

The Raven

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THIS IS
THE FIRST ANNUAL ISSUE
OF THE
VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY'S
JOURNAL,

THE RAVEN

PUBLICATION OF THE JOURNAL
WAS SUSPENDED SEVERAL YEARS AGO.

HOWEVER,
WE EXPECT TO PUBLISH
THE 1984 THROUGH 1987
ANNUAL ISSUES
DURING THIS CALENDAR YEAR.

THE TWO REMAINING
QUARTERLY ISSUES OF 1983
WILL BE FORTHCOMING.

The Raven

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY

Volume 54

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under the direction of
The Virginia Society of Ornithology
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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 yearly, 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 \$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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CONTENTS

The Giles County Foray—June 1983	1
By Clyde Kessler and YuLee Larner	
Second Virginia Piedmont Record of Western Grebe	11
By John R. Fulton	
Chimney Swift Nesting in a Hollow Tree	12
By Craig Turner, James Hill and David W. Johnston	
Notes of Clapper Rail Broods at Chincoteague	13
By Brooke Meanley	
Ospreys Nest at John H. Kerr Reservoir	14
By John R. Fulton	
Sighting of Sabine's Gull at Chincoteague	15
By Claudia Wilds	
Virginia Christmas Bird Counts—1983-84 Season	17
By Teta Kain	
The 1984 Annual Meeting	31
By Robert J. Watson	
Local Chapters of VSO	35
Officers and Committees of the VSO, 1984-85	36
The Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas Project	37
By Sue Ridd	
Banding Results at Kiptopeke Beach in 1984	38
By Walter P. Smith	
Hawkwatching in Virginia	39
By Myriam Moore	
Index to Volume 54—1984	41

THE GILES COUNTY FORAY—JUNE 1983

CLYDE KESSLER AND YULEE LARNER

The sixteenth in a series of breeding bird forays sponsored by the Research Committee of the Virginia Society of Ornithology was held in Giles County, Virginia, 7-12 June 1983. With headquarters at the Mountain Lake Biological Station of the University of Virginia, participants were housed in the Station's cabins and dormitories. Delicious buffet type meals were catered by the V.P.I. & S.U. food service. The foray was directed by F. R. Scott, and local arrangements were made by Dr. J. J. Murray, Jr., Director of the Mountain Lake Biological Station. The total registration of 42 was one of the highest in recent years.

Even though numerous papers have been written on individual species and many notes published in *The Raven*, *The Redstart* and *American Birds* (formerly *Audubon Naturalist*), the only modern accounts of summer birds here are from the forays of the Brooks Bird Club in 1959 and 1966.

The area covered included most of Giles County, with emphasis on the high altitude areas such as Salt Pond Mountain (2450-4100 feet), Fork and Peters Mountains (2700-3750 feet), Butt Mountain (3600-4200 feet), and Flat Top Mountain with altitudes up to 4000 feet. Since field work in the past had been confined largely to high elevation areas, a special effort was made to cover the lower valleys and farmlands. Prime locations were Stony Creek, Dismal Creek, New River Valley, Clover Hollow, Sinking Creek Valley, Wolf Creek, Walker Creek, Wilburn Valley and Sugar Run, at elevations that range between 1500-3000 feet.

In addition to Forest Service Roads, state and county roads and hiking trails, observers worked in Pembroke, Pearisburg and Narrows. Barry Kinzie and Bill Opengari made one trip by canoe on the New River from Eggleston to Narrows on 8 June.

The following annotated list of birds observed during this foray, totaling 122 species, was compiled from 53 field lists submitted by the various parties who participated in the field work. An additional four sightings were submitted but were not thought by the Research Committee to be documented sufficiently for inclusion in the regular list. They are noted here as "hypothetical" for future reference. They are: Golden Eagle (immature), Blue-winged, Prothonotary and Swainson's Warbler.

As in previous forays, observers made as complete a survey as possible during the five-day period, realizing that, for a variety of reasons, certain species may have been missed. No attempt has been made in this summary to compare the results of this foray with previous studies. Rather it is hoped that observers will use this data as a base for future field work. The weather was clear throughout the period with temperatures ranging from 45 - 75 degrees.

Several species were looked for but not found. These include: Northern Saw-whet and Long-eared Owl, Alder and Olive-sided Flycatcher, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Nashville Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin and Swamp Sparrow.

The following observers participated in the foray: Sue Grey Al-Salam, Gertrude Andreson, Mary Arginteanu, Robert T. Barbee, Floy Burford, Tony Decker, John Dillard, Mike Donahue, Tad Finnell, Anna and Gisela Grimm, Allen and Jeremy Hale, Virginia Hank, June Horsman, Bill Hunley, Helen Irving, Clyde Kessler, Barry L. Kinzie, YuLee Larner, Beth Lawler, Mary Ann Madison, Clair Mellinger, Norwood C. Middleton, Tom Miller, Dorothy and Mike Mitchell, J. J. Murray, Jr., Isabel Obenschain, Joseph Ondrejko, Bill Opengari, Helen Phillips, Mike Purdy, Sue Ridd, Ann Rallo, Larry Robinson, Kathy Schneider, F. R. Scott, Zelda Silverman, David Spears, Charles E. Stevens, Leonard Teuber and Rebecca O. White. 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."

Green-backed Heron. Reported by eight parties, all along the New River, with a peak count of 3 on 8 June (Finnell and Purdy).

Wood Duck. Reported by five parties in the New River Valley with a peak count of 17. One female flew up from a beaver pond on Fork Mountain at 3000 feet on 11 June (Kessler and Spears). An adult with eight small young were seen together on the New River on 8 June (Kinzie and Opengari).

Mallard. Three reports on the New River and one of 4 birds at a pond on Rt. 605 on 9 June (Mitchells and Silverman).

Hooded Merganser. One record. A single bird with 4 Mallards at a pond on Rt. 605 on 9 June (Mitchells and Silverman).

Red-breasted Merganser. One record. A single male was seen on the New River on 8 June (Kinzie and Opengari).

Black Vulture. Reported by seventeen parties at all elevations with a peak count of 11 in Clover Hollow on 7 June (Middleton and Teuber).

Turkey Vulture. Common throughout the area with a peak count of 25 in the New River Valley on 9 June (Burford et al.).

Sharp-shinned Hawk. Four reports of single birds from Spruce Run Mountain, Flat Top Mountain and North Fork, with one report of a pair in Clover Hollow on 9 June (Purdy).

Red-shouldered Hawk. A total of 21 birds reported by nineteen parties in at least fifteen different locations. Two counts of 2 birds, one near Little Meadows on 8 June (Mellinger and Schneider) and one on Spruce Run Mountain on 8 June (Kessler and Miller).

Broad-winged Hawk. A total of 19 birds, reported by thirteen parties, throughout the foray days at all elevations, with several counts of 2.

Red-tailed Hawk. Fairly common with 19 birds reported by sixteen parties in at least fourteen different locations. The peak count was 3 near Pembroke on 8 June (Hales).

American Kestrel. Single birds reported by only four parties from Clover Hollow, Spruce Run Mountain and Mountain Lake area.

Ruffed Grouse. Reported by thirteen parties, all above 2600 feet, with a peak count of 4 adults at Mann's Bog 11 June (Donahue and Hunley). Broods of young were seen by four parties; three of these were on Butt Mountain 8 June (Barbee and Stevens) and (Dillard and Scott) and on 9 June (Kinzie and Opengari), and one at Kelly Flats 11 June (Kessler and Spears).

Wild Turkey. Reported by only eight parties at both low and high elevations, most records of single birds with a peak count of 5 adults in War Spur Trail area 10 June (Hale and Murray). Two broods, an adult with 14 young and one with 7 young, were seen in Kelly Flats 11 June (Kessler and Spears).

Northern Bobwhite. Reported by nineteen parties, all at lower elevations in the New River, Sinking Creek, and Wolf Creek Valleys. Two peak counts of 6 in Sinking Creek area, 11 June (Burford et al.) and (Middleton and Teuber).

Killdeer. A total of 37 birds reported by fourteen parties, all in the lowlands, with a peak count of 7 in the New River Valley on 9 June (Mitchells and Silverman).

American Woodcock. Two records. One in spruce area of War Spur Trail 10 June (Hale and Murray) and one flushed from side of the road on Rt. 613, two miles beyond entrance to the Biological Station 12 June (Ondrejko).

Herring Gull. One record. A single bird was seen on the New River near Glen Lyn 10 June (Arginteanu and Robinson).

Rock Dove. Reported by twelve parties with a peak count of 18 in Glen Lyn area 8 June (Finnell and Purdy).

Mourning Dove. Common in the lowlands with a peak count of 8 on 11 June (Kinzie). Adult flushed from nest in Clover Creek area 10 June (Larner et al.).

Black-billed Cuckoo. Two records. One on War Spur Trail 11 June (Arginteanu and Robinson) and one on Flat Top Mountain 10 June (Barbee and Stevens).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Fairly common in lowlands with a few records above 4000 feet and a peak count of 4 on New River between Eggleston and Narrows 8 June (Kinzie and Pancake).

Eastern Screech-Owl. A total of 5 birds reported by three parties all at lower elevations with a peak count of 2 in Clover Hollow on 7 June (Middleton and Teuber).

Great Horned Owl. One record. A single bird below 2500 feet along Sugar Run on 9 June (Middleton and Teuber).

Barred Owl. Reported by several parties all at high elevations, especially in the vicinity of the Biological Station; other areas included Flat Top, Wolf Creek, and Sugar Run Mountains. At least four reports of 2 birds each.

Whip-poor-will. One record. Five were flushed up from the side of the road at 2600 feet in Kelly Flats area on 11 June (Kessler and Spears).

Chimney Swift. Common at all elevations with a peak count of 21 in the New River Valley on 9 June (Mitchells and Silverman).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Fairly common at low and middle elevations with a peak count of 5 along Stony Creek on 10 June (Madison et al.). An adult was seen sitting on nest along New River between Eggleston and Narrows on 8 June (Kinzie and Opengari).

Belted Kingfisher. Uncommon with a total of 10 birds reported by eight parties. An adult was seen diving at a black snake entering Kingfisher nest hole in sand bank along the New River on 8 June (Kinzie and Opengari).

Red-headed Woodpecker. One record. One was seen on Rt. 663 between Sugar Run and Pembroke on 10 June (Dillard and Scott).

Red-bellied Woodpecker. Uncommon, reported by thirteen parties with two peak counts of 5. Two adults were seen feeding young in nest cavity along New River between Eggleston and Narrows on 8 June (Kinzie and Opengari).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. One record. One was seen by Tony Decker on Rt. 720 north of Kimballton on 9 June (Larner et al.).

Downy Woodpecker. Common throughout the foray at all elevations with a peak count of 8 along the New River from Eggleston to Narrows on 8 June (Kinzie and Opengari). An adult was seen feeding young in Stony Creek area 10 June (Decker).

Hairy Woodpecker. Fairly common at all elevations with a peak count of 6 adults on Butt Mountain. (Kinzie and Opengari). Nesting evidence included 2 adults feeding young in nest cavity along New River on 8 June (Kinzie and Opengari); adults feeding young in two nests on Butt Mountain, 9 June (Kinzie and Opengari); nest at Bailey Gap on 9 June (Mellinger and Schneider); nest with noisy young along Stony Creek, 10 June (Madison et al.); and young in nest hole on Sugar Run Mountain, 10 June (Barbee and Stevens).

Northern Flicker. Common at all elevations with a peak count of 9 in New River Valley on 8 June (Finnell and Purdy). Two adults were seen at a nest hole along Spruce River on 8 June (Kessler and Miller) and two adults at nest hole near Glen Lyn on 8 June (Purdy).

Pileated Woodpecker. Reported by twenty-three parties at all elevations with a peak count of 7 between Dismal Creek and Sugar Run Mountain on 11 June (Barbee and Stevens).

Eastern Wood-Pewee. Common at all elevations with a peak count of 29 in area of Salt Pond Mountain on 9 June (Dillard and Scott). An adult was seen on nest 30 feet up in a locust tree in Clover Hollow on 9 June (Purdy).

Acadian Flycatcher. Common in the lowlands with a peak count of 15 in Wolf Creek Valley on 10 June (Middleton and Teuber). A few were found at higher elevations.

Willow Flycatcher. Uncommon with reports from only six parties, all at lower elevations, and peak count of 2 in Clover Hollow on 10 June (Larner et al.).

Least Flycatcher. Locally common at high elevations mostly around Biological Station area, War Spur, Butt Mountain, and Potts Mountain, with a peak count

of 11 in the Mountain Lake area, 11 June (Kinzie). An extremely low record was of a single singing bird where Wolf Creek flows into the New River at Narrows on 10 June (Mellinger and Schneider). An adult was seen on a nest at Biological Station, 9 June (Kinzie).

Eastern Phoebe. Common at all elevations with a peak count of 16 along New River from Eggleston to Narrows on 8 June (Kinzie and Opengari). Three breeding records including adult carrying food under a bridge near Glen Lyn, 8 June (Finnell and Purdy); pair carrying food to a nest inside a smokehouse on Spruce Run Mountain at 2600 feet (Kessler and Miller); nest with 4 young under bridge over Stony Creek on 11 June (Kessler and Spears).

