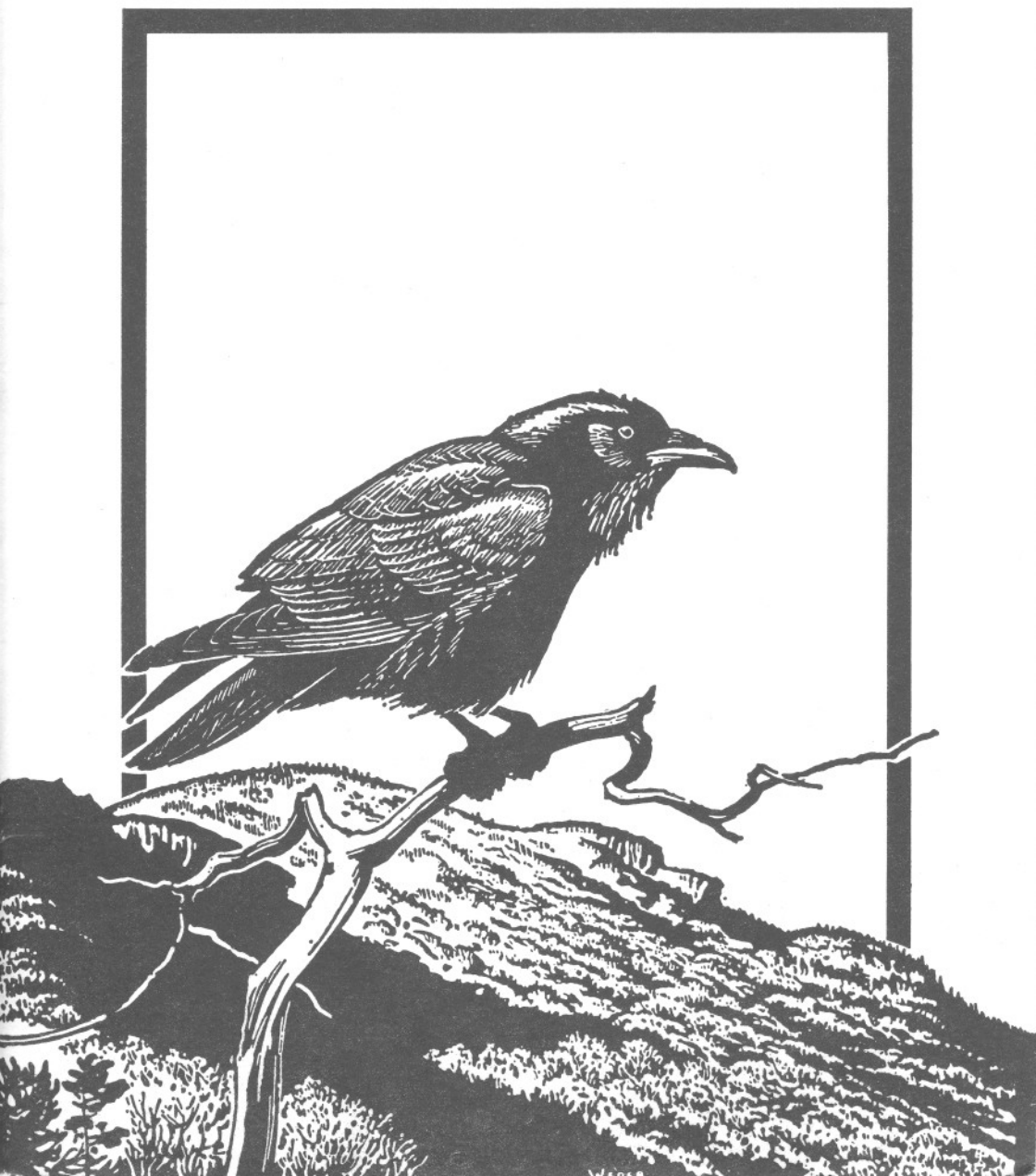


The Raven

JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY

Volume 56

1985



NOTICE

Publication of THE RAVEN is still in arrears and the enclosed issue is the latest one printed. Additional issues are being prepared and will be mailed as soon as possible. Memberships and subscriptions are on a calendar year basis, and you will receive all issues published during the year if your membership or subscription is current.



