Among the best counts were 20 at Hopewell and 18 at Breaks Interstate Park. Inland records of rails in winter are always of interest, and this year there were three of note: a Virginia Rail at Blacksburg, 2 Sora at Northern Shenandoah, and a Common Gallinule at Roanoke.

American Oystercatchers, long a winter staple of the Eastern Shore counts, seem to be undergoing some subtle changes in winter range. Continuing a trend of the last few years, a record 82 were reported from Little Creek, and Mathews (on the Chesapeake) reported its first count individual. Mathews also reported the only Piping Plover this year, while there were 280 Common Snipe at Back Bay. Among the shorebirds at Cape Charles were 4 Whimbrel, a record 201 Willets, a Short-billed Dowitcher and 114 unidentified dowitchers, and 69 Marbled Godwits.

The best gulls of the count period were the single Black-headed Gulls at Chincoteague and Cape Charles. Three counts reported Lesser Black-backed Gulls, but only Fort Belvoir supplied adequate details of the observations. West of Lake Anna, the only Ring-billed Gulls were a record 359 at Roanoke where winter observations have been increasing in recent years (see *Raven*, 54: 20, 1983). Laughing Gulls did very well and Forster's and Royal Terns moderately well along the coast; the 545 Laughings at Back Bay were probably a record Christmas count total. Single Common Terns were at Little Creek and Back Bay, while Black Skimmers were found on three coastal counts, including 15 at Little Creek.

The best owl of the season was a Snowy Owl in Augusta County. This species has been recorded on a state Christmas count only once before—at Lynchburg in 1964. There were good if not record counts of Screech Owls from Cape Charles, Roanoke, and elsewhere and a good count of Great Horned Owls from Fort Belvoir. Short-eared Owls were reported from Augusta County and Roanoke as well as from three counts on or near the coast. Red-headed Woodpecker counts were highlighted by 23 at Williamsburg and 49 at Hopewell, but there were few other counts over 2. In view of the warm weather prior to the counts, it was surprising that the Tree Swallow appeared only on the Back Bay count, but a Barn Swallow at Warren was a first for a Virginia Christmas count.

Table 2 shows the Christmas count totals for three species for the past ten years. As in previous tabulations of this sort, each year's totals are divided by the total party-hours (in hundreds) to give an index number for better year-to-year comparisons. The Red-breasted Nuthatch is a typical irruptive species which often varies tremendously from year to year in Virginia. Clearly, 1982 was a poor year for this bird, though not as bad as 1979, and the peak year was 1975. The difference between 41.8 birds per 100 party-hours in 1975

and 2.4 in 1979 is spectacular, but even wider ranges may have occurred in the past. The second bird in Table 2, the Cedar Waxwing, shows a massive if somewhat uneven increase over the 10-year period, going from 53 birds per 100 party-hours in 1973 to 285 in 1982. The 1568 reported at Hopewell this season were a record total for a state Christmas count. The Fox Sparrow was perhaps a poor choice to include in Table 2, and the figures should be interpreted with caution. There is no obvious pattern to the yearly figures, and the totals themselves are occasionally heavily influenced by only one or two of the Christmas counts. Thus in 1977 Cape Charles reported 157 Fox Sparrows, or over half of the total for the entire state.

TABLE 2. *Variations in the Virginia Christmas count totals for three selected species for the past ten years. The figures in parentheses are the totals per 100 party-hours.*

Year	Total Party-hours	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Cedar Waxwing	Fox Sparrow
1973	2020	69 (3.4)	1065 (53)	172 (8.5)
1974	2514	144 (5.7)	3739 (149)	122 (4.9)
1975	2657	1111 (41.8)	1273 (48)	166 (6.2)
1976	2663	289 (10.9)	4018 (151)	154 (5.8)
1977	3026	1003 (33.1)	3850 (127)	311 (10.3)
1978	3168	222 (7.0)	5769 (182)	198 (6.3)
1979	3222	76 (2.4)	4035 (125)	90 (2.8)
1980	3034	499 (16.4)	6176 (204)	300 (9.9)
1981	2851	1001 (35.1)	8401 (295)	132 (4.6)
1982	2861	111 (3.9)	8168 (285)	165 (5.8)

The Carolina Wren has recovered well from its low point in 1978 of 1552 birds, or 49 per 100 party-hours. This year the comparable figures were 2979 and 104, respectively. A Swainson's Thrush at Cape Charles was one of our few recent winter records. The Eastern Bluebird reached record numbers again with 3465 birds reported, or 121 per 100 party-hours; only Little Creek failed to report this species, and the 425 at Mathews and the 396 at Northern Shenandoah both exceeded previous Christmas count records. It's hard to realize now that this bird reached a low point of 8.1 per 100 party-hours in 1961 (*Raven*, 34: 12, 1963).

After a one-year absence from our Christmas counts, the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was noted this year at Cape Charles and (2 birds) at Hopewell. Both kinglets increased substantially compared with 1981. The Golden-crowned rose from 944 to 2044, or from 33 to 71 birds per 100 party-hours, and the Ruby-crowned went from 413 to 684, or from 14 to 24 per 100 party-hours. These figures are still below the records set in 1975 (see *Raven*, 49: 29, 1978), but at least the Golden-crowned is within reach of its high point.

Eight Solitary Vireos were reported on three counts: 5 at Little Creek, 2 at Back Bay, and 1 at Roanoke; and four counts had single Black-and-white Warblers: Chincoteague, Back Bay, Mathews, and Clifton Forge. A Northern Parula at Little Creek was only the second record for a state Christmas count, the first being at Hopewell in 1978. Inland reports of Common Yellowthroats

included 1 at Charlottesville and a remarkable 4 at Warren, while the only Yellow-breasted Chat was at Cape Charles. A Summer Tanager, a first record for a state count, was well photographed at Roanoke.

Although Purple Finches did quite well with a near-record total of 3752 (131 per 100 party-hours), other northern finches were few and scattered. Evening Grosbeaks, which totaled 70, appeared on only ten counts, while the 78 Pine Siskins were divided among only nine counts, and 42 of these birds were at Nickelsville. The only other northern finch, the Red Crossbill, was seen at Big Flat, Blacksburg, and Tazewell. The House Finch dropped off from its record peak of last year; still, 4663 were reported, 163 per 100 party-hours, and only four counts missed this species.

Unusual sparrows included single Grasshopper Sparrows at Warren and Northern Shenandoah and Lincoln's Sparrows at Cape Charles and Northern Shenandoah, with 2 birds on the latter count. Northern Shenandoah—and Fincastle—also produced single examples of the Oregon Junco subspecies group, the first Christmas count reports of these since 1972. No Lapland Longspurs were found this year, and Snow Buntings were noted on three of the four coastal counts plus 8 inland at Hopewell.

1. CHINCOTEAGUE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. Center 2 miles N of center of Chincoteague. Dec. 28. Thirty observers in 21 parties. Total party-hours, 142 (122 on foot, 16 by car, 4 by boat) plus 1 hour owling; total party-miles, 352 (97 on foot, 243 by car, 12 by boat). Compiler: F. R. Scott.

2. CAPE CHARLES. Center 1.5 miles SE of Capeville P.O. Dec. 27. Thirty-nine observers in 10-24 parties. Total party-hours, 185 (155 on foot, 22 by car, 8 by boat) plus 18 hours owling; total party-miles, 380 (119 on foot, 229 by car, 32 by boat) plus 10 miles owling. Compiler: Henry Armistead.

3. LITTLE CREEK. Center 3.8 miles NE of Kempsville in Virginia Beach. Jan. 1. Twenty-eight observers in 12 parties. Total party-hours, 119 (93 on foot, 26 by car) plus 4 hours owling; total party-miles, 471 (47 on foot, 424 by car) plus 8 miles owling. Compiler: Paul Sykes.

4. BACK BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. Center 1.5 miles E of Back Bay. Dec. 29. Forty-six observers in 18 parties. Total party-hours, 132 (97 on foot, 32 by car, 3 by boat) plus 5 hours owling; total party-miles, 524 (71 on foot, 444 by car, 9 by boat) plus 20 miles owling. Compiler: Paul Sykes.

5. NEWPORT NEWS. Center SW corner of Langley Air Force Base. Dec. 18. Thirty-two observers in 10 parties. Total party-hours, 81 (56 on foot, 25 by car) plus 2 hours owling; total party-miles, 434 (35 on foot, 397 by car) plus 2 miles owling. Compiler: W. P. Smith.

6. MATHEWS. Center 0.5 mile E of Beaverlett P.O. Jan. 2. Thirty-nine observers in 12 parties. Total party-hours, 94 (56.5 on foot, 35.5 by car, 2 by boat) plus 2 hours owling; total party-miles, 400 (49 on foot, 330 by car, 21 by boat) plus 9 miles owling. Compiler: Mary Pulley.

7. WILLIAMSBURG. Center Colonial Williamsburg Information Center. Dec. 19. Thirty-four observers, 30 in 14 parties, 4 at feeders. Total party-hours, 86 (55.5 on foot, 26.5 by car, 4 by boat) plus 13 hours at feeders, 3 owling; total

party-miles, 426 (44.1 on foot, 377.9 by car, 4 by boat) plus 5 miles owling. Compiler: Bill Williams.

8. HOPEWELL. Center Curles Neck. Dec. 18. Thirty-two observers in 15 parties. Total party-hours, 110 (94 on foot, 13 by car, 3 by boat) plus 5 hours owling; total party-miles, 321 (66 on foot, 241 by car, 14 by boat) plus 11 miles owling. Compiler: F. R. Scott.

9. BROOKE. Center 3 miles ESE of Brooke. Dec. 21. Eighteen observers in 13 parties. Total party-hours, 87 (75 on foot, 12 by car) plus 1 hour owling; total party-miles, 160 (51 on foot, 109 by car). Compiler: E. T. McKnight.

10. FORT BELVOIR. Center Pohick Church. Jan. 2. Fifty-five observers, 53-55 in 33 parties, 0-2 at feeders. Total party-hours, 187 (165 on foot, 22 by car) plus 9 hours at feeders, 7.5 owling; total party-miles, 514 (163.5 on foot, 350.5 by car). Compiler: Jackson Abbott.

11. CHANCELLORSVILLE. Center junction Sickles and McClaws Drives. Dec. 19. Eleven observers, 10-11 in 3-4 parties, 0-1 at feeders. Total party-hours, 31 (12.5 on foot, 18.5 by car) plus 4.5 hours at feeders, 3.5 owling; total party-miles, 320 (22 on foot, 298 by car) plus 38 miles owling. Compilers: Sam Cooper and John Frary.

12. LAKE ANNA. Center rt. 208 bridge over Lake Anna. Jan. 2. Sixteen observers, 13-16 in 7 parties, 0-3 at feeders. Total party-hours, 50 (26 on foot, 21 by car, 3 by boat) plus 1 hour at feeders, 1.5 owling; total party-miles, 248 (22 on foot, 216 by car, 10 by boat) plus 2 miles owling. Compiler: Jack Mozingo.

13. GORDONSVILLE. Center junction rts. 15, 33, and 231 in Gordonsville. Dec. 19. Ten observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours, 28 (16 on foot, 12 by car) plus 1 hour owling; total party-miles, 183 (16 on foot, 167 by car) plus 12 miles owling. Compiler: Theodore Scott, Jr.

14. CHARLOTTESVILLE. Center near Ivy. Dec. 26. Twenty observers in 13 parties. Total party-hours, 110 (93 on foot, 17 by car) plus 4 hours owling; total party-miles, 290 (97 on foot, 193 by car) plus 45 miles owling. Compiler: Charles Stevens.

15. WARREN. Center near Keene. Jan. 2. Eighteen observers in 10 parties. Total party-hours, 96 (89 on foot, 7 by car) plus 3 hours owling; total party-miles, 200 (97 on foot, 103 by car) plus 40 miles owling. Compiler: Charles Stevens.

16. SWEET BRIAR. Center Sweet Briar College campus. Dec. 31. Eight observers, 7 in 2 parties, 1 at feeders. Total party-hours, 17 (on foot) plus 2 at feeders; total party-miles, 18 (15 on foot, 3 by car). Compiler: Kay MacDonald.

17. LYNCHBURG. Center Lynchburg College. Dec. 18. Fifty-two observers, 50 in 15 parties, 2 at feeders. Total party-hours, 132 (86 on foot, 46 by car) plus 9 hours at feeders, 19 owling; total party-miles, 469 (68 on foot, 401 by car) plus 35 miles owling. Compiler: Myriam Moore.

18. NORTHERN SHENANDOAH VALLEY. Center junction Crooked Run and rt. 606. Dec. 18. Fifty-one observers in 22 parties. Total party-hours, 204 (59 on foot, 128 by car, 17 by canoe) plus 4 hours owling; total party-miles, 1401 (61 on foot, 1312 by car, 28 by canoe) plus 15 miles owling. Compiler: Rob Simpson.

19. SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK—LURAY. Center Hershberger Hill. Dec. 19. Thirty-three observers, 27 in 18 parties, 6 at feeders. Total party-hours, 89 (53 on foot, 32 by car, 4 by canoe) plus 7 hours at feeders, 1 owling; total party-miles, 361 (47 on foot, 308 by car, 6 by canoe) plus 1 mile owling. Compiler: Dennis Carter.