Great Crested Flycatcher. Common at all elevations with a peak count of 15 in Stony Creek area on 8 June where one nest was observed (Grimm et al.).

Eastern Kingbird. Fairly common in the lowlands with a peak count of 14 in the New River Valley on 9 June (Mitchells and Silverman). An adult was seen feeding young in nest on Rt. 605 on 11 June (Kinzie).

Horned Lark. One record. One was seen in Clover Hollow on 12 June (Dillard and Scott).

Purple Martin. Found at four locations with a peak count of 4 at Dismal Creek on 8 June (Madison et al.).

Tree Swallow. Uncommon and local in lowlands, reported by eight parties, all along the New River and in Clover Hollow, with a peak count of 11 on 8 June (Kinzie and Opengari). Breeding records include two nest cavities with adults entering and leaving along the New River on 8 June (Kinzie and Opengari) and a male bird investigating bluebird nesting box in Clover Hollow on 9 June (Purdy).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow. Fairly common along stream valleys with a peak count of 24 along the New River on 8 June (Kinzie and Opengari), who also observed an adult entering nest cavity in a cliff along the river.

Bank Swallow. A large colony at a heretofore unknown location was discovered at the APCO waste pond along the New River at Glen Lyn on 10 June by Mary Arginteanu and Larry Robinson. They estimated a total of 300 nest holes with at least 100 birds flying in and out. The colony was visited by many other observers throughout the foray. Other records include one bird at the Kimballton lime plant on 9 June (Purdy) and one at Bluff City with begging fledged young on 12 June (Dillard and Scott).

Cliff Swallow. One record. One was seen near Glen Lyn on 8 June (Finnell and Purdy).

Barn Swallow. Common at all elevations with a peak count of 77 in Clover Hollow on 9 June (Purdy). A nest with four eggs was found at Mountain Lake Hotel on 11 June (Kinzie).

Blue Jay. Fairly common at all elevations with a peak count of 11 in New River Valley on 9 June (Mitchells and Silverman). An adult carrying food was seen in New River Valley on 9 June (Burford et al.).

American Crow. Common at all elevations with a peak count of 34 at Clover Hollow on 9 June (Purdy). An adult feeding fledged young was seen in New River Valley on 9 June (Larner et al.).

Common Raven. Uncommon and local, reported from Salt Pond Mountain, New River Valley and Flat Top Mountain, with two peak counts of 11.

Black-capped Chickadee. Fairly common above 3000 feet, especially on Salt Pond Mountain, but with records from Kelly Flats (2600 feet), Wolf Creek and Flat Top Mountain (2500 feet), Stony Creek (2400 feet) and Spruce Run Mountain (2200 feet). There were two peak counts of 14. Two adults were seen carrying food into a nest hole near the Biological Station on 11 June (Kinzie) and 2 adults carrying food on Butt Mountain 9 June (Kinzie and Opengari).

Carolina Chickadee. Fairly common below 2500 feet but found also in North Fork and Little Meadows areas above 3000 feet. There were two peak counts of 8 in New River and Wolf Creek Valleys. Two adults feeding young in two nests were seen in the Spruce Run area on 10 June (Larner et al.).

Chickadee species. In areas where individuals of both Black-capped and Carolina Chickadees were found there was evidence of overlap and hybridization between the two species.

Tufted Titmouse. Common at all elevations with a peak count of 17 in area of Dismal Creek, Flat Top Mountain and Sugar Run Mountain on 10 June (Barbee and Stevens). An adult was seen carrying food near the Biological Station on 12 June (Ondrejko).

White-breasted Nuthatch. Fairly common with a peak count of 7 on 11 June (Argenteanu and Robinson). An adult was seen feeding young near Bailey Gap on 9 June (Mellinger and Schneider).

Brown Creeper. Uncommon, reported by only six parties all at high elevations, with a peak count of 4 at North Fork on 11 June (Kessler and Spears).

Carolina Wren. Common below 3000 feet with a peak count of 22 along the New River on 8 June where an adult with 4 young were seen (Kinzie and Opengari). Two adults feeding young were seen in New River Valley on 8 June (Burford et al.).

House Wren. Common below 2500 feet with a peak count of 14 in the New River Valley on 8 June where an adult was seen feeding young (Larner et al.).

Winter Wren. One record. A single bird was heard and seen on north slope of Butt Mountain (3000 feet) on 9 June (Mellinger and Schneider).

Golden-crowned Kinglet. Reported by five parties, all in the vicinity of the Mountain Lake Scenic area between 3500 and 3800 feet, with a peak count of 2.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Fairly common, mostly below 3500 feet, but found also at the Biological Station area, with a peak count of 11 along the New River on 8 June (Kinzie and Opengari).

Eastern Bluebird. Fairly common in lower elevations with a peak count of 31 in the New River Valley on 9 June (Mitchells and Silverman). There were records of

at least two active nests and five accounts of fledged birds.

Veery. Common above 3500 feet with a peak count of 24 on 9 June (Dillard and Scott).

Hermit Thrush. One record. One seen and heard at Dismal Creek (below 2500 feet) on 10 June, and probably the same bird heard again in the same vicinity, 11 June. (Barbee and Stevens).

Wood Thrush. Very common, reported by every party that worked in the field before noon, with a peak count of 12 on 10 June (Mitchells and Silverman). Adults were seen feeding 2 young in the Cascades area 9 June (Larner et al.).

American Robin. Very common at all elevations with a peak count of 74 in New River Valley on 9 June (Burford et al.). Two adults were seen carrying food to nests, and another one nest building in Clover Hollow on 10 June (Larner et al.) and an adult was seen feeding 2 fledged young in New River Valley on 8 June (Finnell and Purdy).

Gray Catbird. Common at all elevations at least to 4000 feet, with a peak count of 17 in New River Valley on 8 June (Finnell and Purdy).

Northern Mockingbird. Fairly common in lower elevations with a few records above 3500 feet and a peak count of 13 in the New River Valley on 9 June (Mitchells and Silverman).

Brown Thrasher. Fairly common in lowlands with a peak count of 6 in Sinking Creek Valley on 11 June (Middleton and Teuber).

Cedar Waxwing. Fairly common up to 4000 feet with a peak count of 19 along the New River on 8 June (Kinzie and Opengari). An adult carrying nesting material was seen in the New River Valley on 8 June (Larner et al.) and one at the Mountain Lake Scenic area on 12 June (Ondrejko).

European Starling. Common in the lowlands with a peak count of 139 in Clover Hollow on 9 June (Purdy).

White-eyed Vireo. Fairly common in the lowlands with two peak counts of 6 on 10 June, one in New River Valley (Arginteanu and Robinson) and the other in Wolf Creek Valley (Middleton and Teuber).

Solitary Vireo. Fairly common above 3000 feet with a peak count of 18 from Rt. 613 to Butt Mountain on 9 June where an adult was seen carrying food (Kinzie and Opengari); an adult carrying nesting material was seen along North Fork of Stony Creek on 8 June (Middleton and Teuber).

Yellow-throated Vireo. Fairly common in the lowlands with a few records to 3000 feet, and a peak count of 15 along the New River on 8 June (Kinzie and Opengari).

Warbling Vireo. Uncommon along valley streams and rivers with a peak count of 17 along the New River on 8 June (Kinzie and Opengari).

Red-eyed Vireo. Very common at all elevations and the only species appearing on every one of the 53 field cards. The peak count of 84 came from

Flat Top and Wolf Creek Mountains on 10 June (Dillard and Scott). A nest with 3 eggs was seen on East River Mountain on 9 June (Barbee and Stevens).

Golden-winged Warbler. Fairly common up to 3100 feet with a peak count of 4 in Wolf Creek Valley on 10 June (Middleton and Teuber).

Northern Parula. Fairly common at all elevations with a peak count of 19 along the New River on 8 June (Kinzie and Opengari).

Yellow Warbler. Common at lower elevations with a peak count of 44 along the New River on 8 June (Kinzie and Opengari). An adult sitting on a nest was seen in Clover Hollow on 9 June (Purdy) and a nest with adults carrying food and fecal sac in New River Valley on 8 June (Larner et al.).

Chestnut-sided Warbler. Common above 2000 feet with a peak count of 22 along North Fork on 11 June (Kessler and Spears). An adult with fledged young was seen in the Stony Creek area on 8 June (Middleton and Teuber).

Black-throated Blue Warbler. Common above 2500 feet with a peak count of 64 from Dismal Branch, Kelly Flats and Flat Peter Loop Trail on 11 June (Kessler and Spears). A pair together carrying food were seen on Spruce Run Mountain on 8 June (Kessler and Miller).

Black-throated Green Warbler. Uncommon, mostly above 3000 feet with a peak count of 4 in Stony Creek area on 10 June (Madison et al.).

Blackburnian Warbler. Uncommon and local above 2500 feet with a peak count of 6 in the Biological Station and Mountain Lake Scenic area on 9 June (Arginteanu and Robinson). An adult carrying food was seen on Flat Top Mountain on 9 June (Middleton and Teuber).

Pine Warbler. Uncommon and local below 2600 feet with three peak counts of 2.

Prairie Warbler. Uncommon below 2750 feet with two peak counts of 4, both in Clover Hollow.

Blackpoll Warbler. One record. A single bird seen and heard in the Pond Drain-White Pine Lodge area on 8 June (Mellinger and Schneider) was most likely a late transient.

Cerulean Warbler. Reported only by two parties both above 3000 feet with a peak count of 5 in the Pond Drain-White Pine Lodge area on 8 June (Mellinger and Schneider).

Black-and-white Warbler. Fairly common at all elevations with a peak count of 12 on Spruce Run Mountain on 8 June where a male was seen carrying food (Kessler and Miller).

American Redstart. Common at all elevations with a peak count of 34 along the New River on 8 June (Kinzie and Opengari).

Worm-eating Warbler. Fairly common at lower elevations with a few records up to 3800 feet, and a peak count of 12 in Stony Creek area on 10 June (Larner et al.). An adult was seen carrying food on East River Mountain on 9 June (Barbee and Stevens).

Ovenbird. Common at all elevations with a peak count of 63 from Flat Top and Wolf Creek Mountains, and from Sugar Run to Pembroke, on 10 June (Dillard and Scott). An adult was heard calling to cheeping young near Dixon Branch on 11 June (Kessler and Spears) and a young bird was seen near Bailey Gap on 9 June (Mellinger and Schneider).

Louisiana Waterthrush. Fairly common with records from 1900 to 3800 feet and a peak count of 4 in the Cascades area on 9 June (Larner et al.).

Kentucky Warbler. Fairly common in the lowlands with a peak count of 6 in the Piney Creek area on 9 June (Dillard and Scott)

Mourning Warbler. One record. A single bird was seen and heard in blackberry thicket on a hillside on Rt. 649 between Glen Lyn and Narrows (Finnell and Purdy).

Common Yellowthroat. Common in the lowlands at least up to 2700 feet with a peak count of 8 in Sinking Creek Valley on 11 June (Burford et al.).

Hooded Warbler. Common at least to 3350 feet with a peak count of 15 singing on Flat Top and Wolf Creek Mountains on 10 June (Dillard and Scott).

Canada Warbler. Common above 3500 feet with some reports as low as 2600 feet and a peak count of 29 singing males on 11 June (Kessler and Spears). A female on a nest with 3 eggs was seen on the trail around Mountain Lake on 8 June (Hales).

Yellow-breasted Chat. Common in the lowlands at least up to 3000 feet with two peak counts of 6, one in Clover Hollow on 9 June (Purdy) and one in Wolf Creek Valley on 10 June (Middleton and Teuber).

Scarlet Tanager. Common at all elevations with a peak count of 34 on Flat Top and Wolf Creek Mountains on 10 June (Dillard and Scott).

Northern Cardinal. Common in the lowlands but reported at all elevations with a peak count of 20 in the New River Valley on 9 June (Mitchells and Silverman).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Common at higher elevations with records from 2400 feet to 4100 feet and one along the New River. The peak count was 39 at Salt Pond Mountain on 9 June (Dillard and Scott). A male was seen sitting on a nest on Rt. 613 to Butt Mountain on 9 June (Kinzie) and a pair were observed nest building on Rt. 613 on 9 June (Madison et al.).

Blue Grosbeak. Uncommon and local with reports only from Clover Hollow, New River Valley and Dismal Creek where 3 were seen on 8 June (Madison et al.).

Indigo Bunting. Common, especially below 3500 feet, but occurring up to the highest elevations with a peak count of 48 along the New River on 8 June (Kinzie and Opengari). An adult was seen feeding young in nest in Stony Creek area, on 9 June (Ondrejko).

Rufous-sided Towhee. Very common at all elevations with reports on all but one field card and a peak count of 37 in the New River Valley on 9 June (Mitchells and Silverman). A female was seen sitting on a nest with two young near Pearisburg on 9 June (Middleton and Teuber).