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Edited by
Teta Kain, Chairman of the *Raven* Recovery Team
under the direction of
The Virginia Society of Ornithology
Board of Directors

Raven Recovery Team Members:
YuLee Larner
F.R. Scott
Walter P. Smith

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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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President: JERRY W. VIA, Department of Biology, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia 24061

Vice President: BILL WILLIAMS, 204 Captain Newport Circle, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

Secretary: MRS. TETA KAIN, 322 Wilderness Road, Hampton, Virginia 23669

Treasurer: MRS. THELMA DALMAS, 520 Rainbow Forest Drive, Virginia 24502

Raven Editor: F.R. SCOTT, 115 Kennondale Lane, Richmond, Virginia 23226

Associate Editor: JERRY W. VIA

Assistant Editors for the Raven:

Book Reviews: Richard H. Peake, Jr.; *Christmas Counts:* Walter P. Smith; *Field*

Notes: YuLee Lerner

Newsletter Editor: MRS. MYRIAM MOORE, 101 Columbia Avenue, Lynchburg, Virginia 24503

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EDITOR'S NOTE

The 1984 annual issue of *The Raven* was incorrectly designated "Volume 54." The number should have been "Volume 55." All succeeding issues of the publication will reflect this correction, beginning with the 1985 issue which is labeled "Volume 56."

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER AT CHINCOTEAGUE

FENTON DAY

(Editor's note: The following write-up was compiled from notes taken by Fenton Day who first discovered the bird on 14 September 1984.)

At approximately 3:15 p.m. on 14 September 1984, a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, *Calidris acuminata*, was seen in the company of Pectorals Sandpipers, *Calidris melanotos*, in the northwestern corner of Snow Goose Pool at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge.

Both the Pectorals and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper were feeding in loose formation among grass tufts which grew sparsely near the shore edge of the dried up pond. Periodically the flock was harried by several Merlins, *Falco columbarius*, that flushed them into short flights, but after each disturbance, the birds would circle back to approximately the same area and continue feeding as before.

Attention was drawn to the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper on this, and subsequent occasions, because the clearly defined bright rufous cap on its head contrasted sharply with the duller caps of the Pectorals which were used for close comparison. It appeared slightly larger than the other birds, and though it stayed in close association with them, it usually fed at a short distance away from the main body of the flock. Its behavior was generally calm and not unlike that of the Pectorals, but occasionally it would run aggressively towards any other birds in the flock that ventured too close to it.

A very bright white superciliary line, broadening behind the eye, differed from the facial pattern of the Pectorals. The white coloring of the chin extended onto the sides of the head ending below the eyes. The underlying color of the upper breast was buffy with fine dark flecking. This color pattern extended down the sides, but there was no strong breast streaking on the lower breast ending in an abrupt border, which one usually sees on a Pectoral Sandpiper. The overall back pattern was similar to the Pectorals; however, the feathers were strongly accented with chestnut instead of the normal brown of the Pectoral.

Close comparison of several field guides showed this particular bird most closely resembled the one pictured in *Birds of North America* (Robbins et al. 1983). However, the white on the sides of the face was much more extensive than the examples in any of the books.

Other observers who were with Mr. Day at the time of his discovery were Cindy Carlson, Richard Goll and Leigh Jones, all of Williamsburg. Optics used to study the bird were binoculars of varying powers and a 15x telescope. The sun was at the backs of the observers who viewed the bird from a distance of 20 yards for over a two hour period.

Over the next eight days many persons had an opportunity to closely observe the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper and many photographs were taken. The bird, with its accompanying band of Pectorals remained in the same general area of the pond until 21 September 1984, the last date it was seen.

Literature Cited

Robbins, Chandler S., Bruun, Bertel, and Zim, Herbert S.

1983. *Birds of North America: a guide to field identification*, Golden Press, New York.

LATEST RECORD OF GLOSSY IBIS WEST OF THE BLUE RIDGE

YULEE LARNER

Virginia's Birdlife: An Annotated Checklist (1979:11) lists only one record of the Glossy Ibis west of the Blue Ridge (Botetourt County, 20 April 1976). Six additional sightings of this species have now been documented: one at Bartonsville Dam, Stephens City, Frederick County, 30 March 1977, photographed by Robert C. Simpson and seen by many observers; two at Star Tannery in Frederick County, 1 April-4 May 1977; one in Susong Creek at Bristol, 24 July 1979, photographed by John M. Heninger; one in Clarke County at Blandy Experimental Farm in August 1980; one at Stuarts Draft sewage treatment plant in Augusta County, 1 May 1984, seen by Isabel Obenschain and YuLee Lerner; and one at Roudebush Ponds near Dublin, Pulaski County, 12-14 May 1984, seen and photographed by Stan Bentley.