20. BIG FLAT MOUNTAIN. Center Pasture Fence Mountain. Dec. 30. Four observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours, 23 (on foot) plus 3 hours owling; total party-miles, 35 (on foot) plus 8 miles owling. Compiler: Charles Stevens.

21. ROCKINGHAM COUNTY. Center Ottobine. Dec. 18. Twenty-six observers in 12 parties. Total party-hours, 60 (27 on foot, 33 by car) plus 0.5 hour owling; total party-miles, 387 (32 on foot, 355 by car). Compiler: Max Carpenter.

22. AUGUSTA COUNTY. Center junction rts. 780 and 781. Dec. 31. Thirty-six observers, 34 in 13 parties, 2 at feeders. Total party-hours, 90 (44 on foot, 46 by car) plus 10 hours at feeders; total party-miles, 475 (42 on foot, 433 by car). Compiler: John Mehner.

23. WAYNESBORO. Center Sherando. Dec. 18. Twenty-two observers, 20-21 in 13 parties, 1-2 at feeders. Total party-hours, 68 (40 on foot, 26 by car, 2 by bicycle) plus 3 hours at feeders, 1.25 owling; total party-miles, 383 (36 on foot, 345 by car, 2 by bicycle) plus 7 miles owling. Compiler: Ruth Snyder.

24. LEXINGTON. Center Big Spring Pond. Dec. 26. Twenty observers, 18 in 8 parties, 2 at feeders. Total party-hours, 47 (36 on foot, 11 by car) plus 4 hours at feeders, 6 owling; total party-miles, 208 (34 on foot, 174 by car) plus 12 miles owling. Compiler: Bob Paxton.

25. PEAKS OF OTTER. Center Peaks of Otter Visitor Center. Dec. 21. Six observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours, 25 (18 on foot, 7 by car); total party-miles, 47 (15 on foot, 32 by car). Compiler: Barry Kinzie.

26. CLIFTON FORGE. Center junction rts. 42 and 60. Dec. 18. Twelve observers, 9 in 5 parties, 3 at feeders. Total party-hours, 24 (15 on foot, 9 by car) plus 4 hours at feeders; total party-miles, 184 (12 on foot, 172 by car). Compiler: Allen LeHew.

27. FINCASTLE. Center near junction rts. 220 and 679. Dec. 19. Twenty observers in 11 parties. Total party-hours, 68 (34 on foot, 34 by car) plus 5 hours owling; total party-miles, 189 (33 on foot, 156 by car) plus 15 miles owling. Compiler: Barry Kinzie.

28. ROANOKE. Center junction Oakland Blvd. and Williamson Rd. Dec. 18. Thirty-three observers, 31 in 17 parties, 2 at feeders. Total party-hours, 135 (70 on foot, 61 by car, 4 by canoe) plus 4 hours at feeders, 10 owling; total

party-miles, 614 (72 on foot, 538 by car, 4 by canoe) plus 14 miles owling. Compiler: Barry Kinzie.

29. BLACKSBURG. Center near Linkous Store. Dec. 18. Forty-one observers, 40-41 in 20 parties, 0-1 at feeders. Total party-hours, 144 (118 on foot, 26 by car) plus 3 hours at feeders, 2 owling; total party-miles, 388 (82 on foot, 306 by car) plus 5 miles owling. Compilers: Curt Adkisson and Clyde Kessler.

30. TAZEWELL. Center Fourway. Dec. 18. Fourteen observers, 13 in 5 parties, 1 at feeders. Total party-hours, 42 (36 on foot, 6 by car) plus 6 hours at feeders, 1 owling; total party-miles, 210 (12 on foot, 198 by car) plus 1 mile owling. Compiler: Sarah Cromer.

31. GLADE SPRING. Center junction rts. 750 and 609. Dec. 18. Sixteen observers in 7 parties. Total party-hours, 56 (26 on foot, 30 by car) plus 1.5 hours owling; total party-miles, 340 (23 on foot, 317 by car) plus 12 miles owling. Compiler: Chuck Byrd.

32. NICKELSVILLE. Center Nickelsville. Dec. 19. Eight observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours, 24 (3 on foot, 21 by car) plus 6 hours owling; total party-miles, 140 (5 on foot, 135 by car) plus 18 miles owling. Compiler: E. E. Scott.

33. BREAKS INTERSTATE PARK. Center 3 miles NW of Prater. Jan. 1. Nine observers, 8 in 3 parties, 1 at feeders. Total party-hours, 16 (11.75 on foot, 4.25 by car) plus 3 hours at feeders, 2 owling; total party-miles, 86 (11 on foot, 75 by car) plus 5 miles owling. Compiler: Kenneth Markley.

34. WISE COUNTY. Center Dorchester. Dec. 18. Fifteen observers, 14 in 7 parties, 1-2 at feeders. Total party-hours, 59 (37 on foot, 22 by car) plus 3 hours at feeders, 3 owling; total party-miles, 300 (24 on foot, 276 by car) plus 16 miles owling. Compiler: Richard Peake.

115 Kennondale Lane, Richmond, Virginia 23226

MISSISSIPPI KITE OBSERVED IN BATH COUNTY

BARRY L. KINZIE

On 9 June 1982 in Bath County, Virginia, at 7:20 a.m. Bill Opengari, Mike Purdy, and I observed a subadult Mississippi Kite, *Ictinia mississippiensis*. The bird was first observed by Bill Opengari and me as it flew across an open field chased by 3 crows and perched in a tree 150 feet away from us. Both of us were immediately impressed by the bird's long, pointed wings and very square tail. The wing span seemed about like that of a Peregrine Falcon, *Falco peregrinus*, but the bird had a weak flight and a small head. We both knew that the medium-long, square tail was unusual as was the very gray general color of the bird. As Mike Purdy walked up to us, I noticed that the bird's breast was streaked.

As we approached the tree the bird was in, it flew out right in front of us 100 feet away and flew weakly and slowly over the field with a continuous wing beat. With plenty of time and at close range (200-300 feet) we began to discuss field marks: barring in tail, long pointed wings darker toward tip, weak flight, very gray color, and fairly long, very square tail. It lit in a tree about 400 yards away with its back towards us. We could see the light (not white) head, gray back, light spots on the folded wings, and darker wing-tips and tail. Except for the slightly darker head, the back of the bird looked exactly like the picture of the perched adult in the new Peterson's *A Field Guide to the Birds*.

The location of the bird was a 20-acre field surrounded by brush and woods on route 600 about 6.4 miles south of route 39 near a sign that identified John Bolar Hollow. This is in extreme southwestern Bath County just north of Lake Moomaw. It was still perched in a dead tree when we left. We did not see the bird when we returned in the afternoon.

During the observation we used 8-, 9-, and 10-power binoculars, and all three of us are somewhat experienced hawkwatchers. Bill Opengari has seen this species on several occasions in South Carolina, and we feel certain of our identification.

P. O. Box 446, Troutville, Virginia 24175

MISSISSIPPI KITE IN AUGUSTA COUNTY

ROBERT L. AKE

After trying to wait out the "Rains of Bath County" on 13 June 1982, I had little trouble persuading David Stemple and his son Jason, who had joined me from Amherst, Massachusetts, for the VSO foray, to head east to the Blue Ridge to escape the rain. We also hoped to find a Kentucky Warbler and a Cerulean Warbler for Jason who needed them for his life list. The instant we reached the Blue Ridge Parkway above Vesuvius, the rain stopped. We worked our way north on the Parkway at a leisurely pace, stopping frequently to enjoy the absence of rain and to look for Jason's two wanted birds wherever the habitat looked right. We met with success in our search, although the Kentucky Warbler didn't give us the views we might have wished for.

At about 5:50 p.m. we were approaching Rockfish Gap and had stopped at the last west-facing overlook on the Parkway before reaching the interstate. The sky was blue and a gentle breeze was blowing. We scanned the sky for hawks since the songbirds were relatively quiet. Dave suddenly inquired, "What's that raptor up there?" I looked up and spotted a Common Raven soaring over the ridge. "A raven," I suggested, not quite understanding why he needed my confirmation of such a relatively obvious identification. "No! The other bird! Off to the right!" he responded, becoming more excited as he spoke. Sweeping my binoculars over to the right, I spotted the medium-sized bird darting around in a highly acrobatic flight. Peregrine Falcon came to mind, but the tail, though long, had a slight notch and the wings were too delicate, the body too thin. I picked up an impression of a nighthawk, as the

flight was quite exaggerated with quick wingbeats and many sudden changes in direction. The sharp crook in the thin wing shape was reminiscent of the angular shape of a frigatebird's wing. Suddenly, it was obvious: a Mississippi Kite, *Ictinia mississippiensis*.

The bird had a banded tail. The wings were a pale gray with hints of brown. No distinct pale trailing edge of the wing was apparent. A primary feather was missing from each wing. The ventral side of the body was a pale brown but not particularly strongly streaked. The head was the same pale brown color, and the short neck accentuated the long tail. The plumage was characteristic of an immature Mississippi Kite but not a bird of the year.

We watched the kite for 10 minutes as it maneuvered down the ridge catching the updrafts, hovering at times, swooping out of sight, then reappearing above the ridge, the flight leaving us breathless. It finally drifted out of sight to the north.

615 Carolina Avenue, Norfolk, Virginia 23508

A COMPARISON OF NESTING CLAPPER RAIL POPULATIONS AT CHINCOTEAGUE, VIRGINIA, BETWEEN 1950 AND 1981-82

BROOKE MEANLEY

During the period of 25 May to 9 June 1950, Robert E. Stewart of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service conducted a survey of nesting Clapper Rails, *Rallus longirostris*, at Chincoteague, Virginia (Robert E. Stewart, "Clapper Rail Populations of the Middle Atlantic States," *Transactions of the North American Wildlife Conference* No. 16: 421-430, 1951). The specific area of the investigation was a 47-acre tract of salt marsh at Wire Narrows, in which saltmarsh cordgrass, *Spartina alterniflora*, was the dominant vegetation. Less than 10% of the 47-acre tract is optimum nesting habitat for Clapper Rails. The prime nesting cover is the taller growth of saltmarsh cordgrass that borders the tidal creeks and several of the small tidal pools away from the creeks. Sixty-eight of the 79 nests found by Stewart were in the taller cordgrass beside the tidal creeks. Nests are not difficult to find, as one merely has to follow the narrow zone of saltmarsh cordgrass bordering the creeks to locate most of them. Stewart located 45 of his 79 nests in a single afternoon on 25 May.

Thirty-one years later during the last week in May 1981, and also the following year (1982), my wife Anna and I surveyed the same Wire Narrows tract using Stewart's map as a guide. There were only 22 nests in the 47-acre tract in 1981 and 19 in 1982.

The only discernible difference in the 47-acre tract at the time of Stewart's survey and ours was the presence of nesting Laughing Gulls, *Larus atricilla*, in the 1980's, but not in 1950. Most of the 135 active gull nests in 1981 and 105 in 1982 were in the same narrow band of cordgrass bordering the tidal creeks where the Clapper Rails nested. Six active rail nests were within 6 feet of active Laughing Gull nests, one only 3 feet distant. The gulls are larger than the rails and have been known to take Clapper Rail chicks, but there was no evidence of predation on rail eggs in the study tract during our survey.

The presence of so many nesting gulls among the rail population in the general area may have had an intimidating effect. It was not apparent that there was competition for nest sites as there was ample additional typical nesting habitat unusual by both the gulls and the rails.

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PROBABLE RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD IN ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

JACKSON M. ABBOTT

On 27 November 1981 my sons David and Robert and I drove over to the home of Bates Littlehales and Jody Bolt in North Arlington to see what they thought was a probable Rufous Hummingbird, *Selasphorus rufus*. Bolt, who has a federal rehabilitation permit, netted the bird on 25 November fearing it would die in the cold weather. The bird arrived with two other hummingbirds on or about 1 November 1981 (not late September as reported in error in *American Birds*, 36: 164, 1982) at the outside hummingbird feeder of J. R. Lintner, Jr., at 6017 North 26th Street, Arlington, Virginia. Mrs. Lintner, who is not a birder, described the other two hummers as "momma" and "poppa" to the third bird. Apparently "momma" had a white throat and "poppa" had a red throat, while the third bird had a sprinkling of red feathers on the middle of the throat plus a sprinkling of green spots on the side of the throat. All three birds came to the Lintners' feeder daily for about a week; then "momma" and "poppa" disappeared (died or migrated?) leaving the third bird as the lone daily visitor to the feeder. Mrs. Lintner had first put her feeder out in May 1981, filled it with sugar water, and had had no hummingbirds visit it until the three arrived about 1 November. She freshened the liquid after the hummers had come for several days in a row.

The hummingbird came to the feeder daily through the first 25 days of November when Jody Bolt, who had heard about this "late hummer" and knew that the Lintners were going to be away over Thanksgiving and cold weather was coming, got their permission to net the bird and keep it through the winter. They moved the feeder through the open kitchen window into the kitchen and the hummer followed! It was netted in a butterfly net and released in a room in Jody's house where it had plants and feeders filled with a diet mix recommended by the Philadelphia and San Diego zoos. The Smithsonian Institution's insect zoo contributed a culture of fruit flies.