Chipping Sparrow. Common below 3000 feet with a few reports higher and a peak count of 39 in Clover Hollow on 9 June (Purdy). Breeding records included adults feeding fledged young in New River Valley on 11 June (Larner et al.) and an adult carrying food to nest in cedar tree in Stony Creek area 10 June (Kinzie).

Field Sparrow. Common in the lowlands with a few records up to 4100 feet and a peak count of 39 in Clover Hollow on 12 June (Dillard and Scott).

Vesper Sparrow. Four records, all of single birds from Clover Hollow and New River Valley (Larner et al.).

Grasshopper Sparrow. Uncommon and local, found in only three locations with single birds reported by five parties in either Sinking Creek Valley or along Spruce Run. Two birds were seen in Clover Hollow on 12 June (Dillard and Scott) and the peak count of 4 were seen there on 9 June (Purdy).

Song Sparrow. Common in the lowlands with a few records up to 4000 feet and a peak count of 72 singing birds along Sugar Run on 10 June (Dillard and Scott).

Dark-eyed Junco. Very common over 3000 feet with a peak count of 49 on Salt Pond Mountain, Potts Mountain, War Spur and Branch Loop Trails on 7 June (Dillard and Scott). There were numerous breeding records including one of nest building, five nests with eggs, three nests with young and one of adults carrying food.

Red-winged Blackbird. Common below 2500 feet with a peak count of 51 in the New River Valley on 9 June (Mitchells and Silverman).

Eastern Meadowlark. Common in the lowlands with a peak count of 41 in the New River Valley on 9 June (Mitchells and Silverman). An adult was seen carrying food in the New River Valley on 8 June (Larner et al.).

Common Grackle. Very common up to at least 3000 feet with one report from Mountain Lake. The peak count of 22 was along the New River on 8 June (Kinzie and Opengari). An adult was seen carrying food along Stony Creek on 8 June (Grimm et al.).

Brown-headed Cowbird. Fairly common at all elevations with a peak count of 33 in Clover Hollow on 9 June (Purdy).

Orchard Oriole. Fairly common in the lowlands with a peak count of 5 in Sinking Creek Valley on 11 June (Middleton and Teuber). Adults were seen carrying food to young in a nest in Clover Hollow on 10 June (Larner et al.).

Northern Oriole. Common in the lowlands with a peak count of 22 in the New River Valley on 9 June (Mitchells and Silverman). An adult was seen carrying food to a nest in Stony Creek area on 10 June (Kinzie) and one was carrying food to a nest along Sugar Run on 9 June (Middleton and Teuber).

House Finch. Four reports, all from residential areas in or near Pearisburg and Narrows, with a peak count of 3 in Pearisburg cemetery on 8 June (Larner et al.). According to a Pearisburg resident, House Finches had nested but nest destroyed by neighborhood boys (Middleton and Teuber).

Red Crossbill. Reported by seven parties with one sighting of 2 birds at Mann's Bog near War Spur Trail on 11 June (Donahue and Hunley) and the remainder all on Rt. 613 north of the Biological Station where a flock (including streaked young birds which indicated that this year's brood had already fledged) was seen on several different days, the peak number being 50 on 8 June (Grimm et al.).

American Goldfinch. Common at all elevations with a peak count of 58 in Clover Hollow on 7 June (Middleton and Teuber).

House Sparrow. Common in the lowlands with a peak count of 46 in the New River Valley on 9 June (Mitchells and Silverman).

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THE SECOND VIRGINIA PIEDMONT RECORD OF WESTERN GREBE

JOHN R. FULTON

A Western Grebe, *Aechmophorus occidentalis*, was sighted on John H. Kerr Reservoir by Greg Hennemuth on 17 April 1983 and by me on 18-21 April. The solitary bird was sighted off the west wing dike within easy sight distance of VA 4. It was accompanied by a small group of Common Mergansers and Horned Grebes. The weather was quite unsettled during this period, with unusually high amounts of precipitation - the reservoir was seven feet above normal. There was an unusually late snow squall on 18 April. Nevertheless, the long neck with dark stripe was quite distinguishable on the bird. It remained in the same location for five days, always in association with the Common Mergansers and Horned Grebes. The word was passed to members of the VSO, several of whom were able to confirm the sighting, including John and Thelma Dalmas and Myriam Moore. The bird was photographed by me and several other visitors. It left the area on 21 April to the disappointment of those who planned to visit on the weekend. This is only the fifth sighting on record of a Western Grebe in Virginia, the second in the Piedmont.

Route 1, Box 76, Boydton, Virginia 23917

CHIMNEY SWIFT NESTING IN A HOLLOW TREE

CRAIG TUMER, JAMES HILL AND DAVID W. JOHNSTON

Chimney Swifts, *Chaetura pelagica*, have only rarely been observed nesting in natural cavities, the recent records being associated with woodpecker cavities or hollow trees. Because so few records exist in the literature *Wilson Bulletin*, 91:154, 1979) and because fewer suitable chimneys are being built today, with the associated possibility of changes in swift nesting behavior, this note should be of interest.

A Chimney Swift nest was found at Mountain Lake Biological Station (3800 feet) Giles County, Virginia, at the edge of Riopel Pond on 15 June 1983. It was located in a large, hollow black gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*) stump, 7.3 m high, 1.64 m in circumference, and open at the top. On 15, 16 and 17 June, swifts were observed flying into and out of the tree. On 19 June a nest containing four eggs was observed half way down the stump. On 29 June fragments of three eggs plus one whole egg were found via a small opening into the base of the tree. A swift was seen flying into the tree also on 3 July. On 9 and 11 July, noises of the young were heard coming from the tree, and the young presumably fledged in mid July. A second nest, 150 m away, was located in a large chimney of the laboratory building, a site traditionally used by swifts for at least 15 years. Noisy young were also heard in this chimney through mid July.

It is not known whether or not the hollow tree had been used in past years, but since no old nest fragments or eggshells were found at the base of the tree other than from the present nesting, previous nesting seems unlikely. Perhaps the population of nesting swifts at the Station has risen in recent years so that less favored nesting sites are being sought.

We appreciate the assistance of Ralph W. Dexter in preparing this note.

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NOTES ON CLAPPER RAIL BROODS AT CHINCOTEAGUE

BROOKE MEANLEY

During the period 18-20 July 1983, I had an opportunity to observe several adult Clapper Rails, *Rallus longirostris*, with broods at Chincoteague, Accomack County, Virginia. One family group was composed of an adult and three young approximately six weeks of age; another, a pair of adults with downy chicks about one week old. I estimated the ages of the young Clappers from my experience in raising Clapper Rails in captivity from the newly-hatched chick to maturity.

The family with older young was kept under almost constant observation for three hours on 18 July, as they foraged during a period of high tide in a narrow ditch close to the causeway leading to the town of Chincoteague. The water in the ditch was six to eight inches in depth.

This was a period when the young were becoming independent, one of them foraging on its own, often as much as 200 feet from its parent. Two of the three young followed the parent closely except when it foraged completely exposed in the middle of the ditch, at which time they moved along the marsh edge. When the parent stopped to bathe and preen in the middle of the ditch, the young would stand about four feet away partly concealed at the edge of the marsh watching. The parent would preen for six to nine minutes following a bath.

The ditch was pocked with fiddler crab, *Uca*, holes. The adult bird often foraged rapidly, poking its bill into one hole after another. One of the young stood motionless by a fiddler hole for eight minutes, presumably hoping for a crab to appear.

Once when one of the young was separated from its parent, it noticed an American Black Duck, *Anas rubripes*, feeding about 30 feet away in the same ditch. The young rail, probably mistaking it for its parent, ran toward the duck. But, when about 15 feet away, it quickly turned about and ran into the marsh. Shortly thereafter, the adult rail was standing and preening in the ditch and did not move as the duck foraged within three feet of it.

The following day, 19 July, at high tide, presumably the same adult and three young were in the same section of the ditch. This time only one of the young rails was following its parent begging for food; the other two were foraging independently, at times 50 feet away.

On 20 July, a pair of adults and week-old downy chicks were noted in a narrow band of saltmarsh cordgrass, *Spartina alterniflora*, next to a tidal creek that was about 100 feet wide. The adults endeavored to coax the chicks to swim across the creek, to the extensive marsh on the opposite side. Twice, as I watched, both adults swam approximately half way across the creek, then turned around in mid-stream to see if the chicks were following. The chicks would not follow so the adults returned to the narrow band of cover where the chicks were waiting for them. Although chicks of that early age can swim, it may have been the width of the tidal creek and/or the presence of many noisy adult and juvenile Laughing Gulls, *Larus atricilla*, nearby that frightened them.

About one-fourth of a mile away from where the above observations were made, I found two dead Clapper Rail chicks, two to three weeks old, in what had been a nesting colony of Laughing Gulls, and where many young gulls were assembled to be fed. The Clapper chick carcasses were among many shells of crustaceans, one of the types of food fed to the young gulls.

OSPREYS NEST AT JOHN H. KERR RESERVOIR

JOHN R. FULTON

Two pairs of Ospreys, *Pandion haliaetus*, have established nests and successfully fledged young at John H. Kerr Reservoir. These nests were watched regularly from 30 May to 10 August 1983. The nests were located on steel transmission towers at Clarksville adjacent to the railroad bridge on the north side of the reservoir, and at Eagle Point (navigation buoy 9). The tower at Clarksville is located over water; Eagle Point tower is on land.

The nest at Clarksville was approximately one week advanced from the nest at Eagle Point, as the Clarksville hen was observed sitting upright in the nest with wings outstretched in apparent brooding posture on/about 6 June, whereas this behavior was not observed at the Eagle Point nest until about 15 June.

The Clarksville nest had fledged two young by 1 August. The Eagle Point nest also fledged two young by 8 August.

The Clarksville birds remained in the vicinity of the nest for about three weeks, landing either on the tower or snags along the shoreline. The young birds were often observed making what seemed to be practice dives to develop their fishing skills. The Eagle Point birds extended out from the nesting area within two weeks of fledging and could not be distinguished from other ospreys, on the reservoir.

Just when the success of these nesting attempts seemed sealed and was heralded to the news media and the general public, a sequence of events took shape which made it all too clear why these birds are listed as threatened.

On 15 September, an Osprey was found dead under a power pole in Merifield Acres Subdivision, about 4 miles east of Clarksville. This bird had caught an 8-inch catfish and apparently flew to the nearest perch to consume his catch. The pole was located about 500 ft. from the water and contained a transformer. The bird contacted ground and power lines as it had burn marks on the right wing and left foot. This bird was identified as a bird of the year by the white tips of the contour feathers on the dorsal side. It was conjectured that this was one of the birds raised from the Clarksville nest.

The nest located on the tower at Eagle Point mysteriously disappeared during the week of 11-17 September. This nest was located on the very top of the tower and seemed to be anchored firmly in place. However, sometime between 11 and 18 September, the nest completely disappeared without a trace. The tower is about 250 feet from the shoreline; a thorough search in the vicinity of the tower left no clue as to the fate of the nest. There were rainstorms on 13 and 14 September; however, no unusually high winds were observed in Boydton, 7 miles north.

These latest events are, perhaps, temporary setbacks from which the breeding birds will soon recover upon their return next breeding season.

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SIGHTING OF SABINE'S GULL AT CHINCOTEAGUE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

CLAUDIA WILDS

On 1 September 1983, Warren Harrington, a birder from Massachusetts, and I were birding the east end of Swan Cove (F Pool) from the road, through the opening to the north immediately east of the tollbooth on the causeway between Swan Cove and Tom's Cove. At about 6 p.m. Warren noticed a small gull flying in to join a mixed flock of gulls loafing in and around a cove at the east end of the impoundment. He immediately called it a Sabine's Gull, *Xema sabini*, because of its distinctive wing pattern. I did not pick it up until it had landed. Because it was at least 200 yards away, we both focused our scopes upon it, and all my subsequent observation was through a Questar set at 80x. The light was excellent at that hour as we were looking northeast, and the bird nearly filled the view.

For the next 15-20 minutes it repeated a cycle of behavior 5 or 6 times: it landed, swam quietly for 10-15 seconds, bathed and preened vigorously for a couple of minutes, swam again for a few seconds, and took off on a low, brief, circling flight, and landed once more in the same spot. On its last flight it disappeared before we could switch successfully from scope to binoculars. Because I was watching only through a scope I never saw the bird in full flight, but the extended wing was always observable when the bird took off.

Size: The gull could be directly compared with several Laughing Gulls resting on the flats to its left, a single adult Ring-billed Gull standing in the water to its left, and four Herring Gulls (including one adult) and one Great Black-backed Gull, all standing in the water to its right. At no time did the visiting gull appear to stand rather than swim. It was appreciably smaller than the Laughing Gulls, even smaller than the Common Black-headed Gull that had been present with Laughing Gulls most of the spring in the Chincoteague beach parking lots. Through binoculars it could easily have been dismissed at that distance as a Bonaparte's Gull or a Forster's Tern.