1020 West Beverley Street, Staunton, Virginia 24401

A WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE ON NEW RIVER

CURTIS W. ROANE and MARTHA K. ROANE

On 16 February 1985, the New River Valley Bird went on an outing to Claytor Lake State Park and to Parrott in Pulaski County to observe birds on the New River in waters common with Montgomery County. At Parrott, an Oldsquaw was observed among a flock of Lesser Scaup. Since only one of us was on the trip and saw the Oldsquaw, we decided to return to Parrott the next day (17 February) to try and find it for both of us. On Sunday, neither the Oldsquaw nor the Lesser Scaup were present, so we proceeded down-river on route 600 to within 100 yards of where the road leaves the river bank. There we spotted five birds on two ledges about 150-175 yards from shore; two were Mallards and two were Canada Geese. The fifth bird was standing on a ledge between the Mallards and was considerably larger. It had a white stripe along the dark wings; this merged with white tail coverts. A light patch surrounded the base of its bill in a scaup-like fashion. As we watched and consulted our field guide, the bird drifted down stream toward the Canada Geese. It drifted into a shallow spot, stopped and climbed onto a rock and faced us. The sun was high, bright and to our backs. We could easily see that its legs and feet were bright orange and its breast was dark. After a few moments, it drifted to the ledge where the Canada Geese were standing. It appeared to be a little smaller than the Canada Geese. There was no doubt that it was a White-fronted Goose.

We were observing the goose with 7x50 binoculars. It was our first observation of a White-fronted Goose and from all the records we could find, this is probably the first report of this species in the Virginia mountains. We have been bird watchers for 35 years in this area but have never before seen this bird on the New River.

607 Lucas Drive, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GEESE IN WESTMORELAND COUNTY

J. ENOCH JOHNSON

On Friday, 15 March 1985, George Church, Superintendent of Washington's Birthplace National Monument, called me about a report by Mr. James Latane that White-fronted Geese, *Anser albifrons*, were on the fields of the park property. My wife, Sylvia, and I promptly went to the park, arriving at 4 p.m. Mr. Church met us and led us to the field where Mr. Latane was plowing. We spotted a flock of geese about 250 yards away in a barley field. They were casually feeding and resting, some sitting on their bellies. The light conditions were excellent and we viewed them through a 30x telescope. The first thing I noticed was white on the faces at the base of yellow-orange bills. The white was accentuated by the darker heads. The legs and feet were orange. As they moved about, an irregular white streak showed along the sides of the dark bodies, the lower chest showed dark smudges, and the under tail coverts were white. After carefully observing the birds for about 15 minutes, we moved ahead in the car about 100 yards and watched for about 10 minutes with binoculars. The geese stayed closely bunched, but we counted 12 individual birds, all of which appeared to show the white "fronts." We have seen White-fronted Geese in Texas previously.

We learned later that the White-fronted Geese had been seen in the area for about a week. The wintering Canada Geese had left about a week earlier, which called attention to this small flock.

On Saturday morning, 16 March, at 10 a.m., I walked back to the field where Mr. Latane was now disking. He had not seen the White-fronted Geese that morning. As he pulled away in the tractor, I noticed a flock of about 35 Water Pipits fly up and drop into the plowed ground nearby. As I looked toward the Pipits, I heard and saw geese approaching. They circled within 100 yards, dropping into another grain field just beyond a hedgerow. It was bright sunlight and I could see the orange feet and legs, the orange-yellow bill and white face, as well as the wide U-shaped white band on the dark tail as they wheeled. I counted 13 geese as they flew past me.

In the afternoon of 15 March, Lawrence Latane, III searched for and found the geese in this same field. He is a member of the Westmoreland Bird Club and the VSO, and is very familiar with waterfowl in this area.

On 1 April, Superintendent Church called and reported that, on 19 March at 12:30 p.m., he saw a flock of 13 White-fronted Geese fly near him, dropping into a small grain field. He called Mr. Paul Sullivan of the Fredericksburg *Free Lance-Star*, a birder, who came out with a photographer. Together with Mr. Church, they saw the flock about 3:30 p.m., but were unable to get publishable photos. This was the last reported sighting.

Sylvia and I concluded these geese to be of the Greenland race because the bills were yellow-orange and not pink.

Route 3, Box 212, Montross, Virginia 22520

VIRGINIA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS - 1984-85 SEASON

TETA KAIN

The 1984-85 season held a few surprises, but only one new species for observers who participated in the 33 counts listed in Table 1. Wilson's Warbler, recorded at Fort Belvoir, brings the cumulative total to 286. This year it has been necessary to exclude Calmes Neck for lack of space. Thirty-four columns stretching across two pages creates almost unreadable figures and, until a suitable layout can be devised, the table must be limited to 33 counts. Calmes Neck was chosen as the count to be omitted since it is the only one that is not contained completely within the borders of Virginia. A full listing of that count may be found in *American Birds*, Vol. 39:543. Other counts that appear in *American Birds*, but not in *The Raven*, are Danville, Manassas, Bull Run, Philpott Reservoir and Wachapreague. The only count appearing in *The Raven*, but not in *American Birds*, is that of Sweet Briar.

Approximately 626 persons participated in this year's counts with 142 taking part in two counts, 36 in three counts, 10 in four counts and 3 in five counts. If all numbers are added together, we arrive at a total of 817 individual counters for all events.