Our close-up views of the bird revealed that it had a rounded (not notched) tail which was rufous-colored at the base (one-third of the length) then black, and the outer three tail feathers were broadly tipped with white. The back was green, and the underparts were grayish-white with a rufous wash along the flanks. The throat was heavily spotted with reddish feathers in the center and liberally sprinkled with greenish (and some reddish) spots on the sides. A photograph of the bird taken by Littlehales appeared in the March 1982 issue of *American Birds* (page 164).

The bird survived the winter in good health and appeared to thrive in its

own room in the house. On 4 April 1982 after an apparent molt, the back was green all the way to the tail, but no color had been added to the throat feathers. The bird was released to the wild at 0800 on 7 May 1982 and zoomed off out of sight without any thanks, an apparent female Rufous Hummingbird. The very slight possibility exists that the bird was a female Allen's Hummingbird, *Selasphorus sasin*, which is supposed to be indistinguishable from the Rufous in this plumage, at least in the field. However, this is a bird of very limited distribution on the West Coast, and—in contrast to the Rufous Hummingbird—there appear to be no specimens or sight records of this species in the East.

8501 Doter Drive, Alexandria, Virginia 22308

KIPTOPEKE BEACH BANDING IN 1981

F. R. SCOTT

Nineteen eighty-one marked the nineteenth year of fall bird banding at the VSO's Kiptopeke Beach Field Station located in southern Northampton County, Virginia, near the old Kiptopeke Beach ferry terminal. The banding project, run by the VSO Research Committee, was operated on a daily basis for 62 days from 1 September through 1 November 1981. A maximum of 50 mist nets were run as time and personnel allowed, and station procedures were similar to those described for previous years.

The numerical results were fairly consistent with those reported for 1980 (*Raven*, 53: 36-39, 1982). The total number of new birds banded was 12,596, up 6% over 1980, whereas there were 19,128 net-hours of effort, a decline of 5%. Trapping efficiency increased from 59 to 66 new birds per 100 net-hours. There were also nine different returns of birds banded at this station in prior years and six foreign retraps, i. e., recoveries of birds banded at other stations.

Kiptopeke Beach continues to be a paradise for Yellow-rumped Warblers, and this year 4859 were banded, not a record by any means but still 39% of all new birds trapped. This species is so overwhelmingly common here after early October that the number banded sometimes appears to be more a function of the number of station personnel available—and the patience of the banders—than it is a reflection of the number of birds present in the area. The six most abundant birds trapped in 1981 were American Redstart (2077), Common Yellowthroat (1056), Gray Catbird (495), Black-throated Blue Warbler (394), and Ovenbird (389). For the American Redstart and Ovenbird, it was the best season here since 1974 and the best since 1970 for the Common Yellowthroat.

Compared to recent years, there were good numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches (38 banded), Winter Wrens (33), Swainson's Thrushes (116), Veeries (257), Orange-crowned Warblers (8), Northern Parulas (106), Magnolia Warblers (206), Chestnut-sided Warblers (19), Northern Waterthrushes (178), Wilson's Warblers (24), Canada Warblers (21), and Indigo Buntings (64). The Chestnut-sided total was, in fact, a record one for this station. On the low side, compared to recent years, were Sharp-shinned Hawks (111), Least Fly-

catchers (6), Philadelphia Vireos (7), Cape May Warblers (31), Blackpoll Warblers (24), and Palm Warblers (30). There tends to be considerable variation in these numbers from year to year, and these increases or decreases are not necessarily reflections of changes in the entire populations of these species. There are many other factors affecting the numbers of each species trapped here, notably weather-related ones such as the number, timing, and severity of frontal systems crossing the coastline. Rather unusual for this station was a Bewick's Wren on 28 September (W. P. Smith), a Warbling Vireo on 9 September (F. R. Scott), a Brewster's Warbler on 14 September (C. W. Hacker), and a Golden-winged Warbler on the 20th (J. H. Buckalew).

One of the best flight days was 10 September when 641 birds of 35 species were banded in only 78 net-hours. Of this number, 351—or 55%—were American Redstarts, followed by 104 Common Yellowthroats and 53 Veeries. Had sufficient help been available so that the nets would not have had to be closed most of the day, this could have been one of the best days ever for this station. On 20 September there were 688 birds of 31 species banded, the most common being American Redstart (295), Common Yellowthroat (160), Ovenbird (78), and Northern Waterthrush (37). The best October day was the 9th when 704 birds of 41 species were banded, 378 of these being Yellow-rumped Warblers. Other common birds trapped that day included 70 Gray Catbirds and 46 Common Yellowthroats. Interesting individual species totals on other days included 33 Black-and-white Warblers on September 11, 21 Magnolia Warblers on September 21 and 29, 35 Black-throated Blue Warblers on September 29, 72 Gray Catbirds on October 4, and 61 Hermit Thrushes and 49 Ruby-crowned Kinglets on October 17. The peak Yellow-rump count occurred on October 24 with 516 banded, a day which included a total of only 24 other birds in the nets. In other words, on that day Yellow-rumps comprised 96% of all birds banded!

The nine different returns from previous years consisted of four permanent residents and five probable summer residents. These last were a 2-year return of a Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 3 White-eyed Vireos, and a Common Yellowthroat. The oldest of the permanent residents was a Carolina Chickadee originally banded as a HY bird by Scott on 4 September 1976 and retrapped at Kiptopeke Beach on 14 September 1981. The foreign retraps were all direct recoveries of HY Sharp-shinned Hawks banded in New Jersey up to 22 days before being retrapped at Kiptopeke. One of these was a "same day" recovery, the details of which are being published elsewhere.

Without the dedication of the ten licensed banders and the 70 or more assistants who helped with this project, the results obtained would have been impossible. Special thanks are deserved by Walter P. Smith, who not only served as resident bander for most of the 62 days but also did the initial editing and tabulation of the daily field sheets. The other banders were John H. Buckalew, Jim Carter, Mr. and Mrs. Roger Foy, Charles W. Hacker, Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Mitchell, Wyatt Murphy, and F. R. Scott. Permission to use the land for the banding project was graciously given by Robert E. Hillman, of Amagansett, New York, agent for the owners, and by John Maddox, of Virginia Beach, Virginia.

115 Kennondale Lane, Richmond, Virginia 23226

LOCAL CHAPTERS OF THE VSO

This list of local chapters, compiled by Mary W. Smith, chairman of the Local Chapters Committee, has been revised to May 1983. 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 (110), Staunton-Waynesboro
 3. Bristol Bird Club (40), Bristol
 4. Cape Henry Audubon Society (400), Norfolk
 5. Charlottesville-Albemarle Bird Club (65), Charlottesville
 6. Clinch Mountain Bird Club (12), Nickelsville
 7. Clinch Valley Bird Club (40), Tazewell
 8. Cumberland Nature Club (30), Wise
 9. Foothills Bird Club (25), Martinsville
 10. Hampton Roads Bird Club (150), Newport News-Hampton
 11. Lynchburg Bird Club (210), Lynchburg
 12. Marion Bird Club (25), Marion
 13. Montpelier Bird Club (25), Gordonsville-Orange
 14. New River Valley Bird Club (30), Blacksburg
 15. Northern Neck of Virginia Audubon Society (260), Kilmarnock-White Stone
 16. Northern Shenandoah Valley Audubon Society (135), Stephens City
 17. Northern Virginia Chapter (150), Arlington-Fairfax
 18. Richmond Audubon Society (720), Richmond
 19. Roanoke Valley Bird Club (180), Roanoke-Salem
 20. Rockbridge Bird Club (15), Lexington
 21. Rockingham Bird Club (100), Harrisonburg
 22. Virginia Beach Audubon Society (300), Virginia Beach
 23. Margaret H. Watson Bird Club (20), Darlington Heights
 24. Westmoreland Bird Club (45), Montross
 25. Williamsburg Bird Club (90), Williamsburg
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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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THE BATH COUNTY FORAY OF JUNE 1982

YULEE LARNER AND F. R. SCOTT

The fifteenth in a series of breeding bird forays sponsored by the VSO was held in Bath County, Virginia, 8-13 June 1982. With headquarters at Warm Springs Inn, 44 members and friends of the VSO participated in the foray which was directed by F. R. Scott, Chairman of the Research Committee. Extensive advance preparations were made by YuLee Lerner and Leonard Teuber who had scouted numerous roads and obtained permission from many landowners for participants to visit private properties.

Little has been written on birds in Bath County with only a few summer records of high elevation birds as described by Stevens (1968, 1976). The area covered included all of Bath County with emphasis on high altitude areas such as Paddy Knob (4400 feet), Shenandoah Mountain (2200 to 3600 feet), Jack Mountain (2600 to 3800 feet), and Warm Springs Mountain (3000 to 4000 feet). Of special interest were the lowlands in Cowpasture and Jackson River Valleys, where elevations range from just below 1600 feet. Lake Moomaw, formed after the construction of Gathright Dam, attracted many of the participants most of whom made at least one trip to that area.

As in previous forays, parties of from two to four observers covered as much of the study area as possible. Different parties covered routes on successive days to compensate for changing weather conditions and varying abilities of the observers. Participants were hampered by poor weather, with two inches of rain on 10 June. Rain, clouds, and fog were common throughout the period with temperatures ranging from 50 to 80 degrees.

Highlights included the sighting of a Mississippi Kite on the second day of the foray, and of a Saw-whet Owl found dying on Little North Mountain in the vicinity of Paddy Knob. The species total was 129 of which 116 were believed to be breeding birds and 16 considered as late migrants or summer wanderers. There were reported sightings of Golden Eagle, Blue-winged and Magnolia Warblers but these were not documented to the satisfaction of the Research Committee for inclusion on the regular list. They are noted here as "hypothetical" as a reference for future field workers in Bath County.

A total of 49 field cards were submitted by the following observers: Robert L. Ake, Mary Arginteanu, Robert T. Barbee, B. C. Cummings, John and Thelma Dalmas, John Dillard, Gisela Grimm, Peter Hall, Virginia Hank, John and Mozelle Henkel, Charles and Melva Hansrote, J. N. Howard, Jill Huntley, Helen Irving, Barry L. Kinzie, Kerrie Kirkpatrick, Valerie Kitchens, YuLee Lerner, Karla Lawler, Mary Ann Madison, Clair Mellinger, Norwood C. Middleton, Dorothy and Mike Mitchell, Marguerite Moger, Sally Moxley, Sally Nelson, Isabel Obenschain, Joseph Ondrejko, Bill Opengari, Mike Purdy, Ann Rallo, Larry Robinson, F. R. Scott, Ruth Sharkey, David and Jason Stemple, Charles E. Stevens, Leonard Teuber, Harry Turner and Robert J. Watson. Where there were two observers in one party, they are listed by last name only in alphabetical order in the annotated list; where there were three or more in one party, the last name of one observer is used, followed by "*et al.*"

Common Loon. Three reports from Lake Moomaw: One on 11 June (Arginteanu and Robinson); one on 12 June (Dillard and Scott); and two on 13 June (Middleton and Teuber).

Pied-billed Grebe. Two records of single birds both on 10 June: one on FSR 282 and one on Cowpasture River (Dillard and Scott).

Double-crested Cormorant. Two were seen at Lake Moomaw on 12 June (Dillard and Scott) and one there on 13 June (Middleton and Teuber).

Great Blue Heron. Three records. One was seen on the Cowpasture River on 8 June (Teuber), one on FSR 282 on 10 June (Dillard and Scott) and one on Cowpasture River on 11 June (Larner *et al.*).

Green Heron. Reported by fourteen different parties with a peak count of 6 in the southwest section on 9 June (Kinzie *et al.*).

Cattle Egret. One record. One was seen at Lake Moomaw on 10 June (Opengari, Larner *et al.*).

Canada Goose. One record. Twenty-two adults, 7 half-grown and 4 young were seen at the Buxton Farm off VA 629 on 11 June (Larner *et al.*). According to the farm manager, this flock was originally established there in 1960 and has grown in size every year since.

Mallard. Reports from Lake Moomaw, Cowpasture River, and at a pond on US 220 near the Highland County line, where 6 adults, 2 downy young, and 5 half-grown young were seen 10 June (Larner *et al.*).

Wood Duck. Reports from Lake Moomaw, Cowpasture River, Coursey Springs Trout Nursery and at a pond on US 220 near the Highland County line. Breeding records include several adults and three broods totaling 42 birds at the pond on US 220 on 12 June (Middleton and Teuber); 2 males, 3 females, and 10 young at Lake Moomaw on 9 June (Mitchells *et al.*); and a female with 13 large young and one with 5 smaller young at Coursey Springs on 10 June (Stevens *et al.*).

Red-breasted Merganser. One female was present at Lake Moomaw throughout the foray, and another was seen on the Cowpasture River on 8 June (Teuber).

Turkey Vulture. Common throughout the area with a peak count of 22 in the northcentral section on 11 June (Kinzie *et al.*).

Black Vulture. Reported by only four parties with a peak count of 10 in the Hidden Valley area on 10 June (Madison *et al.*).