Shape: It appeared similar in bulk to a Bonaparte's Gull except for an attenuated, long-winged look. The primary tips extended well beyond the tail. The tail, visible in preening and on take-off, did not appear neatly forked, but the outer two pairs of rectrices were clearly longer than the central pairs. The black bill was thin and appeared round in cross-section, without an apparent gonydeal angle. Its pale tip was only occasionally perceptible and only against a dark background. Though the bill was about half head-length, it seemed shorter when the tip was not silhouetted.

Plumage: The head and hindneck seemed to be in molt. The forehead was whitish, blending with a medium gray wash that extended over the crown and down the hindneck, fading to white just above the upper back. The sides of the head were also gray, and the gray extended down the sides of the neck but was separated from the gray hindneck by a broad but ill-defined white stripe. The chin, throat and foreneck were white. There was no trace of the black line that forms the posterior edge to the gray hood of an adult Sabine's Gull in alternate plumage and is usually partially retained in basic plumage.

Otherwise the bird was in fully adult, fairly fresh plumage. The back and half the inner wing were the same clear gray as the mantle of the adult Herring and Ring-billed Gulls nearby; the gray extended from leading edge to the trailing edge next to the body, but narrowed to a point on the leading edge at the carpal joint. The inner 4-5 primaries and their coverts and the remainder of the inner wing were white, the inner wing thus divided into two triangles of gray and white. The outer 5-6 primaries were black with prominent white tips and with white on the inner webs which sometimes showed as streaks in the black feathers when the bird was bathing. At rest the wing coverts were mostly gray, with a white border along the edge of the wing that broadened posteriorly to the tertials. If the bird lifted its wings at all, the wing showed an edging of black, obviously formed by the outer primaries or their coverts. The tail and the underparts were entirely white.

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VIRGINIA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS—1983-84 SEASON

TETA KAIN

Calmes Neck replaced Chancellorville—the only change this year from the 34 Virginia Christmas bird counts that were submitted to *The Raven* for publication last year. Four other counts were submitted for inclusion in *American Birds* but were not submitted to *The Raven*: Danville, Manassas Bull Run, Philpott Reservoir and Wachapreague. The Sweet Briar count was submitted to *The Raven*, but was apparently not sent to *American Birds*. Limited space does not allow inclusion of those counts that overlap into Virginia, but with circle centers outside the boundaries of the state.

Overall participation was down slightly from last year. This year's total of 627 different individuals taking part in all the counts was just 9 less than last year's total of 636. Of this total, 92 individuals (14.7 percent) participated in two counts; 33 were on three counts; 7 on four counts; 2 on five counts; and 1 on six counts. When these multi-participating observers are added to the total number of participants on all counts, the number jumps to 819, a figure closer to last year's number of 854 counters.

Even though there were fewer observers, total party-hours were up slightly to 2891 from last year's 2861 and the 1981-82 season total of 2851. One hundred ninety-six species were seen this year, plus one subspecies (Green Pheasant), one color phase (Blue Goose), one race (Ipswich Sparrow) and two hybrids (Black Duck x Mallard and Eurasian Wigeon x American Wigeon). With changes implemented to coincide with the newly revised *A.O.U. Checklist*, the cumulative total of species seen on all Virginia Christmas Counts to date stands at 285. This figure includes the only new species added this year—the Common Ground Dove recorded at Chincoteague.

Most counts were conducted under reasonably good weather conditions with temperatures ranging from a low of 0° during the Breaks and Lexington counts to a high of 50° during the course of the Newport News and Back Bay count days. Waynesboro birders suffered under the most difficult conditions with fog and freezing rain creating a build-up of an inch or more of ice in some areas.

Balmier conditions prevailed for most other counts with virtually all but two reporting clear to partially cloudy skies. Back Bay and Chincoteague counts—both held on 29 December—experienced light intermittent rain. The only area to report snow cover was the Breaks. Wind was not a troublesome factor in most cases, but gusts up to 35 and 40 miles an hour at both Little Creek and Back Bay made birding difficult in some locations. About half the fresh water areas were partially to wholly frozen, but the state had not experienced any prolonged cold spells prior to the count period and virtually all salt water was ice-free.

Eight counts exceeded the 100-species mark with Cape Charles leading the state with 163, one shy of last year's 164 total. Lynchburg, again this year, led the Piedmont with a total of 87 species. Northern Shenandoah Valley tied with Blacksburg for high honors of 90 species each for the Mountains and Valleys region.

(Summary Continued on Page 30)

TABLE 1. (following 8 pages). The 1983-84 Christmas bird counts in Virginia. The underlined figures indicate an unusual species or an unusual number of individuals for that particular count.

	1. Chincoteague	2. Cape Charles	3. Little Creek	4. Back Bay	5. Newport News	6. Mathews	7. Williamsburg	8. Hopewell	9. Brooke	10. Fort Belvoir	11. Lake Anna	12. Gordonsville	13. Charlottesville	14. Warren	15. Sweet Briar
Date	12/29	12/30	12/31	12/29	12/17	1/1	12/18	12/17	12/20	1/2	1/1	12/18	1/1	12/18	12/31
Red-throated Loon	7	6	12	617	...	6	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
Common Loon	137	17	11	248	15	11	3	...	...	...	111	...	...	...	...
Pied-billed Grebe	12	34	31	...	26	4	32	12	1	...	19	...	...	...	...
Horned Grebe	155	25	28	22	157	35	8	...	4	1	33	...	...	...	...
Northern Gannet	1	...	23	421	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
American White Pelican	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Great Cormorant	...	...	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Double-crested Cormorant	6	11	450	45	220	2	148	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
American Bittern	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Great Blue Heron	72	103	169	48	30	26	69	80	34	102	21	4	8	6	...
Great Egret	16	1	5	1	4	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Snowy Egret	9	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Little Blue Heron	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tricolored Heron	2	5	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cattle Egret	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Green-backed Heron	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Black-crowned Night-Heron	24	7	3	1	9	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tundra Swan	1025	180	7	92	...	232	198	...	92	2	...	...	...	...	...
Mute Swan	13	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
Greater White-fronted Goose	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Snow Goose	...	...	109	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Snow Goose (white form)	4587	875	...	1500	...	...	5	21	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Snow Goose (blue form)	32	14	8	...	...	...	...	180	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Brant	4523	5445	1000	...	4	32	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Canada Goose	1834	2209	129	631	17	388	3660	10,445	260	2613	121	999	717	799	...
Wood Duck	5	8	1	4	3	...	9	414	...	15	...	...	...	...	...
Green-winged Teal	35	24	15	41	36	...	86	48	...	7	1	...	...	...	...
American Black Duck	2444	1592	190	157	15	66	100	458	325	1314	66	...	46	21	...
Black Duck x Mallard	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Mallard	929	1287	730	315	536	142	958	4174	115	877	600	56	49	215	...
Northern Pintail	174	78	...	264	...	...	496	83	...	1	1	...	...	1	...
Blue-winged Teal	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	4
Northern Shoveler	97	7	35	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gadwall	72	71	165	55	87	2	4	...	2	1	9	...	1	2	...
Eurasian Wigeon x Am. Wigeon	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
American Wigeon	5	142	125	34	322	...	32	107	...	...	21	...	2	...	...
Canvasback	4	37	361	1	310	139	680	...	5	6	...	4	2	...	...
Redhead	3	110	148	1	4	182	1	...	4	...	7	...	4	...	...
Ring-necked Duck	3	177	68	...	16	4	268	76	16	...	...	2	...	2	...
Greater Scaup	11	13	67	7	...	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lesser Scaup	2	26	137	4	7	23	9	8	2100	8	11	2	3	3	...
Scaup, sp.	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	1	...	...	...	...
Common Eider	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
King Eider	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Harlequin Duck	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Oldsquaw	252	123	12	...	55	107	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...
Black Scoter	217	670	23	15	1	33	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Surf Scoter	409	2346	27	65	12	98	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
White-winged Scoter	75	29	9	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scoter, sp.	...	721	...	...	40	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Common Goldeneye	178	93	40	33	147	235	50	2	8	6	11	...	2	1	...
Bufflehead	740	1086	570	18	477	873	130	3	4	40	20	...	3	...	...
Hooded Merganser	10	130	248	8	4	18	154	9	19	14	108	4	11	4	...
Common Merganser	3	2	1	1	...	1	...	27	21	1247	2	...	...	...	...
Red-breasted Merganser	88	192	280	462	35	185	10	...	2	43	1	...	...	...	...
Ruddy Duck	2	23	290	...	207	2380	962	9	1	6	3	...	...	...	1
Black Vulture	3	6	5	5	...	3	28	4	3	...	20	60	28	28	2
Turkey Vulture	100	133	...	5	2	21	147	27	41	5	57	170	63	181	1
Bald Eagle	...	...	...	...	2	...	14	...	...	15	...	...	...	...	...
Northern Harrier	31	51	8	20	1	5	6	12	...	2	2	...	...	...	...

[illegible]

[illegible][illegible]

Date	12/29	12/30	12/31	12/29	12/17	1/1	12/18	12/17	12/20	1/2	1/1	12/18	1/1	12/18	12/31
1. Chincoteague	14	15	11	9	11	4	12	3	...	1	...	1	5	2	...
2. Cape Charles	4	10	...	8	3	1	10	2	...	8	10	2	8	7	...
3. Little Creek	...	...	...	2	...	1	7	3	...	6	...	...	...	1	...
4. Back Bay	2	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5. Newport News	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6. Matthews	26	10	20	11	33	25	30	29	8	23	8	4	9	17	1
7. Williamsburg	...	...	...	4	1	...	...	1	...	6	...	...	...	...	...
8. Hopewell	35	46	40	34	19	35	47	94	39	254	15	38	57	52	11
9. Brooke	2	17	8	8	6	2	18	30	8	29	3	11	7	19	3
10. Fort Belvoir	42	88	51	49	17	34	75	82	45	375	39	47	72	93	21
11. Lake Anna	13	5	1	5	3	3	5	7	10	51	7	6	12	10	1
12. Gordonsville	182	223	120	171	76	81	145	138	39	346	13	18	61	65	18
13. Charlottesville	4	3	23	15	4	7	22	16	11	67	9	6	24	24	9
14. Warren	3	7	3	4	...	6	5	...	1	...	...	4	5	1	...
15. Sweet Briar	29	58	...	...	9	...	13	...	...	...	...	3	53	...	...
Tree Swallow	981	...	...	85	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Blue Jay	96	60	73	79	34	73	51	64	110	591	14	41	107	43	30
American Crow	411	1082	740	165	261	546	274	334	280	2485	497	787	1059	779	170
Fish Crow	24	115	291	6	36	5	30	9	...	196	...	44	3	...	...
Common Raven	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	8	7	2
Black-capped Chickadee	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	22	2	3	9	...	...	...
Chickadee, sp.	177	366	216	117	208	200	303	275	174	1409	137	147	264	248	40
Tufted Titmouse	67	73	100	75	118	107	166	114	117	765	32	45	105	100	20
Red-breasted Nuthatch	24	59	2	6	1	2	1	...	17	93	38	4	40	12	...
White-breasted Nuthatch	7	4	8	18	5	1	46	53	27	204	10	39	54	51	9
Brown-headed Nuthatch	54	8	22	5	...	7	63	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Brown Creeper	26	25	28	23	12	8	35	32	3	91	13	6	10	4	4
Carolina Wren	111	298	107	137	72	150	170	213	43	314	25	29	144	146	22
House Wren	1	16	2	1	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Winter Wren	7	16	10	4	3	4	15	6	5	19	...	1	6	...	...
Sedge Wren	...	9	...	9	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	6	...	...
Marsh Wren	...	3	...	13	6	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Golden-crowned Kinglet	54	86	51	49	18	8	90	58	11	136	52	31	68	35	5
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	18	44	21	27	10	11	147	39	3	38	4	...	9	6	...
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
Eastern Bluebird	103	17	...	53	13	289	258	87	35	104	62	134	112	205	8
Swainson's Thrush	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45	4	1	17	9	1
Hermit Thrush	14	44	22	19	1	22	9	11	9	...	...	...	...	...	...
American Robin	1159	360	2855	635	21	269	284	122	66	183	58	9	57	24	...
Gray Catbird	13	17	4	18	1	9	2	1	1	3	...	1	1	...	...
Northern Mockingbird	50	94	110	83	120	123	83	97	83	264	103	92	165	158	20
Brown Thrasher	4	15	10	22	4	11	9	5	...	4	...	...	...	...	...
Water Pipit	4	90	...	45	...	2	...	35	...	10	...	200	...	...	...
Cedar Waxwing	28	113	618	111	22	199	88	477	135	539	183	42	119	106	14
Loggerhead Shrike	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	3	1	6	...	...
European Starling	3947	6573	2355	1620	2492	991	434	972	800	3342	278	579	818	817	150
Solitary Vireo	...	2	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Orange-crowned Warbler	...	2	6	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Black-throated Blue Warbler	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Yellow-rumped Warbler	4626	5652	429	2070	641	853	562	77	26	270	40	41	110	60	20
Blackburnian Warbler	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pine Warbler	29	13	9	20	5	11	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Palm Warbler	6	144	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Black-and-white Warbler	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Common Yellowthroat	1	1	...	3	...	...	1	...	...	2	1	1	...	2	...
Yellow-breasted Chat	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Northern Cardinal	164	475	354	157	144	320	276	352	200	757	170	146	316	360	180
Rufous-sided Towhee	67	71	53	57	38	81	43	9	1	24	...	13	12	1	...
American Tree Sparrow	...	7	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	16	1	8	2	...	...

Date	12/17	12/31	12/17	12/18	12/30	12/17	12/31	12/28	12/26	12/20	12/17	12/18	12/17	12/17	12/17	12/18	12/31	12/17
16. Lynchburg	19	5	32	11	...	8	8	2	9	1	1	20	19	2	1	9	5	1
17. Calmes Neck	4	1	2	4	...	3	...	...	1	...	...	7	11	2	...	2	1	3
18. No. Shenandoah Valley	2	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	2
19. Shenandoah NP-Luray	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20. Big Flat Mt.	18	1	33	30	...	14	10	5	5	...	2	9	20	17	8	11	19	...
21. Rockingham Co.	2	3	6	...	3	2	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	7	1	1	2	...
22. Augusta Co.	58	43	104	34	20	30	56	4	20	14	3	26	12	44	8	16	18	3
23. Waynesboro	31	6	17	12	5	3	3	2	13	16	3	10	17	10	...	8	1	7
24. Lexington	101	58	218	105	33	34	107	10	41	36	25	40	55	66	23	43	53	27
25. Peaks of Otter	11	8	23	15	6	5	6	...	6	5	6	3	7	14	10	7	15	3
26. Clifton Forge	59	71	73	28	5	6	12	1	3	5	6	22	42	25	1	14	24	2
27. Fincastle	35	7	52	24	13	6	11	...	11	23	11	20	17	6	2	5	28	9
28. Roanoke	4	...	2	3	1	1	1	...	...	...	4	...	4	...	6	11	1	2
29. Blacksburg	4	17	49	41	1	55	35	36	...	...	...	47	...	50	4	...	...	...
30. Tazewell	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
31. Glade Spring	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
32. Nickelsville	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
33. Breaks Interstate Park	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
34. Wise Co.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
16. Lynchburg	19	5	32	11	...	8	8	2	9	1	1	20	19	2	1	9	5	1
17. Calmes Neck	4	1	2	4	...	3	...	...	1	...	...	7	11	2	...	2	1	3
18. No. Shenandoah Valley	2	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	7	1	1	2	...
19. Shenandoah NP-Luray	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20. Big Flat Mt.	18	1	33	30	...	14	10	5	5	...	2	9	20	17	8	11	19	...
21. Rockingham Co.	2	3	6	...	3	2	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	7	1	1	2	...
22. Augusta Co.	58	43	104	34	20	30	56	4	20	14	3	26	12	44	8	16	18	3
23. Waynesboro	31	6	17	12	5	3	3	2	13	16	3	10	17	10	...	8	1	7
24. Lexington	101	58	218	105	33	34	107	10	41	36	25	40	55	66	23	43	53	27
25. Peaks of Otter	11	8	23	15	6	5	6	...	6	5	6	3	7	14	10	7	15	3
26. Clifton Forge	59	71	73	28	5	6	12	1	3	5	6	22	42	25	1	14	24	2
27. Fincastle	35	7	52	24	13	6	11	...	11	23	11	20	17	6	2	5	28	9
28. Roanoke	4	...	2	3	1	1	1	...	...	...	4	...	4	...	6	11	1	2
29. Blacksburg	4	17	49	41	1	55	35	36	...	...	...	47	...	50	4	...	...	...
30. Tazewell	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
31. Glade Spring	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
32. Nickelsville	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
33. Breaks Interstate Park	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
34. Wise Co.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
16. Lynchburg	19	5	32	11	...	8	8	2	9	1	1	20	19	2	1	9	5	1
17. Calmes Neck	4	1	2	4	...	3	...	...	1	...	...	7	11	2	...	2	1	3
18. No. Shenandoah Valley	2	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	7	1	1	2	...
19. Shenandoah NP-Luray	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20. Big Flat Mt.	18	1	33	30	...	14	10	5	5	...	2	9	20	17	8	11	19	...
21. Rockingham Co.	2	3	6	...	3	2	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	7	1	1	2	...</

	1. Chincoteague	2. Cape Charles	3. Little Creek	4. Back Bay	5. Newport News	6. Mathews	7. Williamsburg	8. Hopewell	9. Brooke	10. Fort Belvoir	11. Lake Anna	12. Gordonsville	13. Charlottesville	14. Warren	15. Sweet Briar
Date	12/29	12/30	12/31	12/29	12/17	1/1	12/18	12/17	12/20	1/2	1/1	12/18	1/1	12/18	12/31
Chipping Sparrow	12	4	2	35	...	8	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Field Sparrow	41	294	41	39	49	274	328	102	68	293	188	210	322	165	4
Vesper Sparrow	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
Savannah Sparrow	97	235	21	123	52	76	101	52	16	23	3	...	...	...	...
Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow	3	22	1	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sharp-tailed Sparrow	19	20	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Seaside Sparrow	3	3	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fox Sparrow	32	46	45	38	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Song Sparrow	303	945	179	228	200	245	508	226	183	685	170	213	338	622	20
Swamp Sparrow	58	148	37	142	11	15	105	40	11	178	10	...	30	9	...
White-throated Sparrow	388	2104	945	538	660	816	1192	753	650	1477	317	292	816	1303	200
White-crowned Sparrow	...	1	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	1	46	23	205	...
Dark-eyed Junco	351	219	680	239	317	1075	587	430	900	1956	651	405	707	840	65
Lapland Longspur	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Snow Bunting	...	68	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Red-winged Blackbird	3242	8274	3350	10,000	750	1931	1284	536	900	497	376	6	1147	231	...
Eastern Meadowlark	148	309	58	205	96	109	260	109	8	16	25	52	25	188	...
Rusty Blackbird	76	43	9	15	...	...	27	...	...	40	1	...	...	3	...
Boat-tailed Grackle	1670	1862	178	154	5	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Common Grackle	4186	26,368	1345	533	36	1849	81	65	...	113	...	...	...	80	...
Brown-headed Cowbird	123	2316	335	196	400	120	152	57	...	362	...	...	70	3	7
Blackbird, sp.	...	...	...	...	35	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Northern Oriole	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
Purple Finch	39	14	28	21	12	13	13	34	27	17	2	5	69	71	9
House Finch	51	73	69	1	32	17	70	110	86	136	160	141	130	148	2
Red Crossbill	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pine Siskin	...	...	30	...	1	...	4	50	3	42	1	...	...	2	...
American Goldfinch	193	102	63	74	127	196	147	120	782	74	45	116	219	26	...
Evening Grosbeak	8	33	47	10	17	38	76	251	56	105	2	6	53	124	12
House Sparrow	310	121	246	122	415	117	194	108	110	701	91	107	74	303	90
Total Species	148	163	129	132	118	107	111	102	83	98	82	69	78	81	42
Total Individuals	51,680	94,373	65,607	30,350	21,758	19,144	19,519	27,666	11,450	39,363	5811	5720	9189	10,308	1505
Total Party Hours	121	188	120	115	73	86	88	114	80	238	63	37	92	92	18
Number of Observers	23	44	26	31	25	28	30	29	17	70	17	9	15	17	10

	16. Lynchburg	17. Calmes Neck	18. No. Shenandoah Valley	19. Shenandoah NP-Luray	20. Big Flat Mt.	21. Rockingham Co.	22. Augusta Co.	23. Waynesboro	24. Lexington	25. Peaks of Otter	26. Clifton Forge	27. Fincastle	28. Roanoke	29. Blacksburg	30. Tazewell	31. Glade Spring	32. Nickelsville	33. Breaks Interstate Park	34. Wise Co.
Date	12/17	12/31	12/17	12/18	12/30	12/17	12/31	12/28	12/26	12/20	12/17	12/18	12/17	12/17	12/17	12/17	12/18	12/31	12/17
Chipping Sparrow	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...
Field Sparrow	70	10	150	127	...	10	57	21	4	8	6	30	11	45	36	92	234	18	46
Vesper Sparrow	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Savannah Sparrow	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sharp-tailed Sparrow	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Seaside Sparrow	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fox Sparrow	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Song Sparrow	33	54	144	131	6	41	108	67	47	29	39	119	152	195	82	101	274	50	219
Swamp Sparrow	4	6	18	...	...	1	2	2	1	...	1	2	3	1	2	4	13	3	28
White-throated Sparrow	68	138	429	455	112	230	354	98	454	118	50	285	362	408	17	156	357	54	39
White-crowned Sparrow	4	50	155	63	...	50	80	24	35	...	1	172	6	85	...	55	26	1	4
Dark-eyed Junco	89	264	1859	1197	202	249	1151	343	604	189	197	316	241	491	173	191	658	148	222
Lapland Longspur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Snow Bunting	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Red-winged Blackbird	35	8	5578	313	...	150	3	3	4	...	...	1	...	20	1	204	4	1	11
Eastern Meadowlark	39	52	28	45	...	4	38	...	10	...	78	78	8	65	20	48	7	6	...
Rusty Blackbird	...	2	305	12	...	...	22	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	2	42	...	30	...
Boat-tailed Grackle	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Common Grackle	...	7	222	342	...	2659	81	72	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	11,400	41	62	...
Brown-headed Cowbird	7	49	3245	16	...	600	332	613	...	...	8	13	...	8	2	7	3	1	...
Blackbird, sp.	...	...	...	...	...	...	200,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Northern Oriole	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Purple Finch	15	16	228	46	12	6	51	7	89	5	35	32	21	49	6	10	66	15	16
House Finch	01	234	910	74	...	147	341	72	137	...	44	262	215	308	14	24	258	1	56
Red Crossbill	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pine Siskin	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
American Goldfinch	31	84	351	99	5	47	137	62	53	13	64	125	139	233	42	87	179	22	143
Evening Grosbeak	42	72	238	436	14	86	94	17	33	...	59	80	66	34	82	2	19	4	28
House Sparrow	99	247	...	526	...	716	675	75	15	...	43	180	118	330	187	433	101	16	152
Total Species	87	70	90	79	40	73	72	57	69	37	61	79	82	90	67	66	72	60	64
Total Individuals	77	5609	404,805	14,092	797	10,141	14,565	205,136	4222	897	1772	6659	8265	10,195	2940	23,291	6472	1056	2702
Total Party Hours	33	42	219	116	28	53	81	38	31	23	37	101	116	111	48	45	58	22	64
Number of Observers	46	14	54	41	3	...	...	14	13	8	12	24	32	45	14	15	16	11	16

1. CHINCOTEAGUE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. Center 2 miles N of center of Chincoteague. Dec. 29. Twenty-three observers in 16 parties. Total party-hours, 121 (100 on foot, 21 by car) plus 4 hours owling; total party-miles, 362 (71 on foot, 291 by car) plus 31 miles owling. Compiler: F. R. Scott.
2. CAPE CHARLES. Center 1.5 miles SE of Capeville P.O. Dec. 30. Forty-four observers in 9-26 parties. Total party-hours, 188 (153 on foot, 29 by car, 6 by boat) plus 9 hours owling; total party-miles, 439 (119 on foot, 295 by car, 25 boat) plus 10 miles owling. Compiler: Henry Armistead.
3. LITTLE CREEK. Center 3.8 miles NE of Kempsville in Virginia Beach. Dec. 31. Twenty-six observers in 12 parties. Total party-hours, 120 (83 on foot, 37 by car) plus 2.5 hours owling; total party-miles, 508 (46 on foot, 462 by car) plus 12 miles owling. Compiler: Paul Sykes.
4. BACK BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. Center 1.5 miles E of Back Bay. Dec. 29. Thirty-one observers in 13 parties. Total party-hours, 115 (92 on foot, 23 by car) plus 2 hours owling; total party-miles, 402 (48 on foot, 354 by car) plus 10 miles owling. Compiler: Paul Sykes.
5. NEWPORT NEWS. Center SW corner of Langley Air Force Base. Dec 17. Twenty-five observers in 9 parties. Total party-hours, 73 (51 on foot, 22 by car) plus 1 hour owling; total party-miles, 299 (37 on foot, 262 by car) plus 3 miles owling. Compiler: W. P. Smith.
6. MATHEWS. Center 0.5 mile E of Beaverlett P.O. Jan 1. Twenty-eight observers in 9-11 parties. Total party-hours, 86 (47 on foot, 39 by car) plus 3 hours owling; total party-miles, 401 (49 on foot, 352 by car) plus 9 miles owling. Compiler: Mary Pulley.
7. WILLAMSBURG. Center Colonial Williamsburg Information Center. Dec. 18. Thirty observers, 29 in 10 parties, 1 at feeders. Total party-hours, 88 (60 on foot, 28 by car) plus 3 hours at feeders, 8.5 owling; total party-miles, 456 (53 on foot, 403 by car) plus 12 miles owling. Compiler: Bill Williams.
8. HOPEWELL. Center Curles Neck. Dec. 17. Twenty-nine observers in 12 parties. Total party-hours, 114 (93 on foot, 19 by car, 2 by boat) plus 6 hours owling; total party-miles, 342 (59 on foot, 271 by car, 12 by boat) plus 13 miles owling. Compiler: F.R. Scott.
9. BROOKE. Center 3 miles ESE of Brooke. Dec. 20. Seventeen observers in 11 parties. Total party-hours, 80 (60 on foot, 20 by car); total party-miles, 164 (40 on foot, 124 by car). Compiler: E.T. McKnight.
10. FORT BELVOIR. Center Pohick Church. Jan 2. Seventy observers, 67 in 43 parties, 3 at feeders. Total party-hours, 238 (217 on foot, 21 by car) plus 13 hours at feeders, 3.5 owling; total party-miles, 526 (176 on foot, 350 by car) plus 6 miles owling. Compiler: Jackson Abbott.
11. LAKE ANNA. Center VA. 208 bridge over Lake Anna. Jan. 1. Seventeen observers, 16 in 6-8 parties, 1 at feeders. Total party-hours, 63 (31 on foot, 32 by car) plus 6 hours at feeders, 4 owling; total party-miles, 354 (25 on foot, 329 by car) plus 22 miles owling. Compiler: Jack Mozingo.