Mississippi Kite. One record. A sub-adult was seen on VA 600 about 6.4 miles south of US 39, at 7:20 a.m. on 9 June by Barry Kinzie, Bill Opengari, and Mike Purdy. These observers and others involved in the foray made repeated trips to the area but it was not seen again.

Sharp-shinned Hawk. One record. A single bird was seen on FSR 128 on Mill Mountain on 12 June (Dalmases).

Red-tailed Hawk. Fairly common with reports from eighteen parties, usually of single birds, but with two counts of 5 each and one of 7 in the southwest section on 11 June (Madison *et al.*).

Red-shouldered Hawk. Two records. One was seen on VA 600 on 12 June (Larner *et al.*), and one on VA 635 on 11 June (Middleton and Teuber).

Broad-winged Hawk. Reported by sixteen parties generally throughout the area with a peak count of 4 adults in the southcentral section on 8 June (Kinzie and Purdy). Two adults with 2 fledged (barely able to fly) young were seen on VA 629 South of US 39, also on 8 June (Kinzie and Purdy).

Bald Eagle. One record. An immature was seen at Lake Moomaw on 9 June (Mitchells, *et al.*).

Osprey. Two records. Two were seen at Coursey Springs on 10 June (Stevens *et al.*), and one was seen at Lake Moomaw on 12 June (Kirkpatrick *et al.*).

American Kestrel. Eighteen were seen by thirteen parties, with most records of single birds, but with three counts of 2 each, and two peak counts of 3. An adult was seen feeding fledged young on VA 614 in the northcentral section on 11 June (Purdy), and a pair with one juvenile bird on VA 629 on 11 June (Middleton and Teuber).

Ruffed Grouse. Reported by fourteen parties with several breeding records. Seventeen, including two broods of 6 young each, were seen on FSR 55, north of US 39 on 9 June (Barbee and Stevens); an adult with 6 small young were seen southeast of Paddy Knob, 10 June (Opengari and Purdy); and 3 adults plus two broods of 8 young each, were seen on FSR 55, south of US 39, on 12 June (Ake *et al.*).

Bobwhite. Fairly common in the lowlands with a peak count of 6 in the northeast section on 11 June (Larner *et al.*).

Turkey. Reported by eleven parties with a peak count of 15 in the southwest section on 9 June (Kinzie *et al.*). An adult with 7 young were seen on VA 614 in the northcentral section on 11 June (Purdy).

Killdeer. Fairly common in the lowlands with a peak count of 17 in the northeast section on 11 June (Larner *et al.*). A nest with 4 eggs was seen on VA 629 on 8 June (Larner *et al.*).

Spotted Sandpiper. One record. Two were seen at Coursey Springs on 8 June (Teuber).

American Woodcock. One record. One was flushed from a woods road at about 4000 feet on Little Mountain near a game clearing, on 11 June (Barbee and Stevens).

Herring Gull. One, a sub-adult, was present at Lake Moomaw and observed by four different parties on 10, 12, and 13 June.

Ring-billed Gull. A small group was seen by several at Lake Moomaw throughout the foray with a peak count of 9 on 10 June (Larner *et al.*).

Common Tern. A single bird was seen at Lake Moomaw on 10 June (Opengari, Larner *et al.*), and on 13 June (Kirkpatrick *et al.*).

Rock Dove. Uncommon with most records from the Cowpasture River Valley and a peak count of 14 on 11 June (Larner *et al.*).

Mourning Dove. Common in the Cowpasture River Valley with a peak count of 20 on 11 June (Larner *et al.*).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Common at all elevations with a peak count of 10 in the northcentral section on 11 June (Kinzie *et al.*).

Black-billed Cuckoo. Two records. One was seen on VA 640 on 9 June (Huntley *et al.*), and one on VA 600 north of US 39, on 10 June (Madison *et al.*).

Screech Owl. Four reports, each of a single bird, and all below 2400 feet.

Great Horned Owl. Two records. One was seen on VA 627 on 10 June (Mitchells *et al.*), and one in the southcentral section on 12 June (Dalmases).

Barred Owl. Two records. One was heard on VA 600 south of US 39 on 10 June and one in the northeast section on 11 June (Larner *et al.*).

Saw-whet Owl. One record. One was found in a rain puddle along a woods road at 3800 feet on the northern ridge of Little Mountain, late morning of 11 June (Stevens *et al.*). This is approximately 1.9 miles southwest of Paddy Knob in an area of mature mixed hardwoods, sparse scattering of hemlock, and a single 10-foot red spruce sapling. A subsequent autopsy by C. R. Blem, Professor of Biology at Virginia Commonwealth University showed evidence of disease. It was preserved at VCU as specimen 1440.

Chuck-will's-widow. One record. A single bird was heard calling on VA 600, approximately 4.9 miles from US 39, at 5:30 a.m. on 11 June (Mellinger).

Whip-poor-will. Reported by thirteen parties with a peak count of 12 in the southeast section on 12 June (Dalmases).

Common Nighthawk. One record. One was seen at Hidden Valley on 11 June (Dillard).

Chimney Swift. Common at all elevations with a peak count of 24 in the southcentral section on 8 June (Kinzie).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Fairly common at lower and medium elevations with two reports from Paddy Knob and a peak count of 5 in the northcentral section on 11 June (Larner *et al.*).

Belted Kingfisher. Fairly common along the rivers and at Lake Moomaw with three counts of 3.

Common Flicker. Common at all elevations with a peak count of 7 in the southcentral section on 9 June (Dillard and Scott). Two adults feeding 4 large young in nesthole were seen on VA 629 south of US 39 on 8 June (Kinzie and Purdy).

Pileated Woodpecker. Fairly common throughout with 65 birds reported by twenty-eight parties, and a peak count of 7 in the Hidden Valley area on 9 June (Barbee and Stevens). An adult was seen in nest cavity in southeast section on 12 June (Dalmases).

Red-bellied Woodpecker. Uncommon and found only at lower and medium elevations with 23 birds reported by fourteen parties and several high counts of 3.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Three records. One was seen in Paddy Knob area on 10 June (Kinzie *et al.*) and 2 on 11 June (Mellinger). A pair was seen carrying food into a nest hole, at about 4000 feet near Paddy Knob on 11 June (Barbee and Stevens).

Hairy Woodpecker. Uncommon at high and medium elevations with a few below 2400 feet and a peak count of 3 in the southeast section on 8 June (Middleton and Teuber).

Downy Woodpecker. Common at all elevations with a peak count of 12 in the southeast section on 8 June (Middleton and Teuber). An adult was seen at a nest hole with an unknown number of young in Hidden Valley area on 9 June (Barbee and Stevens).

Eastern Kingbird. Fairly common at lower elevations with 80 birds reported by twenty-six parties, several with high counts of 6.

Great Crested Flycatcher. Common at low and medium elevations with a few above 4000 feet, with reports from forty-four parties, and a peak count of 22 in the northcentral section on 9 June (Mellinger *et al.*). A female was seen carrying nesting material to a nest hole on VA 600 near Lake Moomaw on 10 June (Grimm *et al.*).

Eastern Phoebe. Abundant at low and middle elevations with 242 birds reported by thirty-seven parties, and a peak count of 28 in the northcentral section on 11 June (Larner *et al.*). Breeding records include an adult on nest with 3 eggs, on VA 629 on 8 June (Kinzie), an adult carrying nesting material and one feeding 3 young out of the nest, in northcentral section on 19 June (Larner *et al.*), and a nest with eggs under a bridge on the Cowpasture River on 11 June (Dillard and Scott).

Acadian Flycatcher. Common at low and middle elevations with a total of 184 birds reported by thirty-three parties and a peak count of 20 in the southcentral section on 9 June (Grimm and Hank).

Willow Flycatcher. Uncommon and local with reports from Hidden Valley, Coursey Springs, and along the Cowpasture River. Nine parties reported a total of 24 birds with a peak count of 7 at Hidden Valley on 11 June (Dalmases).

Least Flycatcher. Nine reports, all from FSR 55 in the Paddy Knob area, with a peak count of 16 on 11 June (Dalmases). Adults feeding two fledglings were seen on 11 June (Mellinger).

Eastern Wood Pewee. Abundant at all elevations with forty-four parties reporting a total of 302 birds, and a peak count of 18 in the southwest section on 9 June (Kinzie *et al.*).

Horned Lark. One record. One singing male was found at Ingalls Field (4000 feet) on 12 June (Kinzie and Purdy).

Tree Swallow. Uncommon and local, found only at Hidden Valley and in the northcentral section with 10 birds reported by five parties and two peak counts of 3. A pair was seen at a nest in bluebird box with 4 young and 1 unhatched egg at Hidden Valley on 9 June (Larner *et al.*).

Bank Swallow. One record. Three were seen at Lake Moomaw on 13 June (Middleton and Teuber).

Rough-winged Swallow. Fairly common along the rivers and at Lake Moomaw with a peak count of 16 at Lake Moomaw on 11 June (Madison *et al.*).

Barn Swallow. Abundant in the low elevations with 902 birds reported by thirty-four parties, and a peak count of 91 in the Cowpasture River Valley on 10 June (Dillard *et al.*). Kinzie found eight pairs at nests with young on VA 629 on 8 June; female on a nest was seen near Millboro on 9 June (Larner *et al.*), a nest with young was seen under a bridge in the Lower Cowpasture River Valley on 11 June (Scott), and adults feeding fledged young were seen at Hidden Valley on 11 June (Dalmases).

Cliff Swallow. Uncommon and local, found only along the Cowpasture River and at Coursey Springs with a peak count of 22 on 11 June (Kinzie *et al.*). At least seven nests (contents unknown) were found under a bridge over the Cowpasture River on US 42 on 11 June (Scott), a nest was found in a barn on VA 640 on 9 June (Huntley *et al.*), and eight active nests were found in two barns on VA 614 in the northcentral area on 11 June (Kinzie).

Purple Martin. Fifteen birds reported by only four parties from Lake Moomaw area and Coursey Springs and a peak count of 6 at Lake Moomaw on 9 June (Mitchells *et al.*).

Blue Jay. Common at all elevations with a peak count of 11 in the northeastern section on 8 June (Teuber).

Common Raven. Fairly common throughout the area with 40 birds reported by fourteen parties and a peak count of 5 on the Walton Tract in the southcentral section on 11 June (Scott).

Common Crow. Common at all elevations with a peak count of 42 on the northeast section on 9 June (Huntley *et al.*).

Black-capped Chickadee. Common throughout the area with 256 birds reported by forty parties, and a peak count of 17 in the northwest section on 9 June (Middleton *et al.*). A pair feeding young in nest were seen at Hot Springs on 9 June (Scott *et al.*), a family group was seen at Duncan Knob on 9 June (Mellinger *et al.*), a nest with 2 young and 3 eggs and another nest with an adult feeding 3 young were seen in the northcentral section on 11 June (Larner *et al.*).

Carolina Chickadee. Seven records all from lower elevations in the southern sections of the county with at least two reports of singing birds in the Lake Moomaw area and a peak count of 10 on 11 June (Arginteanu and Robinson).

Chickadee species. There were two reports in the southcentral section where the two species may overlap and hybridize.

Tufted Titmouse. Common below 3000 feet with 227 birds reported by thirty-three parties and a peak count of 18, including a family group of 5, on VA 629 south to Douthat Park, on 9 June (Grimm and Hank); adult on nest on VA 625 on 11 June (Larner *et al.*).

White-breasted Nuthatch. Uncommon in middle elevation with 83 birds reported by twenty-six parties and a peak count of 8 in the southwest section on 9 June (Kinzie *et al.*). An adult carrying food was seen on VA 600 on 9 June (Mitchells *et al.*).

Brown Creeper. Two records. Two were seen on FSR 55 near Paddy Knob on 10 June (Madison *et al.*), and two birds carrying food and once, a twig, south of the intersection of FSR 55 and the FSR that descends eastward to Little Back Creek (4050 feet) on 11 June (Stevens *et al.*). Behavior suggested courtship ritual preliminary to nesting, and although the bird was heard singing earlier, it did not sing during the time of the ritualistic behavior described above (C. E. S.).

House Wren. Rather uncommon at low elevations with a high count of only 3 in the northcentral section on 11 June (Kinzie *et al.*). One was seen over the Highland County line in the area of Paddy Knob on 11 June (Stevens *et al.*).

Carolina Wren. Fairly common at low and middle elevations with a peak count of 14 in the northeast section on 8 June (Teuber).

Mockingbird. Uncommon, found only in low elevations mostly from the northeastern section with 23 birds reported by ten parties and a peak count of 6 in Warm Springs Valley, southcentral section on 9 June (Dillard *et al.*).

Gray Catbird. Common at all elevations with a peak count of 16 in the northeast section on 8 June (Teuber).

Brown Thrasher. Common at low and middle elevations with a few up to about 4000 feet and a peak count of 14 in the northeast section on 8 June (Teuber).

American Robin. Very common at low and middle elevations and common up to 4000 feet with two peak counts of 34.

Wood Thrush. Common at low and middle elevations and a few up to 4000 feet, with 349 birds reported by forty-one parties and a peak count of 41 in the Lake Moomaw area on 12 June (Dillard and Scott).