12. GORDONSVILLE. Center junction US 15 and VA 33 & 231 in Gordonsville. Dec. 18. Nine observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours, 37 (20 on foot, 17 by car) plus 2 hours owling; total party-miles, 276 (13 on foot, 263 by car) plus 8 miles owling. Compiler: Theodore Scott, Jr.
13. CHARLOTTESVILLE. Center near Ivy. Jan 1. Fifteen observers in 11 parties. Total party-hours, 92 (85 on foot, 7 by car) plus 3 hours owling; total party-miles, 164 (86 on foot, 78 by car) plus 9 miles owling. Compiler: Charles Stevens.
14. WARREN. Center near Keene. Dec. 18. Seventeen observers in 11 parties. Total party-hours, 92 (86 on foot, 6 by car) plus 4 hours owling; total party-miles, 188 (100 on foot, 88 by car) plus 16 miles owling. Compiler: Charles Stevens.
15. SWEET BRIAR. Center Sweet Briar College campus. Dec. 31. Ten observers, 8 in 3 parties, 2 at feeders. Total party-hours, 18 (17 on foot, 1 by car) plus 2 hours at feeders; total party-miles, 10 (5 on foot, 5 by car). Compilers: Ernest and Mabel Edwards.
16. LYNCHBURG. Center Lynchburg College. Dec. 17. Forty-six observers, 44 in 18 parties, 2 at feeders. Total party-hours, 133 (84 on foot, 49 by car) plus 7 hours at feeders, 4 owling; total party-miles, 440 (62 on foot, 378 by car) plus 43 miles owling. Compiler: Myriam Moore.
17. CALMES NECK. Center Castleman's Ferry Bridge, VA. 7 and the Shenandoah River. Dec. 31. Fourteen observers, 12 in 5 parties, 2 at feeders. Total party-hours, 42 (15 on foot, 27 by car) plus 3 hours at feeders, 1 owling; total party-miles, 344 (19 on foot, 325 by car) plus 20 miles owling. Compiler: Harriet Gilbert.
18. NORTHERN SHENANDOAH VALLEY. Center junction Crooked Run and VA. 606. Dec. 17. Fifty-four observers in 23 parties. Total party-hours, 219 (70 on foot, 131 by car, 18 by canoe) plus 9 hours owling; total party-miles, 1271 (71 on foot, 1176 by car, 24 by canoe) plus 74 miles owling. Compiler: Rob Simpson.
19. SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK—LURAY. Center Hershberger Hill. Dec. 18. Forty-one observers, 35 in 18 parties, 6 at feeders. Total party-hours, 116 (59 on foot, 52 by car, 5 by canoe) plus 12 hours at feeders, 4 owling; total party-miles, 548 (69 on foot, 469 by car, 10 by canoe) plus 2 miles owling. Compiler: Dennis Carter.
20. BIG FLAT MOUNTAIN. Center Pasture Fence Mountain. Dec. 30. Three observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours, 28 (all on foot) plus 2 owling; total party-miles, 41 (all on foot) plus 5 miles owling. Compiler: Charles Stevens.
21. ROCKINGHAM COUNTY. Center Ottobine. Dec. 17. Thirty-two observers in 13 parties. Total party-hours, 53 (22 on foot, 31 by car) plus 2 hours owling; total party-miles, 321 (32 on foot, 289 by car) plus 25 miles owling. Compiler: Max Carpenter.

22. AUGUSTA COUNTY. Center junctions VA. 780 & 781. Dec. 31. Twenty-nine observers, 28 in 11 parties, 1 at feeders. Total party-hours, 81 (40 on foot, 41 by car) plus 4.5 hours at feeders; total party-miles, 533 (35 on foot, 498 by car). Compiler: John Mehner.
23. WAYNESBORO. Center Sherando. Dec. 28. Thirteen observers in 7-10 parties. Total party-hours, 38 (23 on foot, 13 by car, 2 by bicycle); total party-miles, 138 (9 on foot, 127 by car, 2 by bicycle). Compiler: Ruth Snyder.
24. LEXINGTON. Center Big Spring Pond. Dec. 26. Thirteen observers, 9 in 5 parties, 4 at feeders. Total party-hours, 31 (19 on foot, 12 by car) plus 6 hours at feeders, 3 owling; total party-miles, 157 (19 on foot, 138 by car) plus 21 miles owling. Compiler: Bob Paxton
25. PEAKS OF OTTER. Center Peaks of Otter Visitor Center. Dec. 20. Eight observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours, 23 (17 on foot, 6 by car); total party-miles, 68 (20 on foot, 48 by car). Compiler: Barry Kinzie.
26. CLIFTON FORGE. Center junction US 60 and VA 42. Dec. 17. Twelve observers, 11 in 7 parties, 1 at feeders. Total party-hours, 37 (22 on foot, 15 by car) plus 3 hours at feeders; total party-miles, 255 (24 on foot, 231 by car). Compiler: Allen LeHew.
27. FINCASTLE. Center near junction VA 220 and 679. Dec. 18. Twenty-four observers in 13 parties. Total party-hours, 101 (46 on foot, 55 by car) plus 7 hours owling; total party-miles, 184 (39 on foot, 145 by car) plus 17 miles owling. Compiler: Barry Kinzie.
28. ROANOKE. Center junction Oakland Blvd. and Williamson Rd. Dec. 17. Thirty-two observers in 15 parties. Total party-hours, 116 (61 on foot, 49 by car, 6 by canoe) plus 13 hours owling; total party-miles, 464 (65 on foot, 395 by car, 4 by canoe) plus 31 miles owling. Compiler: Barry Kinzie.
29. BLACKSBURG. Center near Linkous Store. Dec. 17. Forty-five observers, 41-45 in 19 parties, 0-4 at feeders. Total party-hours, 111 (82 on foot, 29 by car) plus 6 hours at feeders, 2 owling; total party-miles, 364 (82 on foot, 282 by car) plus 10 miles owling. Compiler: Curtis Adkisson.
30. TAZEWELL. Center Fourway. Dec. 17. Fourteen observers, 13 in 5 parties, 1 at feeders. Total party-hours, 48 (3 on foot, 45 by car) plus 8 hours at feeders; total party-miles, 257 (12 on foot, 245 by car). Compiler: Sarah Cromer.
31. GLADE SPRING. Center junction VA 750 and 609. Dec. 17. Fifteen observers, 14 in 6 parties, 1 at feeders. Total party-hours, 45 (10 on foot, 35 by car) plus 1 hour at feeders, 2 owling; total party-miles, 358 (12 on foot, 346 by car) plus 8 miles owling. Compiler: Chuck Byrd.
32. NICKELSVILLE. Center Nickelsville. Dec. 18. Sixteen observers in 8 parties. Total party-hours, 58 (29 on foot, 29 by car) plus 1 hour owling; total party-miles, 407 (11 on foot, 396 by car) plus 5 miles owling. Compiler: E. E. Scott.

33. BREAKS INTERSTATE PARK. Center 3 miles NE of Haysi. Dec. 31. Eleven observers, 8 in 4 parties, 3 at feeders. Total party-hours, 22 (17 on foot, 5 by car) plus 8 hours at feeders, 2 owling; total party-miles, 112 (14 on foot, 98 by car) plus 3 miles owling. Compiler: Kenneth Markley.
34. WISE COUNTY. Center Dorchester. Dec. 17. Sixteen observers, 15 in 7 parties, 1 at feeders. Total party-hours, 64 (16 on foot, 48 by car) plus 3 hours at feeders, 3 owling; total party-miles, 270 (40 on foot, 230 by car) plus 16 miles owling. Compiler: Richard Peake.

As in previous years, the count tabulation in Table 1 lists the Coastal plains counts (1-10) first, followed by the Piedmont (11-16) and lastly, Mountains and Valleys counts (12-34). Walter P. Smith performed the initial tabulation of Christmas counts as he has done for the past nine years.

Some of the highlights of this year's counts are as follows:

White Pelican has been recorded on only two other counts besides the one seen at Little Creek this year. The first record was one bird at Chincoteague in 1971, the other sighting was one on the Back Bay count in 1979.

The last sighting of a Greater White-fronted Goose was during the 1976-77 and 1977-78 Gordonsville counts. This year's lone sighting was a first for the Cape Charles area. Eight Snow Geese were highly unusual for Lynchburg with no records of this species on that count in recent memory.

Eiders made a very good showing with one Common Eider and one King Eider each on both the Cape Charles and Little Creek counts.

A total of 2380 Ruddy Ducks was a new high for the Mathews County area.

Thirty-one Wild Turkeys at Hopewell far exceeded any previous highs in the Coastal Plains region.

American Woodcocks still abound on the Eastern Shore with 31 at Chincoteague and 221 at Cape Charles. Three spotted on the Wise County count were very unusual.

A record high of 1186 Laughing Gulls were attracted to a city landfill area in Newport News, an area which has grappled with the problem of gulls vs. aircraft for many years.

Always a rarity in the mountains, Roanoke birders were surprised to find 16 Bonaparte's Gulls on their count day.

The newest species, the Common Ground Dove, was seen and described by Jackson Abbott on the Chincoteague count.

A total of seven Blue-gray Gnatcatchers was seen on four of the Coastal Plains counts.

A Swainson's Thrush in Wise County was very rare.

Solitary Vireos were evidently lingering in the state as two were found on Little Creek count, two on the Back Bay count, and one was reported from the Lynchburg count.

Three Black-and-white Warblers were reported—one from Chincoteague, the other two from Northern Shenandoah Valley.

To cap off the rarities list, Back Bay listed its first-ever Red Crossbill.

THE 1984 VSO ANNUAL MEETING

Robert J. Watson

The fiftieth meeting of the Virginia Society of Ornithology opened at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, 4 May 1984, at the Chamberlin Hotel in Hampton, Virginia. Mrs. Teta Kain, president of the Hampton Roads Bird Club, tendered a gracious welcome to those attending. Mrs. Dorothy Mitchell and Mrs. Stalma Hacker presented corsages to Mrs. Kain and to Mrs. YuLee Lerner, president of the VSO.

The business meeting began with a report by the treasurer, Mrs. Thelma Dalmas, that the assets of the Society totalled \$16,088.40 as of 1 April, of which \$13,503.30 is in interest-bearing deposits. Mrs. Lerner introduced the chairmen of the various committees, and expressed thanks to all those who had assisted her during her presidency, particularly the other officers.

Mr. John Dalmas, chairman of the Nominating Committee, submitted the following slate of nominees:

President: Dr. Jerry Via.

Vice-President: Bill Williams.

Secretary: Mrs. Teta Kain.

Treasurer: Mrs. Thelma Dalmas.

Editor: F. R. Scott.

Board of Directors (for a three-year term):

J. Enoch Johnson.

Dr. Charles Hansrote.

James Ayers

There being no nominations from the floor, a motion to approve the above slate was unanimously passed.

Mr. Watson, the outgoing secretary, submitted the following resolutions to amend the articles of incorporation and the bylaws. The purposes of the amendments were to bring the articles of incorporation into line with the bylaws, to delete provision for approval by the Board of applications for membership, and to give the editor of the Newsletter the status of an elected officer.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby finds that each of the proposed amendments to the Articles of Incorporation set forth below is in the best interests of the corporation and each shall be submitted to a vote of the members at the next annual meeting:

1. Section C shall be amended to read as follows:

C. MEMBERS

Membership in the corporation shall be composed of such natural persons who apply for membership and pay to the Treasurer the prescribed dues. There shall be two classes of members:

1. Honorary Members - Any person who in the opinion of the Board of Directors has accomplished outstanding achievement in the science of ornithology in Virginia shall, upon nomination by the Board of Directors and election by a majority of members present and voting at any regular meeting, be an honorary member for life.

2. Regular Members - All other members shall be regular members. The bylaws may provide for the classification of regular members on the basis of dues paid.