Veery. Common in area of Paddy Knob with a peak count there of 37 on 11 June (Stevens *et al.*) who counted an additional 15 in adjacent Highland County. There were two reports of single birds in the southeast section on Short Mountain (2500 feet) one on 9 June (Larner *et al.*) and one on 11 June (Middleton *et al.*).

Eastern Bluebird. Common at low elevations with one report in Paddy Knob area and a peak count of 22 in the northeast section on 8 June (Teuber). Breeding evidence included adult feeding fledgling on VA 629 on 8 June (Larner *et al.*), nest with 5 young at Hidden Valley on 9 June (Larner *et al.*), adult on four eggs in fence post cavity on VA 614 on 11 June (Kinzie), female entering nest hole in fence post, 5 eggs, at Garth Newel on 10 June (Larner *et al.*), adults feeding young in nest box on US 220 (Middleton and Teuber), and adults feeding fledged young, Warm Springs (Ake *et al.*) both on 12 June.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Fairly common at low and medium elevations with a peak count of 13 in the southwest section on 11 June (Arginteanu and Robinson). The only high altitude report was of 2 birds in the Paddy Knob area on 11 June (Dalmases).

Cedar Waxwing. Rather uncommon with only 44 birds reported by thirteen parties and a peak count of 15 in the Hidden Valley area on 9 June (Larner *et al.*). Other records were of from 1 to 4 birds.

Starling. Common below 2500 feet with a peak of 111 in the northcentral section on 11 June (Kinzie *et al.*). Adults were seen feeding young out of the nest in the southcentral section on 12 June (Dalmases).

White-eyed Vireo. Fairly common at low elevations with no reports over 2500 feet and a peak count of 6 in the Hidden Valley area on 9 June (Barbee and Stevens).

Yellow-throated Vireo. Fairly common in the lowlands with 51 birds reported by twenty-one parties and a peak count of 8 in the southwest section on 9 June (Kinzie *et al.*).

Solitary Vireo. Common at highest elevations but with at least four records below 2400 feet and a peak count of 4 on FSR 55 in the Paddy Knob area on 11 June (Hansrotes).

Red-eyed Vireo. Common at low and middle elevations and fairly common at 4000 feet with 659 reported by forty-four parties and a peak count of 74 in the Lake Moomaw area on 12 June (Dillard and Scott). A nest with three freshly hatched young was found in the Hidden Valley area on 9 June (Barbee and Stevens).

Black-and-white Warbler. Common at all elevations with 107 birds reported by thirty-six parties throughout the area and numerous counts of 3 or more birds with a peak count of 10 in the southeast section on 11 June (Middleton *et al.*).

Worm-eating Warbler. Fairly common in middle to high elevations with most records from the northeast section. Twenty-three birds were reported by twenty-three parties with several counts of from 4 to 6 birds. An adult feeding fledged young was seen at Lake Moomaw on 11 June (Arginteanu and Robinson).

Golden-winged Warbler. Found from 1600 to 4000 feet where there was suitable habitat with 125 birds reported by thirty-one parties. There were numerous reports from the Lake Moomaw and Hidden Valley areas and in other sections including FSR 55 near Paddy Knob. The peak count of 26 was from the southwest section, including Lake Moomaw and VA 600 on 9 June (Kinzie *et al.*). Other high counts included 12 at Lake Moomaw on 12 June (Dillard and Scott) and 10 in the northcentral section on 11 June (Kinzie *et al.*) and 8 on FSR 55 on 10 June (Kinzie *et al.*). Two adults feeding 4 half-grown young in nest were seen at 2950 feet just off US 39 on top of Warm Springs Mountain on 8 June (Kinzie and Purdy) and a pair was seen carrying food along the Jackson River above Hidden Valley at 1820 feet, on 9 June (Barbee and Stevens).

Northern Parula Warbler. Common at low and middle elevations with 134 birds reported by thirty-four parties from most sections of the county and a peak count of 22 in the Lake Moomaw area on 12 June (Dillard and Scott).

Yellow Warbler. Common at lower elevations with most records below 2500 feet. There were numerous records of from 3 to 7 birds with high counts of 14 in the Cowpasture River Valley on 10 June (Dillard *et al.*) and 16 at Hidden Valley on 12 June (Dalmases).

Black-throated Blue Warbler. Only six records, all over 3000 feet on Warm Springs Mountain or along FSR 55 in the area of Paddy Knob, with two counts of 1, two counts of 2, one of 3, and the peak count of 4 from Paddy Knob on 11 June (Dalmases).

Black-throated Green Warbler. Twelve records, all over 3000 feet on Warm Springs Mountain or along FSR 55 in the area of Paddy Knob where there were two counts of 4. Female carrying food was seen on FSR 55 on 11 June (Hansrotes).

Cerulean Warbler. Uncommon and local with only 24 birds reported by eight parties in locations that ranged from above 3000 feet on Warm Springs Mountain, Duncan's Knob, and Paddy Knob, to below 2000 feet along the Cowpasture River, at Hidden Valley and Lake Moomaw with a peak count of 12 from the southwest section on 9 June (Kinzie *et al.*).

Blackburnian Warbler. Only four reports, all of single birds along FSR 55 in the Paddy Knob area.

Yellow-throated Warbler. Only two reports. One was seen in the Lake Moomaw area on 11 June (Arginteanu and Robinson) and at the same location on 12 June (Dillard and Scott).

Chestnut-sided Warbler. Common above 3000 feet with records from Warm Springs Mountain, Duncan Knob, and FSR 55 in Paddy Knob area with a few reports below 2400 feet and a peak count of 46 on FSR 55 on 10 June (Kinzie *et al.*).

Pine Warbler. Fairly common below 2500 feet with most records from the northeast section, Cowpasture River Valley, and Hidden Valley area. There were eighteen reports of from 1 to 5 birds and a peak count of 9 in the southeast section on 11 June (Middleton and Teuber). Adult carrying food was seen on FSR 55 south of US 39 on 12 June (Ake *et al.*).

Prairie Warbler. Uncommon below 3000 feet with only 35 birds reported by fifteen parties and a peak count of 7 in the northeast section on 8 June (Teuber).

Ovenbird. Common at all elevations reported by forty parties throughout the foray area with a peak count of 23 in the northcentral area on 9 June (Middleton *et al.*) and with numerous counts of 5 to 18 birds. Adult carrying food was seen on FSR 55 south of US 39 on 12 June (Ake *et al.*).

Louisiana Waterthrush. Fairly common below 3500 feet with twenty-three reports mostly of from 1 to 5 birds but with a peak count of 12 in the Lake Moomaw area on 9 June (Mitchells *et al.*).

Kentucky Warbler. Uncommon and local in the lowlands with fifteen reports mainly from Hidden Valley, Lake Moomaw, and Cowpasture River Valley of from 1 to 3 birds with a peak count of 5 in Hidden Valley area on 9 June (Barbee and Stevens).

Mourning Warbler. Found only in vicinity of Paddy Knob on FSR 55 with reports of from 1 to 5 birds by eight parties and a peak count of 5 singing males in Bath County on 10 June (Kinzie *et al.*). Stevens reported a total of 10 birds across the line in Highland County on 11 June.

Common Yellowthroat. Common in low and middle elevations with reports of from 1 to 5 birds by twenty-eight parties and a peak count of 7 in Hidden Valley area on 9 June (Larner *et al.*). A female carrying food near Lake Moomaw was seen on 9 June (Kinzie).

Yellow-breasted Chat. Common in low and middle elevations with reports of from 1 to 8 birds by thirty parties and a peak count of 9 at Hidden Valley on 11 June (Dalmases).

Hooded Warbler. Uncommon at low and middle elevations with reports of from 1 to 6 birds by sixteen parties and a peak count of 10 in the northeast section on 9 June (Mellinger *et al.*).

Canada Warbler. Uncommon and local with seven reports from FSR 55 in Paddy Knob area mostly of from 1 to 3 birds, but with a count of 7 on 10 June (Kinzie *et al.*) and 9 on 11 June (Stevens *et al.*). There was one report of a single bird on Wallace Peak Trail on 8 June (Teuber).

American Redstart. Common at all elevations with reports from thirty-three parties throughout the foray area, with a peak count of 12 in the Paddy Knob area on 11 June (Dalmases).

House Sparrow. Fairly common at low elevations with a peak count of 35 in the northeast section on 11 June (Larner *et al.*). None were reported above 3000 feet.

Bobolink. One record. Two singing males were seen on VA 629 north of US 39 on 9 June (Grimm and Hank). These are assumed to be late migrants.

Eastern Meadowlark. Common in the lowlands below 2500 feet with a peak count of 36 in the northeast section on 11 June (Larner *et al.*).

Red-winged Blackbird. Common in the lowlands below 2500 feet with many counts below 10 and 50, and a peak count of 88 in the northeast section on 8 June (Teuber). An adult was seen carrying nesting material at Hidden Valley on 9 June (Larner *et al.*) and adults feeding young out of the nest at the same location on 11 June (Dalmases).

Orchard Oriole. Uncommon in the lowlands where fourteen parties reported 26 birds mostly of from 1 to 3, but with a peak count of 7 in the northeast section on 8 June (Teuber).

Northern Oriole. Fairly common at low elevations with 54 birds reported by twenty-three parties and a peak count of 7 in the northeast section on 11 June. A female sitting on a nest was seen on VA 625 along the Cowpasture River on 11 June (Larner *et al.*) and an adult feeding fledged young were seen at Warm Springs Inn on 12 June (Ake *et al.*).

Common Grackle. Very common at low elevations with many counts of over 20 and a peak count of 65 in the Cowpasture River Valley on 10 June (Dillard and Scott).

Brown-headed Cowbird. Common at all elevations with a peak count of 32 in the northeast section on 10 June (Mitchells *et al.*).

Scarlet Tanager. Common at all elevations with 345 birds reported by forty-three parties usually of from 3 to 10, with nine counts between 10 and 20, and a peak count of 24 in the Lake Moomaw area on 12 June (Dillard and Scott). An adult was seen feeding fledglings on Duncan Knob on 9 June (Mellinger *et al.*).

Cardinal. Common at low elevations with no reports above 3000 feet. Forty parties reported a total of 291 birds with eight counts of over 10, and a peak count of 31 in the Cowpasture River Valley on 10 June where adults were seen feeding fledged young (Dillard and Scott).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Common at high elevations with a few records as low as 2500 feet. Most records were of from 1 to 10 birds with a peak count of 14 on FSR 55 and adjacent trails on 10 June (Kinzie *et al.*). Female carrying nesting material was seen on FSR 55 on 11 June (Hansrotes).

Blue Grosbeak. Uncommon and very local at low elevations with most reports from the northeast and southcentral sections in the Cowpasture River Valley. Most counts were of from 1 or 2 birds, with peak counts of 6 (5 singing) in the Cowpasture River Valley on 10 June (Dillard and Scott) and 8 singing birds in the same section on 11 June (Larner *et al.*).

Indigo Bunting. Abundant at low elevations and common above 3500 feet. Reported by forty-five parties, counts of over 50 were common with a peak count of 77 in the Lake Moomaw area on 12 June (Dillard and Scott).

House Finch. Two records. Six including 5 singing males were seen on Warm Springs Mountain on 9 June (Dillard and Scott) and a pair in Millboro on 11 June (Middleton and Teuber).

American Goldfinch. Common at all elevations though less so above 3500 feet with many counts of over 20 birds and a peak count of 112 in the Lake Moomaw area on 9 June (Mitchells *et al.*).

Red Crossbill. Two records. Five, including one immature, were seen on FSR 55 on 9 June (Middleton *et al.*) and one in the same vicinity on 11 June (Stevens *et al.*).

Rufous-sided Towhee. Common at all elevations with many counts of over 20 birds and a peak count of 56 from Warm Springs Mountain and Valley on 9 June (Dillard and Scott). Stevens reported a total of 34 in Paddy Knob area of Bath County plus 44 in adjacent Highland County on 11 June. An adult was seen carrying food at Lake Moomaw on 12 June (Larner *et al.*) and one carrying food on FSR 55 south of US 39 on 12 June (Ake *et al.*).

Savannah Sparrow. Found at only two locations. One was heard singing on VA 630 in hayfield on the east slope of Warm Springs Mountain on 9 June (Dillard and Scott) and one on US 220 near the Highland County line at Dice's farm on 9 June (Mellinger *et al.*), later seen and heard by m. ob.

Grasshopper Sparrow. Uncommon and local at low elevations with most records of from 1 to 4 birds in the Cowpasture River Valley and Warm Springs Valley and a peak count of 6 in the northeast section on 11 June (Larner *et al.*).

Dark-eyed Junco. Common above 3500 feet with most records from FSR 55 in the Paddy Knob area with a peak count of 28 on 12 June (Dalmases). Other reports were from Warm Springs Mountain and Orebank trail on Short Mountain at about 3000 feet. A nest with adult on 4 eggs was found at Paddy Knob on 10 June (Kinzie).

Chipping Sparrow. Common at low elevations but with fewer numbers as high as Paddy Knob. Most reports from high elevations were of less than 10 birds while lowland counts averaged between 10 and 20, with a peak count of 21 in the northcentral section on 11 June. An adult with young were seen on VA 627 on 10 June (Mitchells *et al.*), an adult was seen feeding young out of the nest at Hidden Valley on 11 June (Dalmases) and one feeding young out of the nest on VA 614 on 12 June (Middleton and Teuber).