All members of the corporation shall have full voting rights and shall be entitled to one vote for each director to be elected, in the election of directors, one vote for each officer to be elected, in the election of officers, and one vote in all other matters submitted to them.

2. Section E shall be amended to read as follows:

E. DIRECTORS

The number of directors, not less than three, shall be fixed by the bylaws, and in the absence of a bylaw fixing the number, the number shall be 16. The persons holding the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Editor of THE RAVEN, Editor of the Newsletter, and the Immediate Past President shall be directors during their terms of office. The remaining directors shall be elected by the members for three year terms, with the terms of one-third of such remaining directors expiring each year.

3. Section F shall be amended to read as follows:

F. OFFICERS

The officers of the corporation shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Editor of THE RAVEN, Editor of the Newsletter and such other officers as may be prescribed by the bylaws. The officers shall be elected at the annual meeting for terms of one year and until their successors are elected.

RESOLVED, that the bylaws of the corporation shall be amended as follows:

1. Article I, Section I shall be amended by deleting the second and third sentences.
2. Article II, Section II (a) shall be amended by adding the words "for life" at the end of the first sentence.
3. Article II, Section I shall be amended to read as follows:

Section I. The officers of the corporation shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Editor of THE RAVEN and Editor of the Newsletter. They shall be elected at the annual meeting by a majority of the members present and voting for the terms of one year and until their successors are elected. The duties of the first four officers shall be those usually pertaining to their respective offices. The duties of the two Editors shall be as described by their respective titles. The board of directors may from time to time provide for an Assistant Secretary and an Assistant Treasurer. No person may hold more than one office.

4. Article II, Section II shall be amended by deleting the number "15" in the second line thereof and inserting the number "16."

Both resolutions were unanimously approved.

Mr. Watson drew attention to a possible conservation issue in the form of a story in a Washington newspaper about a banquet at which, it appeared, songbirds might have been served as food in violation of protective laws.

President Larner briefly described the proposed Atlas of Virginia Birds, noting that the money appropriated for the project (\$200) had already been spent and that contributions would be welcome. She then turned the meeting over to Mrs. Mary Smith, chairman of the Local Chapters Committee, for the annual Workshop. Thelma Dalmas and Myriam Moore presented Mrs. Larner with a Raven carved from wood by Mr. Randy Thrasher of the Lynchburg Bird Club. Mrs. Smith introduced Miss Sue Ridd, coordinator of the Atlas, who spoke briefly. Next, Mrs. Smith read a humorous poem of her own composition regarding the Atlas. Dr. Via, Mrs. Dalmas, Dr. John Mehner and Mrs. Ruth Beck spoke in a jocular vein on various aspects of the Atlas project. The session then closed with a brief description of the next day's field trips by Mr. Lew Wilkinson.

Dr. Jerry Via presided when papers were presented on Saturday afternoon. The first speaker, Mr. Bill Akers, presented findings of a study of the Least Tern carried out in conjunction with Mrs. Beck and Dr. Via. They had studied a population at the northern tip of Grandview Beach, which now numbers about 900, although it fell to only 160 in 1976-1977. The increase probably results from an influx of birds from the Craney Island colony (which is under pressure), favorable weather in recent years, improved habitat (the result of a high tide in 1978 that eliminated excess vegetation) and protection by local bird clubs.

Another member of the Tern family, the Royal, was the subject of Mr. William Ihle. He focused on food habits of a colony on Metomkin Island, based on a study supported in part by the Murray Award. Mr. Ihle found a positive correlation between the size of chicks and the size of the prey they are fed. Food is frequently stolen from chicks, however, by other Royal Terns or by Laughing and Herring Gulls. Predation by Herring Gulls is a serious threat to the Metomkin Island population.

Miss Jennifer Shopland of Richmond, a student at the University of Chicago, described the formation of mixed species of bird flocks in Costa Rica, focusing on two tropical Redstarts (Slate-throated and Collared). Her research covered the period from September 1981 to September 1983.

The effect of strip-mining on bird populations was discussed by Dr. Richard Peake. His findings did not support the contention by some that mining is beneficial to birds. A recently strip-mined area showed a population density of 7.5 birds per 100 acres, as compared with 163 per 100 acres in a comparable unmined area. However, a reclaimed area mined 25 years earlier had recovered, as shown by a population figure of 246 birds per 100 acres.

Miss Sue Ridd described plans for the Atlas of Virginia Birds, which will be launched this year. The project is expected to last five years and to yield data for a revision of the Redbook.

Mr. Robert L. Anderson is making a continuing study of American Oystercatchers on Fisherman Island. He found nests more abundant at the northern end of the island, where there are large tidal flats, than at the southern end. The rate of loss of nests is quite high, and their productivity is unfortunately very low.

The final speaker, Mr. David O. Wallin, dealt with Bald Eagles in and near the new Caledon State Park. Only one nest (non-productive) has been found in the park, but there are active nests nearby in both Virginia and Maryland. The highest count of eagles for one day was 55, counted from a boat route up and down the river. Because eagles are sensitive to disturbance, the state of Maryland, which controls the Potomac River, has cooperated by establishing a "no boating" zone adjacent to the park.

Mrs. Larner presided at the banquet, which was held in the roof garden of the Chamberlin Hotel. After the usual introduction of members of the host club responsible for planning the meeting and the roll call of chapters, Mrs. Larner turned the meeting over to Mr. Charles Hacker, who introduced the featured speaker, Dr. Robert Kennedy, a former student at the College of William and Mary. Dr. Kennedy presented an illustrated discussion of the Philippine Eagle, which he has been studying for 12 years. The species is critically endangered, with a population probably under 100. Its survival probably depends on whether sufficient forest habitat in the Philippines can be preserved.

An awards ceremony followed the close of Dr. Kennedy's address. The 1984 Murray Prize of \$400 went to Mr. Chuck Rosenberg, of the College of William and Mary, for a study of the Common Barn-Owl. Dr. Hansrote presented the first James W. Eike Award to Mrs. Eike, who received a standing ovation. Mrs. Eike then assisted in granting Eike Awards to the following honorees: Mrs. Thelma Dalmas, Mrs. Dorothy Mitchell, Mrs. Myriam Moore, F. R. Scott and R. J. Watson. Mrs. Larner announced the establishment of an award for past presidents named in honor of Dr. Ruskin S. Freer, the Society's first president. Former presidents in attendance were Charles Hacker, Dr. Mitchell Byrd, Dr. Richard Peake, and Dr. Robert Ake.

Mrs. Geraldine Smith, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, presented a resolution expressing thanks to those responsible for the success of the meeting, including the Hampton Roads Bird Club, the management of the Chamberlin Hotel, President Larner and all the speakers. The resolution was approved by acclamation. The door prize appropriately went to Mrs. Barbara Tenpas of the Hampton Roads Bird Club, who had created unusually attractive name tags for the meeting. The banquet then adjourned.

2636 Marcey Road, Arlington, Virginia 22207

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 1984. 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 (450), Norfolk
5. Charlottesville-Albemarle Bird Club (21), Charlottesville
6. Clinch Mountain Bird Club (12), Nickelsville
7. Clinch Valley Bird Club (25), Tazewell
8. Cumberland Nature Club (16), Wise
9. Foothills Bird Club (25), Martinsville
10. Hampton Roads Bird Club (150), Newport News-Hampton
11. Lynchburg Bird Club (234), 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 (250), Middleton
17. Northern Virginia Chapter (300), Arlington-Fairfax
18. Richmond Audubon Society (800), 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 (130), Williamsburg

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Site Guide: Richard H. Peake Jr., Clinch Valley College, Wise Virginia, 24293

THE VIRGINIA BREEDING BIRD ATLAS PROJECT

SUE RIDD, COORDINATOR

(Editor's Note) *During the July 1983 meeting of the Virginia Society of Ornithology Board of Directors and Committee Chairmen, it was informally decided that the Society should sponsor and direct a five-year project to determine the current status on breeding birds in the state of Virginia. The plan was formally adopted during the board meeting in November of that year and was called the Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas Project. Sue Ridd was named coordinator of the program and was charged with the following responsibilities: 1) Organizing the project on a state-wide basis; 2) Overseeing the activities of 12 regional coordinators and their volunteers; 3) compiling and storing data collected; and 4) Reporting progress to the Board of Directors and to the general membership on a continuing basis. The following account by Ms. Ridd explains the project's scope and progress made during the first year of its existence:*

Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas Project (VAP) is the combined efforts of many volunteers to map the current distribution of breeding birds throughout Virginia. Providing baseline data, it is crucial to have a record of the status of natural communities so that future development and activities may be compared. Not only has it provided an up-to-date inventory, but VAP has aided in the discovery of new nesting locations of rare species and identified fragile or unusual habitats of those species. Sound, factual data of VAP is helping environmental planners to make wise decisions regarding resource use in Virginia.

Fieldwork has been completed by a legion of volunteers throughout the state. Each Atlas volunteer is asked to cover at least "one block." A "block" is one-sixth of the area in a 7 minute topographic quadrangle and covers 25 square kilometers or 10 square miles. The southeastern one-sixth is designated as the "priority block"—the preferred section to cover in any given quadrangle. Within each block, the Atlaser records the presence and breeding status of as many breeding species as possible.

The first year's results saw a remarkable coverage of 176 of 804 quadrangles. 80% of this field work was in the southeast priority blocks. Additional blocks were atlased so that the total number of blocks was over 220. With 120 Atlas volunteers, over 14,000 data points were submitted on the summary sheets.

According to the VSO Annotated Checklist (Larner et al., 1979), there are 195 known breeders, 7 probable, 14 casual, and 4 former breeders (total 220). From the 1984 data, 189 species were reported with 157 species being confirmed. Some confirmed breeders of interest were a Pied-billed Grebe near Big Island (only the second piedmont record), a Hooded Merganser in the Cape Henry quadrangle (listed as a casual breeder), a Peregrine Falcon near Chincoteague (listed as a former breeder), a Brown Creeper in the Falls Church quadrangle and a Dickcissel near Nokesville.

P.O. Box 241, Big Island, Virginia 24526

BANDING RESULTS AT KIPTOPEKE BEACH IN 1984

WALTER P. SMITH

The twenty-second consecutive year of operation of the Kiptopeke Beach Banding Station opened on 1 September and ran continuously through 21 October, a total of 51 days. The Station, which overlooks Chesapeake Bay at the southern tip of the Eastern Shore is operated by the Research Committee of the Virginia Society of Ornithology. There were 25 mist nets used for the passerine banding portion of the Station, with an additional six nets for the raptor banding portion. The Station procedures were essentially similar to those of previous years.

During the 1984 season 4,527 new birds of 87 species were banded in 9,750 net-hours. It was interesting to note that only six cold fronts passed through the Station, three of them weak, three fairly strong; this always controls the numbers of birds available for banding. Other results included eight returns of previously banded birds, 179 repeats of birds banded here earlier in the same season, and six foreign recoveries of birds banded elsewhere.

The most commonly banded bird this year was, as usual, Yellow-rumped Warbler (1763), followed by American Redstart (618), Common Yellowthroat (421), Gray Catbird (149), Black-throated Blue Warbler (141), and Sharp-shinned Hawk (127). The most unusual species were our first Peregrine Falcon and, strangely enough, our first Brown-headed Cowbird. The Louisiana Waterthrush was our second record in twenty-two years of banding.

The highest number of birds banded per day occurred on 6 October (319), on 14 October (300), and on 13 October (296).

Licensed banders who alternated in charge of the Station this year were Don Schwab, Walter Smith, Fred Scott, John Buckalew and Charlie Hacker. As in the past, they were aided by many assistants whose help was greatly appreciated. Permission to use the private land on which the Station is located was kindly extended by John Maddox of Virginia Beach.

3009 Chesapeake Ave., Hampton, Virginia 23661

HAWKWATCHING IN VIRGINIA

MYRIAM MOORE AND TETA KAIN

Before 1976, hawkwatching in the state of Virginia was unorganized with few birders taking note of the vast numbers of raptors passing overhead each fall.

In early September 1976 Myriam Moore of Lynchburg attended a national convention on hawk migration in Duluth, Minnesota. Upon her return, Mrs. Moore marshalled the support of birders around the state to participate in Virginia's first organized effort to count the great number of raptors migrating through the area during the autumn months. Over 100 observers from 10 clubs stood watch at 18 different locations and logged 16,001 raptors on 25 September 1976. From that date, interest in Virginia hawk-watching has increased dramatically with some impressive totals of birders finding ever-greater numbers of all species. Table 2 attests to the heightened interest in this activity each year.

TABLE 2. *Total number of hawkwatching hours and total number of raptors seen at all sites in Virginia during the past seven years.*

Year	Total number of hawkwatching hours	Total number of raptors seen
1977	739	45,000
1978	660	23,900
1979	738	45,530
1980	1049	49,299
1981	1271	69,681
1982	1296	66,152
1983	1809	67,055

As interest continued to grow and more people took interest in the activity, many more prime observation sites were located in all parts of the state. One site which has gained high regard in birding circles all along the East Coast is the station at Kiptopeke Banding Station on the Eastern Shore. As would be expected, Osprey totals at the site far exceeded any other station in Virginia; however, the large numbers of accipiters, vultures and falcons, following the natural corridor down the Eastern Shore, were surprising. Table 3 emphasizes the high numbers of these birds seen during a normal season at the station.