Field Sparrow. Common at low elevations and fairly common over 3500 feet. There were eleven counts in the lowlands of between 10 and 20 birds with the peak count of 23 in the Lake Moomaw area on 12 June (Dillard and Scott).

Song Sparrow. Common at all elevations with reports from throughout the foray area and a peak count of 42 in the Warm Springs Valley on 9 June (Dillard *et al.*). An adult was seen carrying nesting material at Hidden Valley on 9 June (Larner *et al.*).

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COMPARISONS OF WOODPECKER NESTING AND FORAGING HABITAT IN VIRGINIA

RICHARD N. CONNER

Most woodpeckers of eastern North America typically forage on tree trunks, branches, and twigs where they feed on a variety of insects and fruits (Hoyt 1957; Kilham 1965, 1970, 1976; Jackson 1970, 1979; Conner 1979, 1980). Common Flickers (*Colaptes auratus*) are atypical of most eastern woodpeckers in that they usually forage on the ground for insects (Conner 1979, Cruz and Johnston 1979). To exploit different food sources flickers have had to alter their habitat requirements and require open areas to forage. Red-headed Woodpeckers (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) also forage on the ground more than Downy (*Picoides pubescens*), Hairy (*p. villosus*), and Pileated (*Dryocopus pileatus*) Woodpeckers but not as extensively as Common Flickers.

Although the forest structure around nest trees and size of nest trees for the 5 species differ (Conner *et al.* 1975, Conner 1976, Conner and Adkisson 1977, Jackson 1976), they have similar requirements for the internal condition of nest trees. They are dependent on live and/or dead trees with decayed heartwood (Conner *et al.* 1976). In this paper I use principal component (PCA) to ordinate and compare nesting and foraging habitats used by the above 5 species of woodpeckers.

METHODS

The study was conducted at two areas in southwestern Virginia. One area (2 km²) was located on the upper Craig and Poverty Creek drainages of the Jefferson National Forest. Oaks (*Quercus* spp.) and hickories (*Carya* spp.) covered 60% of the area. Stands consisting primarily of oaks and pines (*Pinus* spp.) covered 20% of the area. Stands of yellow-poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), white oak (*Q. alba*), and northern red oak (*Q. rubra*), and stands of Virginia pine (*P. virginiana*), white pine (*P. strobus*), and pitch pine (*P. rigida*), each occupied approximately another 10% of the area. A variety of cover types and successional stages were present.

The second area was located near Blacksburg, Virginia, and the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University campus. This non-forest area was primarily in pasture, but it included six mature woodlots (250-350 yrs. old) of oaks and hickories that varied between 0.5 and 20 ha in size. Grass was the dominant ground cover in most of the woodlots.

Nest trees of Downy, Hairy, Pileated, and Red-headed Woodpeckers, and Common Flickers were located during the breeding seasons of 1972 through 1976 and foraging sites 1973 through 1976. At each nest tree and at each site where I observed a woodpecker foraging the following habitat variables were measured in circular 1/25 ha plots: (1) basal area of trees (m²/ha), (2) density of woody stems (No. stems 7 cm/ha), and (3) average height of trees (m).

A single principle component analysis (Barr *et al.* 1976) was calculated using the data from both nesting and foraging sites for the five woodpecker species. Data points for each species' nesting and foraging habitat were then compared graphically in 2-dimensional space.

Principal component analysis (PCA) is a technique that reduces the complexity of multivariate data sets. In essence, PCA constructs a multidimensional plot of all data points using the field measured variables as axes (in the case of this paper: basal area, density of tree stems, and tree height). PCA then places a new axis in the data cloud created by the plotting of field observations so that this new axis explains the greatest

amount of variation in the data cloud. Additional axes are placed through the data cloud in sequence so that they also explain a maximum amount of variation possible while being perpendicular (orthogonal) to all previous new axes. The resulting new axes (principal components) are in fact combinations of the original variables. In this paper, the PCA combined basal area and tree height into one variable (new axis) that represents both original variables (Fig. 1). The "meaning" of the new axes (or variables) created by PCA can be evaluated by examining the correlations of them with the original variables.

In general, PCA can reduce a set of correlated variables to a subset of uncorrelated variables, increase the information explained by the first two axes, and allow a simultaneous evaluation of many species on the same scale in 3-dimensional space or hyperspace (more than three dimensions). When many variables are used, the analysis closely represents the concept of Hutchinson's (1958) realized niche. Morrison (1976) and James (1971) provide a more detailed description of PCA.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The following numbers of nest sites and foraging sites were compared for each species: Downy (nest sites = 21, foraging sites = 54), Hairy (13, 46), Pileated (19, 38), Red-headed (14, 33), and flicker (31, 45). All foraging and nest sites of Red-headed Woodpeckers were found in old mature woodlots of the University campus. The other four species were found at both study areas.

Jointly, the first two component axes explain more than 93% of the total variation (Table 1). Thus, a relatively efficient reduction from three to two variables was obtained using PCA and allowed a 2 dimensional comparison of nesting and foraging habitats with minimal loss of information.

Table 1. *Results of the principal component analysis of woodpecker nesting and foraging habitat variables.*

	Component		
	I	II	III
Percentage of total variance accounted for	66.7	26.8	6.5
Cumulative percentage of total variance accounted for	66.7	93.5	100.0
Correlatives of components to original variables			
Vegetation height	0.94	-0.06	-0.32
Density of stems	0.07	-0.97	-0.23
Basal area	0.44	-0.34	-0.83

The first component accounted for 66.7% of the total variation (Table 1). Tree height and basal area were positively correlated to the first component, thus the first component axis represents, with increasing values, a trend from clearcuts to old mature forests. The second component accounted for an additional 26.8% of the total variance. Density of stems and basal area were negatively correlated to this component. Decreasing values on the second component axis represent an increase in density of stems and basal area.

The plots of four of the five species on the first and second component axes were similar in that nesting habitats of Downy (Fig. 1), Hairy (Fig. 2), Pileated (Fig. 3), and Red-headed (Fig. 4) Woodpeckers were all a subset of each species foraging habitat. Each species foraged in a range of habitat conditions, but only a narrower subset of those conditions was apparently suitable for nesting.

A plot of nesting and foraging habitat of Common Flickers demonstrated the reverse relationship; foraging habitat was a subset of nesting habitat (Fig. 5). Common Flickers nested in a wide range of habitat conditions (vegetation height and basal area) but selected a smaller subset of those conditions for foraging. They typically foraged in open areas with low vegetation height, basal area, and density of stems.

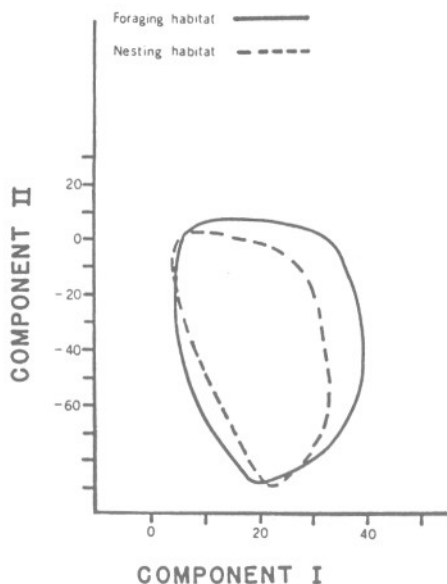


Figure 1. Downy Woodpecker nesting and foraging habitat plotted on the first two principal component axes. The first component from left to right represents increasing vegetation height and basal area (Table 1). The second component from top to bottom represents increasing densities of stems and basal area.

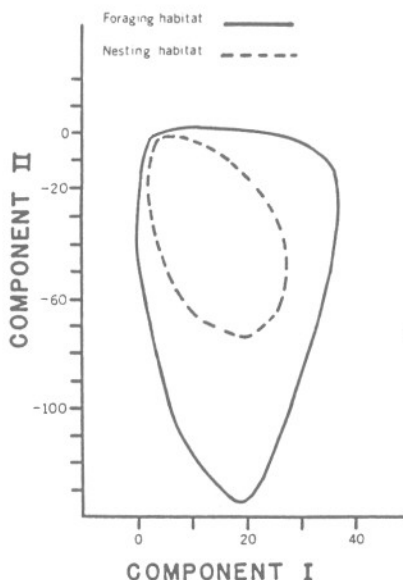


Figure 2. *Hairy Woodpecker* nesting and foraging habitat plotted on the first two principal component axes. See figure 1 caption for relation of axes to original variables.

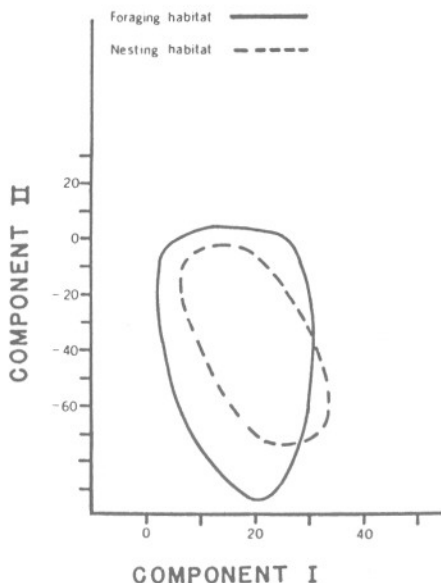


Figure 3. *Pileated Woodpecker* nesting and foraging habitat plotted on the first two principal component axes. See figure 1 caption for relation of axes to original variables.

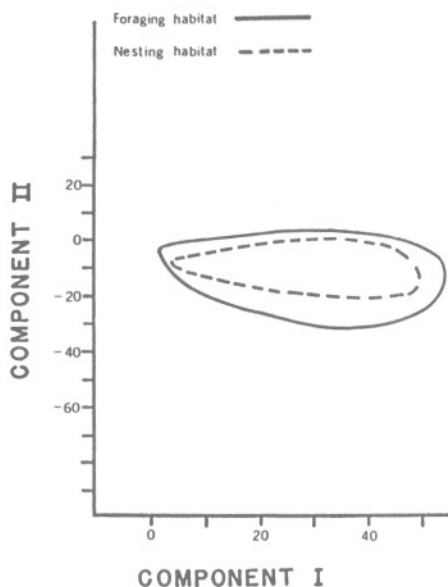


Figure 4. *Red-headed Woodpecker nesting and foraging habitat plotted on the first two principal component axes. See figure 1 caption for relation of axes to original variables.*

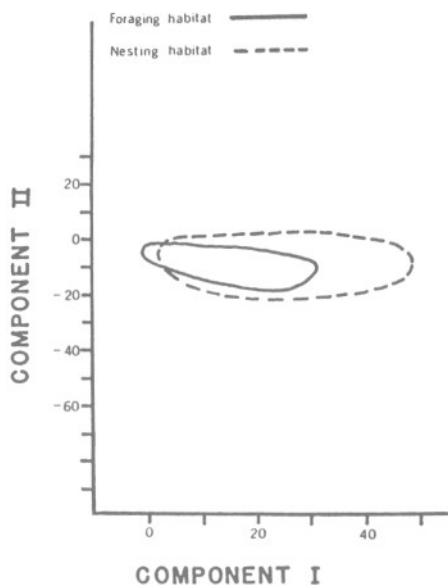


Figure 5. *Common Flicker nesting and foraging habitat plotted on the first two principal component axes. See figure 1 caption for relation of axes to original variables.*

The habitat used for nesting by Common Flickers and Red-headed Woodpeckers was quite similar (See Figs. 4 and 5). The main difference between these 2 species is the flicker's much reduced foraging habitat (Fig. 5). When ancestral flickers diverged from typical arboreal woodpecker life into a ground foraging species many adaptations occurred. These included brown coloring, a curved, longer and thinner bill, and reduced massiveness of the skull (Short 1971). By specializing mainly as a ground forager, Common Flickers have also apparently reduced the breadth of habitat they use for foraging. The result of this behavioral adaptation may have carried with it a reduction in some aspects of niche space. The reduced foraging habitat relative to other sympatric woodpeckers species demonstrated in Fig. 5 may be a graphic representation of this specialization into a reduced niche space.

While Red-headed Woodpeckers have foraging methods more similar to Common Flickers than do Downy, Hairy, and Pileated Woodpeckers, the relationship between their nesting and foraging habitat is that of a typical arboreal woodpecker (Fig. 4). Thus Red-headed Woodpeckers have apparently not specialized in their use of foraging habitat to the extent of Common Flickers.

I thank R. R. Fleet for constructive comments on the manuscript.

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IN MEMORIAM: JAMES WILLIAM FRANCIS EIKE

James William Francis Eike, a member of the VSO for almost 50 years, died at his home in Clifton, Virginia, on 8 February 1983. He was born on 29 September 1911 in Woodbridge, Virginia, and grew up there. After graduating from Georgetown University in 1932, he went to work for the United States Government in Washington. He joined the Virginia Society of Ornithology in October 1933 and at once became active in it. In 1938 he moved to Chicago, where he met his wife, the former Claire Forsyth. He returned to the Washington area in 1941 and spent the rest of his life there in government service, ending with the United States Information Agency.

Following his return to Virginia, Jim resumed his association with the VSO and took a leading role in its activities for most of the rest of his life. He served on the Executive Committee (predecessor of the Board of Directors) from 1947 to 1948, then was elected president in 1949, serving in that capacity until 1952. During this period he helped to ward off a proposal by the ambitious District of Columbia Audubon Society to incorporate *The Raven* into its own journal. It was also during his presidency that the Society published its first *Check-list of the Birds of Virginia* in 1952.

When the VSO launched its program of local chapters in 1953, Jim became chairman of the Local Chapters Committee. In this capacity, he played a key role in establishing strong and active chapters in every part of the state. With his wife, Claire, he founded the Northern Virginia Chapter of the VSO in 1954 and served as its president until 1968. The Eike home in Falls Church was repeatedly thrown open to meetings of the chapter, and Jim was a faithful and tireless leader of field trips. Meanwhile he found time to serve on the Executive Committee from 1955 to 1958 and again in 1959-1960.

After serving as Vice President of the VSO from 1966 to 1968, he again succeeded to the Presidency from 1968 to 1970. Beginning in 1973 he was elected to an unprecedented series of three consecutive terms on the Board of Directors, lasting until 1982. In 1978 he became chairman of the Membership Committee.

Retiring after 36 years of Federal employment, Jim moved to Clifton in 1968. There he pursued his ornithological interests as long as his health permitted. For some years the Northern Virginia Chapter looked forward to a field trip, led by the Eikes, to nearby Bull Run Regional Park to observe the late summer nighthawk migration, as well as an annual potluck supper in September at the Eike home. Jim was also active in civic organizations, and worked hard to spread interest in ornithology and conservation through speeches before schools and local groups. In 1979 he was elected to a three-year term on the Board of Directors of the Audubon Naturalist Society of the District of Columbia.

Jim Eike's long and faithful service to the Virginia Society of Ornithology and his untiring interest in its activities gave him a unique status in the organization. He was a regular participant in VSO meetings, having missed only one between 1934 and 1982. In addition, he took part in most of the Society's field trips and forays. His genial personality, his ready humor, his character and integrity - these made him immensely popular with all who knew him. Besides Claire, herself a long-time VSO member, he leaves a daughter and granddaughter, Susan and Rachel Spalding, of Abingdon, Virginia.

Robert J. Watson

THE 1983 VSO ANNUAL MEETING

ROBERT J. WATSON

The 1983 annual meeting of the Virginia Society of Ornithology, held at the Sheraton Airport Inn in Roanoke, Virginia, opened on Friday, 20 May. President YuLee Lerner formally opened the proceedings at 7:45 p.m. Mr. Bill Akers, President of the host chapter, the Roanoke Valley Bird Club, extended a cordial welcome. At the request of Mrs. Lerner, a moment of silence was observed in memory of the late James W. Eike and two other members who died in 1983, Louise Bethea and Timothy S. Melton.

Mrs. Thelma Dalmas, Treasurer of the VSO, reported a balance of \$18,031.44; this reflected an excess of income over expenses of \$1,714.65 during 1982.

Mrs. Lerner tendered thanks to the outgoing members of the Board of Directors: Dr. Robert Simpson, Dr. Philip Shelton, and Mr. Bill Williams. She then introduced the chairmen of standing committees, as follows: Joe Ondrejko (Conservation), Enoch Johnson (Education), David Hughes (Field Trips), Bill Opengari (Membership), Clair Mellinger (Murray Award), Charles Hansrote (Publicity), Mitchell Byrd (Records), F. R. Scott (Research), Richard Peake (Site Guide), and John Dillard (Circulation). Mr. Opengari, chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the following slate of nominees:

President: YuLee Lerner, Staunton
Vice President: Jerry W. Via, Blacksburg
Secretary: Robert J. Watson, Arlington
Treasurer: Thelma Dalmas, Lynchburg
Editor: F. R. Scott, Richmond
Board of Directors, Class of 1986
John W. Dillard, Richmond
Leonard Teuber, Weyers Cave
Polly Turner, Lexington

A motion to declare the above nominees elected by acclamation was unanimously approved.

The President called on Mr. Watson, the Secretary, to submit two proposed changes in the bylaws that had been approved earlier by the Board of Directors and disseminated to the members via the newsletter. One change would eliminate the category of junior membership; the other would drop from Board membership any members who failed to attend at least one regular meeting during a year. After some discussion both changes were formally approved, with an amendment to the latter authorizing the Board to fill by temporary appointment any vacancies resulting from dropping inactive members.

President Lerner then turned the proceedings over to Mrs. Mary Smith, chairman of the Local Chapters Committee, for the annual Workshop. Mrs. Smith extended a welcome to the Society's newest chapter, the Foothills Bird Club, of Martinsville. Then followed an evening of entertainment sponsored by the Committee. Featured were a fashion show with Mrs. Dalmas modeling what the well-dressed birder wears for a Christmas count; a demonstration by Dr. Jerry Via of bird songs inappropriately used as background for various television programs or movies; a series of humorous slides presented by Ms. Carrie Stanovich in costume; and a particularly clever presentation, again by Mrs. Dalmas, of methods of adding birds to one's list without actually seeing them. The proceedings returned to a more serious note with a

summary of field trip plans by Mr. Barry Kinzie, after which the meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

The field trips on the morning of 21 May had been carefully planned by the host club to cover both mountain and lowland areas but were unfortunately hindered by rain, heavy at times, which reduced opportunities for observation.

Vice President Via presided over the afternoon paper session, at which 85 persons were present. The first speaker was Dr. Mitchell Byrd, who summarized results of the Peregrine Falcon breeding program in Virginia. Originally, the Peregrine was known to have nested in at least 24 locations in Virginia, mostly in the mountains. The first reintroductions were accordingly attempted in mountainous areas, where they failed owing to predation by Great Horned Owls. The program was then shifted to islands on the Eastern Shore from which Great Horned Owls are mostly absent. A total of 72 young birds have been released, of which 64 successfully fledged. In 1982 three pairs returned, and one pair nested at Assateague and produced three young. The problem of restoring the Peregrine to mountainous regions, however, has not yet been solved.

Mr. Robert L. Anderson described the breeding biology of the American Oystercatcher on Fisherman Island, on the basis of some 200 hours of observation over a two-year period. The average clutch of the Oystercatcher consisted of 2.5 eggs, with a nesting period of approximately 26 days. Of 51 nesting pairs found in 1981, only two young birds were fledged. The situation improved somewhat in 1982 when 49 nests produced 10 young. Main causes of mortality were predation (chiefly by Fish Crows) and high tides.

The status of the endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker in Virginia was the subject of Ruth A. Beck. This species lives in "clans" consisting of one breeding pair plus "helpers" that assist in defending the nest, incubating, and other tasks. Nests are excavated in living trees (invariably Loblolly Pines in Virginia), and excavation requires from two months to two years. Each clan usually has several cavities under construction at once. C. C. Steirly made the first significant study of the bird in 1957 and predicted the decline that has since taken place. The species is now down to fewer than 50 birds in Virginia. Its survival depends upon retention of sufficient trees to provide nest cavities plus ample foraging habitat. All known nest sites in Virginia are owned by lumber companies, but two of these are collaborating in an effort to provide sanctuaries for the bird. An experimental relocation of threatened colonies, undertaken in Georgia, shows some promise.

The final speaker, Edward E. Clark, Jr., described the activities of the Shenandoah Valley Wildlife Treatment and Rehabilitation Center, which he and a colleague, Dr. Stuart Porter, recently established near Waynesboro for treatment of injured wildlife. In the first six months of its operation, the Center has treated 94 "patients," of which 50 were birds, and has presented formal educational programs to some 1100 people. Currently the Center receives for treatment a dozen or so wild animals or birds every week. Its principal need at this time is financial resources to insure continued operation.

The evening banquet took place in the Sheraton Inn with Mrs. Larner presiding. Two charter members of the VSO, Mrs. Grace Wiltshire and Mr. Almon O. English, sat as guests at the head table and received a standing ovation when introduced by the President. Mrs. Larner noted that Mr. Scott had recently been cited by his chapter (Richmond Audubon Society) for his long service to the cause of ornithology. Mrs. Smith called the roll of chapter representatives present with special recognition for the members of the new Foothills Bird Club.

Three awards were announced by President Larner. The 1983 Conservation Award went to Mrs. Margaret O'Bryan, of Richmond, for her role in establishing the nongame wildlife research fund through legislation authorizing income tax refund contributions for the purpose. Mr. William J. Eiley received the first J. J. Murray Prize, in the amount of \$400, for research on parasitism and predation in Royal Terns. Mrs. Larner then extended special recognition to Mrs. Myriam P. Moore for her long service to the Society. A new award, the Myriam P. Moore Award, had been established in her honor with Mrs. Moore being the first recipient.

Following presentation of door prizes, Mr. Akers recognized by name those members of the Roanoke Valley Bird Club who had helped particularly with the meeting. Resolutions tendering thanks to everyone connected with the meeting, including the host chapter, the Local Chapters Committee, the Sheraton Airport Inn, and participants in programs, were offered by J. Enoch Johnson, chairman of the Resolutions Committee.

Mr. Akers introduced the speaker of the evening, Mr. Jeffrey Curtis, coordinator of nongame research for the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries. Mr. Curtis described some of the programs made possible through the nongame research fund, including enhancement of access to areas owned by the Commission, studies of endangered species, and a number of educational activities. He also showed a film produced by the Commission, financed by the same fund, aimed at encouraging interest in birds. Following his address, President Larner declared the meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Field trips were held as usual on Sunday morning, 22 May, embracing many of the same locations as the preceding day and drew wide participation despite continuation of unfavorable weather. After a final informal gathering at the Sheraton Inn, the meeting broke up about noon.

2636 Marcey Road, Arlington, Virginia 22207

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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The Virginia Society of Ornithology
Board of Directors

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HURRICANE-BLOWN BIRDS AT LAKE ANNA IN SEPTEMBER 1979

JOHN B. BAZUIN, JR.

Lake Anna is a 7000 acre impoundment confined to Louisa, Orange, and Spottsylvania Counties in central Virginia. It was developed by Virginia Electric and Power Company to supply cooling water for the nuclear power-generating units of the North Anna Power Station. Most of the cooling is performed by three drowned creek mouths (termed "lagoons" because of their cooling function) south of the east end of the lake that are diked off from the main body of the lake and joined by canals.

Two locations at Lake Anna have been the most productive of rare bird records through the years and will figure prominently in the species accounts that follow. The first is Dike #3, which separates Rock Creek (the easternmost lagoon) from the main lake and also serves as a roadbed for county route 622. It offers an unobstructed view of the main lake adjacent to the dam and of the mouth of Rock Creek. The second location is Duerson Point, a peninsula which lies between the two westernmost lagoons and also partially bisects the lake. It is fringed with shallows, islands and a rapidly-developing cattail marsh and also allows observation of much of the east end of the lake.

Since its ornithological discovery in 1977 Lake Anna has proven remarkably attractive to rare and unusual water-related birds. This was already known by 4 September 1979, when Hurricane David was moving its 90 mph winds north just off the east coast of Florida after tracking across much of the equatorial North Atlantic. Accordingly, when a friend, Lisa McQuail, called me at work during the morning of 5 September to let me know that David had come ashore in South Carolina the previous night and was on its way to Virginia, I decided to go to Lake Anna to observe the avian effects of the storm. I left into the oncoming storm in the early afternoon and arrived at the lake as it peaked (moderate to heavy rain on southeasterly winds gusting to 45 or 50 mph). I remained for two days — observing avian occurrence at the lake and also in the Green Springs area of west-central Louisa County (see Bazuin, 1980). David's center passed through Charlottesville, Virginia and Washington, D.C., which placed Lake Anna just east of it as it moved through. As will be seen, David directly produced two or three pelagic species at Lake Anna as it passed and a southerly wind of up to 35 mph behind it on 6 September may help account for further notable birds which appeared on that day.

The results of David convinced me to again go to Lake Anna after Hurricane Frederick came ashore on the Mississippi coast with 130 mph winds on 12 September and thereafter began tracking northeast. This time I arrived at the lake on the morning of 14 September — after driving much of the way through the fringe rains of the storm — and stayed another day and a half. I hoped that Frederick would move through Virginia so was disappointed that it tracked up the Appalachians through West Virginia. However, strong southeast to southerly winds behind the storm on 14 September probably played some role in unusual bird sightings then.

The Changing Seasons report and Atlantic seaboard and Central Southern regional reports in *American Birds* (Vol. 34 (2)) should be read for further specific and general effects of both storms. Species accounts from my experiences follow.

SOOTY SHEARWATER (*Puffinus griseus*). Hypothetical. Two birds believed to be this species (all dark brown with pale wing linings and with shearwater shape) were seen over the main lake from Dike #3 during the height of David on 5 September. One of these was flying directly beside a Bridled Tern, which afforded an excellent size comparison. However, some of the flight characteristics of the birds were puzzling (possibly due to the high wind) and viewing conditions made it difficult to absolutely rule out other dark tubenose species. Sooty Shearwater is rare in the

western North Atlantic in the fall but David initially formed off Dakkar — perhaps a suitable area for entraining the species.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus marinus*). On 6 September a first year immature was seen flying over the main lake off Dike #3 — a first record for the interior central section of the Virginia Piedmont and surely a result of David. A bird of the same species and thought likely to be the same individual was refound there (and last seen) on 22 September after the passage of yet another storm.