For the first time in six years the 1984 summary, prepared for the Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA), listed fewer watch hours and fewer numbers of raptors seen than the previous year.

Although participation was down somewhat and less sites were manned than in previous fall seasons, there were still some significant sightings reported. Some highlights of the season were

- 2649 Broad-winged Hawks at Mendota Firetower 29 September
- 2137 Broad-winged Hawks at Rockfish Gap 20 September
- 193 Turkey Vultures at Rockfish Gap 2 November
- 308 Red-tailed Hawks at Linden Firetower 2 November
- 128 Red-tailed Hawks at Pott's Mountain 6 November
- 3 Golden Eagles at Pott's Mountain 6 November

TABLE 3. *Totals of all hawkwatching activities at all sites in Virginia during September, October and November 1984.*

VIRGINIA LOOKOUT TOTALS — FALL 1984

LOCATION	Total days Station manned	Total hours Station manned	Black Vulture	Turkey Vulture	Osprey	Bald Eagle	Northern Harrier	Sharp-shinned Hawk	Cooper's Hawk	Northern Goshawk	Red-shouldered Hawk	Broad-winged Hawk	Red-tailed Hawk	Rough-legged Hawk	Golden Eagle	American Kestrel	Merlin	Peregrine Falcon	Unidentified	Total
Harvey's Knob	78	420	7	139	100	5	45	619	33	2	35	6996	716	1	5	59	4	8	118	8892
Kiptopeke Beach	56	380	1081	681		6	510	19823	291		10	668	227		4109	584	115	310		28497
Short Hill Mtn.	43	190			21	7	33	192	30	2	13	1144	901	1	9	2		1	25	2381
Pott's Mtn.	33	171	19		16		13	181	15		10	1466	225		4	41		1	101	2092
Rockfish Gap	28	171	7	241	75	3	10	440	14		5	9858	179		1	22	1	1	39	10896
Mendota Ft.	17	108	108	112	10	3	9	68	36	4	2	5355	35			25	1	1	27	5796
Linden Ft.	19	71	20	23	29		17	172	19	1	8	743	581		2	14			23	1652
4 Miles SW of Ivy	2	11	10		2		1	3				232	1						4	253
Fulhardt Knob	5	8			1			5			33								2	41
Hawksbill Mtn.	1	6						1	1		62								1	65
Fort Lewis Mtn.	1	5	6				2	8	7		1		3			1				28
Byrd Center SNP	2	2										523								523
TOTALS:	285	1543	259	1596	935	24	640	21,512	446	9	179	26,985	2868	2	21	4273	590	127	650	61,116

101 Columbia Avenue, Lynchburg, Virginia 24503 (M.M.)
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INDEX TO VOLUME 54 — 1984

This index contains all but the most casual references to bird species (A.O.U. approved English names only) in the narrative text and annotated lists. It does not, however, include references to the tabulation of the Christmas bird counts (pp. 18-25).

Akers, Bill, annual meeting, paper, 33

Anderson, Robert L., annual meeting paper, 33

Blackbird, Red-winged, Giles Co., 10

Bluebird, Eastern, Giles Co., 6

Bobwhite, Northern, Giles Co., 3

Bunting, Indigo, Giles Co., 9

Cardinal, Northern, Giles Co., 9

Catbird, Gray, Giles Co., 7; Kiptopeke, 38

Chat, Yellow-breasted, Giles Co., 9

Chickadee, Black-capped, Giles Co., 6

Chickadee, Carolina, Giles Co., 6

Cowbird, Brown-headed, Giles Co., 10, Kiptopeke, 38

Creeper, Brown, Giles Co., 6, breeding record, 37

Crossbill, Red, Giles Co., 11; winter, 30

Crow, American, Giles Co., 6

Cuckoo, Black-billed, Giles Co., 3

Cuckoo, Yellow-billed, Giles Co., 3

Dickcissel, breeding record, 37

Dove, Common Ground-Dove, winter, 26

Dove, Mourning, Giles Co., 3

Dove, Rock, Giles Co., 3

Duck, American Black, association with Clapper Rails, 13

Duck, Ruddy, winter, 30

Duck, Wood, Giles Co., 2

Eagle, Bald, at Caledon State Park, 34; fall, 40

Eagle, Golden, Giles Co., 1; fall, 40

Eagle, Philippine, population and habitat, 34

Eider, Common, winter, 30

Eider, King, winter, 30

Falcon, Peregrine, breeding record, 37; Kiptopeke, 38; fall, 40

Finch, House, Giles Co., 10

Flicker, Northern, Giles Co., 4

Flycatcher, Acadian, Giles Co., 4

Flycatcher, Great Crested, Giles Co., 5

Flycatcher, Least, Giles Co., 4

Flycatcher, Willow, Giles Co., 4

Fulton, John R., second Virginia Piedmont record of Western Grebe, 11;

Osprey nest at John H. Kerr Reservoir, 14

Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray, Giles Co., 6; winter, 30

Goldfinch, American, Giles Co., 11

Goose, Greater White-fronted, winter, 30

Goose, Snow, winter, 30

Goshawk, Northern, fall, 40
Grackle, Common, Giles Co., 10
Grebe, Horned, with Western Grebe, 11
Grebe, Pied-billed, breeding record, 37
Grebe, Western, Second Virginia Piedmont record, 11
Grosbeak, Blue, Giles Co., 9
Grosbeak, Rose-breasted, Giles Co., 9
Ground-Dove, Common, winter, 30
Grouse, Ruffed, Giles Co., 3
Gull, Bonaparte's, comparison with Sabine's Gull, 15; winter, 30
Gull, Common Black-headed, comparison with Sabine's Gull, 15
Gull, Great Black-backed, comparison with Sabine's Gull, 15
Gull, Herring, Giles Co., 3; comparison with Sabine's Gull, 15-16; Royal Tern chick predation, 33
Gull, Laughing, in association with Clapper Rail chicks, 13; comparison with Sabine's Gull, 15; winter, 30; food stealing from Royal Tern chicks, 33
Gull, Ring-billed, with Sabine Gull, 15-16
Gull, Sabine's, Sighting at Chincoteague, 15

Harrier, Northern, fall, 40
Hawk, Broad-winged, Giles Co., 2; fall, 40
Hawk, Cooper's, fall, 40
Hawk, Red-shouldered, Giles Co., 2; fall, 40
Hawk, Red-tailed, Giles Co., 2; fall, 40
Hawk, Rough-legged, fall, 40
Hawk, Sharp-shinned, Giles Co., 2; Kiptopeke, 38
Heron, Green-backed, Giles Co., 2
Hill, James, Chimney Swift nesting in hollow tree, 12
Hummingbird, Ruby-throated, Giles Co., 4

Ihle, William, annual meeting paper, 33

Jay, Blue, Giles Co., 5
Johnston, David W., Chimney Swift nesting in a hollow tree, 12
Junco, Dark-eyed, Giles Co., 10

Kain, Teta, Virginia Christmas bird counts—1983-84 season, 17-29;
Hawkwatching in Virginia, 39-40
Kennedy, Robert, annual meeting paper, 34
Kessler, Clyde, The Giles County Foray—June 1983, 1
Kestrel, American, Giles Co., 2; fall, 40
Killdeer, Giles Co., 3
Kingbird, Eastern, Giles Co., 5
Kingfisher, Belted, Giles Co., 4
Kinglet, Golden-crowned, Giles Co., 6

Lark, Horned, Giles Co., 5
Larner, YuLee, The Giles County Foray—June 1983, 1

Mallard, Giles Co., 2
Martin, Purple, Giles Co., 5
Meadowlark, Eastern, Giles Co., 10
Meanley, Brooke, Notes on Clapper Rail broods at Chincoteague, 13

- Merganser, Common, with Western Grebe, 11
Merganser, Hooded, Giles Co., 2; breeding record, 37
Merganser, Red-breasted, Giles Co., 2
Merlin, fall, 40
Mockingbird, Northern, Giles Co., 7
Moore, Myriam, Hawkwatching in Virginia, 39-40

Nuthatch, White-breasted, Giles Co., 6

Oriole, Northern, Giles Co., 10
Oriole, Orchard, Giles Co., 10
Osprey, nest at John H. Kerr Reservoir, 14; fall, 39-40
Ovenbird, Giles Co., 9
Owl, Barred, Giles Co., 3
Owl, Great Horned, Giles Co., 3
Oystercatcher, American, Fisherman Island nests, 33

Parula, Northern, Giles Co., 8
Peake, Richard, annual meeting paper, 33
Pelican, White, winter, 30
Phoebe, Eastern, Giles Co., 5

Rail, Clapper, Notes on broods at Chincoteague, 13
Raven, Common, Giles Co., 6
Redstart, American, Giles Co., 8; Kiptopeke, 38
Redstart, Collared, formation of mixed flocks, 33
Redstart, Slate-throated, formation of mixed flocks, 33
Ridd, Sue, annual meeting paper, 33, Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas Project, 37
Robin, American, Giles Co., 7

Sapsucker, Yellow-billed, Giles Co., 4
Screech-Owl, Eastern, Giles Co., 3
Shopland, Jennifer, annual meeting paper, 33
Smith, Walter P., Banding results at Kiptopeke in 1984, 38
Sparrow, Chipping, Giles Co., 10
Sparrow, Field, Giles Co., 10
Sparrow, Grasshopper, Giles Co., 10
Sparrow, House, Giles Co., 11
Sparrow, Song, Giles Co., 10
Sparrow, Vesper, Giles Co., 10
Starling, European, Giles Co., 7
Swallow, Bank, Giles Co., 5
Swallow, Barn, Giles Co., 5
Swallow, Cliff, Giles Co., 5
Swallow, Northern Rough-winged, Giles Co., 5
Swallow, Tree, Giles Co., 5
Swift, Chimney, Giles Co., 3; nesting in a hollow tree, 12

Tanager, Scarlet, Giles Co., 9
Tern, Forster's, comparison with Sabine's Gull, 15
Tern, Least, Grandview Beach population, 33
Tern, Royal, Metomkin Island population, 33
Thrasher, Brown, Giles Co., 7

Thrush, Hermit, Giles Co., 7
Thrush, Swainson's, winter, 30
Thrush, Wood, Giles Co., 7
Titmouse, Tufted, Giles Co., 6
Towhee, Rufous-sided, Giles Co., 9
Turner, Craig, Chimney Swift nesting in a hollow tree, 12
Turkey, Wild, Giles Co., 3; winter, 30
Veery, Giles Co., 7
Vireo, Red-eyed, Giles Co., 7
Vireo, Solitary, Giles Co., 7; winter, 30
Vireo, Warbling, Giles Co., 7
Vireo, White-eyed, Giles Co., 7
Vireo, Yellow-throated, Giles Co., 7
Virginia Society of Ornithology, 1984 annual meeting, 31-34
Vulture, Black, Giles Co., 2; fall, 40
Vulture, Turkey, Giles Co., 2; fall, 40
Wallin, David O., annual meeting paper, 34
Warbler, Black-and-white, Giles Co., 8; winter, 30
Warbler, Blackburnian, Giles Co., 8
Warbler, Blackpoll, Giles Co., 8
Warbler, Black-throated Blue, Giles Co., 8; Kiptopeke, 38
Warbler, Black-throated Green, Giles Co., 8
Warbler, Blue-winged, Giles Co., 1
Warbler, Canada, Giles Co., 9
Warbler, Cerulean, Giles Co., 8
Warbler, Chestnut-sided, Giles Co., 8
Warbler, Golden-winged, Giles Co., 8
Warbler, Hooded, Giles Co., 9
Warbler, Kentucky, Giles Co., 9
Warbler, Mourning, Giles Co., 9
Warbler, Pine, Giles Co., 8
Warbler, Prairie, Giles Co., 8
Warbler, Prothonotary, Giles Co., 1
Warbler, Swainson's, Giles Co., 1
Warbler, Worm-eating, Giles Co., 8
Warbler, Yellow, Giles Co., 8
Warbler, Yellow-rumped, Kiptopeke, 38
Waterthrush, Louisiana, Giles Co., 9; Kiptopeke, 38
Waxwing, Cedar, Giles Co., 7
Whip-poor-will, Giles Co., 3
Wilds, Claudia, Sighting of Sabine's Gull at Chincoteague, 15
Woodcock, American, Giles Co., 3; winter, 30
Woodpecker, Downy, Giles Co., 4
Woodpecker, Hairy, Giles Co., 4
Woodpecker, Pileated, Giles Co., 4
Woodpecker, Red-bellied, Giles Co., 4
Woodpecker, Red-headed, Giles Co., 4
Wood-Pewee, Eastern, Giles Co., 4
Wren, Carolina, Giles Co., 6
Wren, House, Giles Co., 6
Wren, Winter, Giles Co., 6
Yellowthroat, Common, Giles Co., 9; Kiptopeke, 38