LAUGHING GULL (*Larus atricilla*). An immature was seen on and north of Dike #3 on 14 and 15 September. It was apparently a first fall record for the Virginia Piedmont (see Larner *et al.*, 1979 and Scott, 1980) and may have resulted from the strong southeast winds of the morning of 14 September moving the bird inland from more coastal areas.

SOOTY TERN (*Sterna fuscata*). Virginia's first Piedmont record (see Larner *et al.*, 1979 and Larner and Scott, 1981) came with the discovery of three typically plumaged adults actively foraging over Rock Creek adjacent to Dike #3 on 5 September during the height of David. Early the next morning another (?) adult was initially seen flying north over the west side of Rock Creek. As it crossed Dike #3 and moved out over the main lake it began to gain altitude and eventually disappeared to the west or northwest.

BRIDLED TERN (*Sterna anaethetus*). Virginia's first record west of the Atlantic coast (see Larner *et al.*, 1979 and Scott, 1980) occurred at Lake Anna on 5 September during the height of David. The first of the two observed (both were typically plumaged adults) was first seen being blown rapidly northward over Dike #3 and then observed at length when it veered around at a range of about 400 yards and began flying slowly upwind about 20 to 30 feet above the water. The second Bridled Tern was discovered shortly thereafter about 100 yards from the first. On 6 September two adults (same birds?) were first found flying up to Dike #3 along the west side of Rock Creek in the early morning. They were then observed for a half hour as they foraged in the vicinity of Dike #3. Thereafter they began moving off to the west or northwest, gaining altitude as they went, and eventually disappeared from sight.

COMMON TERN (*Sterna hirundo*). An immature and two adults were found near the route 208 causeway across the North Anna River channel of Lake Anna late on the morning of 7 September. An immature was found foraging off Duerson Point in mid-morning on 14 September and an adult from Dike #3 that afternoon riding a thermal up over the main dam with the immature Laughing Gull.

FORSTER'S TERN (*Sterna forsteri*). Two immatures were found off Duerson Point on the morning of 6 September and another immature off Dike #3 that afternoon. During the afternoon of 14 September I found a small larid floating on the surface of Lake Anna east of Duerson Point at the hopeless identification range of roughly 1200 yards. I then watched it drift northwest for a considerable period of time before it took off from the water's surface and flew in to the Duerson Point area. It turned out to be an immature Forster's Tern — the first tern I have ever seen riding on the water. The bird appeared very tired and apparently landed along an island off Duerson Point.

CASPIAN TERN (*Sterna caspia*). Two or three were seen over the eastern part of Lake Anna during mid-morning on 6 September and at least ten that afternoon from Dike #3. On 7 September two more were found about noon near the route 208 causeway over the North Anna River channel of Lake Anna, another shortly thereaf-

ter over the main lake just east of the power station, and nine more a bit later adjacent to Dike #3. On the morning of 15 September two additional Caspian Terns were seen near Dike #3.

BLACK TERN (*Chlidonias niger*). About noon on 6 September I found three in winter plumage over Hawkwood Lake (four miles south of Boswell's Tavern) in west-central Louisa County, Virginia. Three more were found foraging near Duerson Point in the early afternoon on 14 September and another two over the main lake near Dike #3 during the morning of 15 September.

I paid assiduous attention to the sky as I drove to Lake Anna during David but saw nothing in transit. It was only over the larger areas of water towards the east end of the lake that the pelagics were encountered. Thus, it appeared likely that "big water" was required to attract birds out of the turbulence and clouds of the storm into the observation range of the earthbound observer.

Perusal of the above species accounts demonstrates that pelagics did not remain long after David had passed and, moreover, that none appeared as the days passed after the departure of either hurricane. A large number of pelagics must have been potentially available for discovery in central Virginia after David since a large number (particularly Sooty Terns) continued to fall out as the storm passed through New England (see the northeast United States regional reports in *American Birds*, Vol. 34 (2)). Their failure to appear may have resulted from ascent to high altitudes (note the actions of the Sooty and Bridled Terns on 6 September) before they began moving directionally. This would have rapidly taken them out of effective observation range.

The more prosaic larids, by contrast, were present in notable numbers for at least a day and a half after the passage of both hurricanes. Their presence could have been a result of: 1) wind-forcing inland after the storms' passage (birds thus of Atlantic origin), 2) "spilling" by the storms as they moved overland and lost strength (birds thus of Atlantic origin from David but potentially also of Gulf origin from Frederick), 3) disruption of overland migrants from interior North America, or 4) some combination of the above. "Spilling" seemed a likelihood with David, which was clearly carrying birds, and wind-forcing seemed likely with Frederick because of the strong southeast winds that followed it but the clues from this relatively localized observation area were difficult to interpret. Common, Forster's, and Caspian Terns occur regularly at Lake Anna during fall migration, though rarely in such numbers. Black Terns have never otherwise been found in this area in fall.

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SNOWY OWL IN FAIRFAX COUNTY IN NOVEMBER 1981

JACKSON M. ABBOTT

About noon on 20 November 1981, I received a telephone call that a Snowy Owl (*Nyctea scandiaca*) had been sighted that morning at Fort Belvoir, located at the southeast end of Fairfax County, Virginia. I finally reached the person who had seen the owl but by then it was early evening and I could not visit the site until the next morning. The bird was first seen by Howard Lawrence, supervisor of the engineer equipment test area of the U.S. Army Mobility Equipment Research and Development Command (MERADCOM) at Fort Belvoir. Mr. Lawrence is not a birder but he told me that he has read and seen enough to know that "the big white bird perched on top of an engineer crane was a white, or Snowy Owl." He said that the bird had its back toward him and that it turned its head 180 degrees to look at him. The owl flew to a perch on a telephone pole and presented the observers with a frontal view which showed some black markings on its breast, but otherwise the plumage was pure white.

Mr. Lawrence said that at least four other employees at the test center saw the owl and even drove out to get close looks at it as it perched on several different telephone poles and other structures during the morning.

The writer and his two sons, David and Robert, drove out to the site early the next morning. We were denied entrance into the test area because it was a restricted area. We drove around to several vantage points outside the fence where we could look over with binoculars, all the telephone poles, heavy equipment, and buildings inside the area - no sign of the owl. I called Mr. Lawrence on Monday, 23 November, and he had not seen the owl that morning but agreed to call me if it was seen again.

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THE FIRST SIGHT RECORD OF BARROW'S GOLDENEYE FOR VIRGINIA

BILL WILLIAMS

On 27 February 1982, Rich Goll and Cindy Carlson observed an unusual female goldeneye off the second island of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel. Weather conditions for birding were less than ideal with a steady rain and northeast winds of 20-25 miles per hour. They called several people to alert them about the bird. I arrived around 1:30 p.m., approximately two hours after the initial sighting and was able to locate the goldeneye quickly.

What had originally caught the attention of Goll and Carlson was the bird's all yellow bill. This was easy to spot as the bird swam and dove with 2 female Common Goldeneyes (*Bucephala clangula*). Further observation revealed at least 3 other significant characteristics of this duck. The shape of the head and its color were noticeably different from that of the other goldeneyes present, and the bill appeared to have a somewhat different shape that I initially attributed to differences in head shape.

The female Common Goldeneyes' heads had a pointed profile with a gradual incline from the base of the dark bill to the top of the head. The head color was a pale chocolate brown. The head of the other goldeneye had a more squared profile with a

significantly greater angle of incline from the bill base to the top of the head. At this point the head then appeared flat on top rather than pointed, giving the overall appearance of a squared rather than pointed outline. Also the head was a richer brown than that of this bird's companions. The yellow bill seemed to be somewhat more tapered than that of the Common Goldeneyes.

The bird was seen in flight with the other goldeneyes twice, but no noticeable differences in wing patterns were observed.

After a thorough review of field guides, a tentative conclusion was reached that this unusual female duck was a Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*).

Once I returned home, I read through my reference books for confirmation of the identification of the duck. Johnsgard (1975) states that female Barrow's Goldeneyes may be separable from Common Goldeneyes "by (1) the somewhat darker brown head, which is relatively flat-crowned in shape; (2) the brighter and more extensively yellow bill during the spring ..." He further adds that "any female with a completely yellow bill is more likely to be a Barrow's Goldeneye." Palmer (1975) details the differences in skull shape between the species, especially the frontal portion which is much more rounded in Barrow's Goldeneye.

Based on field comparison of this duck with female Common Goldeneyes and supporting evidence for the differences in the literature, I concluded that the bird in question was definitely a female Barrow's Goldeneye, and therefore represented a new species for Virginia. The bird was subsequently seen by several other observers who concurred with the aforementioned field marks.

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157 West Queens Drive, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

FIRST VIRGINIA SPECIMEN OF LITTLE GULL

ROBERT L. ANDERSON

On 26 December 1982 while at Fisherman Island National Wildlife Refuge, Cape Charles, Virginia, I noticed the dark-winged remains of a small gull a few feet above the high tide line. The head and most of the back feathers were missing, but the rest of the body was in good condition and appeared to be that of a Little Gull (*Larus minutus*).

The wing had a trailing white edge 0.5 cm in width, a chord of 22.5 cm, a ventral surface of a dark sooty gray, especially in the primaries and a light pearly gray dorsal surface. The trailing edge expanded into white primary tips of 2.0, 2.6 and 3.0 cm in primaries eight, nine and ten respectively. The legs were a faded orange-red, and the tail was white above and below with a square posterior margin. The breast and abdomen were white, and the few remaining back feathers were the same light gray of the upper wing.

I believe this to be the first Virginia specimen of a Little Gull, although sight records are numerous enough to indicate that the species is a rare (?) transient and winter visitor near the coast (Larner *et al.* 1979). The species was first recorded in Virginia on 6 December 1964 at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel (op. cit.). Three Virginia summer records exist: 1-3, Chincoteague, 24 August - 24 September 1972; 1, Chincoteague, 8 August - 27 September 1974; 5, Craney Island (Portsmouth), 5 June 1974 (op. cit.). A peak count of 14 was recorded at Craney Island on 21 April 1974. There are no records for the Piedmont and mountains of Virginia (op. cit.).

The first breeding record in the U.S. occurred in June 1975 at Manotowoc County, Wisconsin near the city of Two Rivers on Lake Michigan where three nests were found (Erdman and Steffen, 1975).

At least 88 sightings of Little Gull have been documented east of the 100th meridian since 1974 (American Birds, Vols. 28 - 36) with 57 (65%) coming in 1975. Most of these sightings have been in the Great Lakes region.

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A JANUARY RECORD OF THE BARN SWALLOW

JOSEPH CROFT

At 4:30 p.m. on 2 January 1983 on the Warren, Va., Christmas Bird Count, along with my wife Barbara I was looking for birds in weedy fields near the railroad tracks on the north side of the James River, just east of the bridge at Scottsville, Albemarle County. Overhead and a little behind me I heard a note which I recognized immediately, though with astonishment, as that of a Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*). Looking around I saw the bird fly by only a few yards away, with its distinctive long pointed wings and long deeply forked tail. I called to my wife to look at the bird, and we watched it continue its darting, twisting, circling course over the field for perhaps a minute before coming to rest on utility wires some 50 feet from us.

Knowing that the species is extraordinary in winter anywhere in North America, we studied the bird at length through 7X binoculars and a 20X telescope, both as it perched on the wires at distances of 50 to 100 feet and as it intermittently flew about the area, sometimes coming within 15 feet of us. Though the evening sky was cloudy, it was easy to discern the bird's markings as it sat on the wires, usually facing us. In overall length the swallow was nearly as long as the several Starlings that occasionally sat a few feet away, though its apparent bulk was less than half that of the other species. As the swallow sat, almost horizontally, its wings were ordinarily held drooping at the tips slightly below the tail; they did not reach quite so far back as the tips of the forked tail. Through the telescope it was possible to see clearly the small swallow bill and the burnt-orange throat area and light-creamy-buff breast and belly. The blue-black coloration of the back was evident both perched and in flight. On one occasion as the bird landed with its back to us, wings raised and tail outspread, I saw through binoculars the small areas of white in the tail feathers.

The area frequented by this bird, at the horseshoe bend in the northernmost reach of the James River, is a favored summer haunt of Barn Swallows, some of them apparently nesting in a large abandoned warehouse near the railroad tracks. At one point we watched the present bird fly up under the fourth-story eaves of the warehouse, and we wondered if it might go to roost inside; however, it returned again to the wires. Finally, at 4:50 p.m., slightly more than a quarter-hour before sunset, the swallow left the wires and flew overhead in higher circling courses, eventually disappearing in the sky to the west of the bridge approaches.

Upon reporting this observation at the Count compilation later in the evening, we learned that very early in the morning Allen Hale and his wife had glimpsed in this same area a bird that appeared to be a swallow of some species.

On several occasions in the week following our observation my wife and I revisited this area but saw no further sign of the bird.

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