For the most part weather was reasonably mild on count days with most locations listing clear to partly cloudy skies. Little Creek reported intermittent light rain in the afternoon, the only coastal plain count to experience any precipitation. Counters in the piedmont region found rainy skies and fog during the afternoon hours at Lake Anna, Gordonsville, Charlottesville and Warren while Fincastle was the only mountain region where rain fell in light showers most of the day.

Temperatures were unseasonably high over most of the state during the count period. These warm conditions were the result of a large mass of Gulf air being swept over the region by strong southerly winds. Several coastal count areas labored under moderately strong southerly gusts ranging as high as 25 miles an hour along the Eastern Shore area and as far up the Bay as Mathews County. These conditions hampered passerine movement and accounted for the lower numbers of many waterfowl species. At the same time, warm weather encouraged several vireos and warblers to linger in the state, providing some unusual finds for many participants.

Along the coast, six locations reported 70°F. or better with Cape Charles counters sweltering in 78° weather. Normal highs prevailed in the piedmont with only Lynchburg experiencing 74° at midday. Other piedmont highs ranged from 50° at Warren to 62° at Charlottesville. For the most part temperatures were much higher than usual in the mountains. Augusta County led with 75°, followed by Shenandoah National Park, Big Flat Mountain, Roanoke, Blacksburg, Glade Spring and Nickelsville ranging from 72 to 74°. The only count in the state to report temperatures below 50° was Lexington where the thermometer hovered between a chilly 20 and 45°. These low temperatures gave rise to the only partially frozen water in the state during the count period. All other areas listed both salt and fresh water as open and ice free. No snow was present in any region.

This year's total number of species was 195, one less than last year. One color phase (Blue Goose), one race (Ipswich Sparrow) and one exotic (Monk Parakeet) were also recorded. Cape Charles led the state by equaling its 1984 total of 163 species, while seven other counts listed more than 100 species. Though it was six less than last year's total, Lynchburg's 81 species topped all other Piedmont counts. Northern Shenandoah Valley equalled its 1984 record of 90 to lead all 16 other mountain and valleys totals.

The counts in Table 1 are grouped into the three major regions of the state. Coastal plain counts are 1-10; piedmont counts are 11-16; and mountain and valley counts are 17-33. As in the past, Walter P. Smith of Hampton compiled the initial tabulation of all Virginia Christmas counts.

The 505 Red-throated Loons at Cape Charles far exceeded any previous high in the state for that species, bettering the 1983 record by 310 birds while Common Loon numbers were normal with reports scattered throughout the state. A Red-necked Grebe at Back Bay was the first reported since 1980.

Northern Gannets took advantage of on-shore winds during the Cape Charles count and allowed observers to record an astounding 4504 diving and feeding off the barrier islands. Along Fisherman's Island, birders found 25 lingering Brown Pelicans, attesting to the continued strong comeback of this species. Lynchburg birders were rewarded with a Green-backed Heron, apparently a "first-ever" for that count.

Although the numbers of Brant were not record-breaking, the 12,042 at Chincoteague were far higher than totals of recent years, as were the 14,900 Snow Geese found at Back Bay. Fort Belvoir birders enjoyed a large variety of waterfowl and high counts of Wood Duck (24), Green-winged Teal (158), Gadwall (50) and Lesser Scaup (8202). Waterfowl in most other areas occurred in normal numbers.

Two widely separated counts chalked up record highs of Turkey Vultures with both Chincoteague and Charlottesville recording totals of 445. Bald Eagle numbers remained high with a total of 45 found over the state with 17 at Hopewell almost equalling its record of 18 in 1984. Red-tailed Hawk numbers seemed to be slightly down from previous years, yet Nicholsville tallied 18 for a record high there.

Shorebirds were present in normal numbers in most areas, but participants were surprised to find 11,165 Dunlin lingering on the refuge during the Chincoteague count, and a Red Phalarope at Roanoke was an astonishing find.

As has been the practice in the past (1972 and 1981) when Monk Parakeets were seen on Christmas counts, the single bird at Newport News is not listed on the cumulative total of count species. Neither is it included on the state checklist of birds since it has not established a truly feral status as defined by the American Ornithological Union or the American Birding Association.

Chincoteague rivaled Cape Charles' past years of Eastern Screech Owl counts with a record-breaking 25. Nickelsville posted a record 10 while most other localities enjoyed higher-than-usual numbers of these raptors. Roanoke came up with a Short-eared Owl, one of only seven seen in the entire state during the count period.

The 37 Red-headed Woodpeckers at Hopewell were more than half the 72 total for the entire state with 17 other counts reporting this species. Eastern Phoebe were counted in higher-than-usual numbers all across the state with Brooke and Peaks of Otter reporting 7 for each count. The Western Kingbird found at Cape Charles was the first recorded on a Virginia Christmas count since the one seen at Hopewell in 1979.

A very high count of 74 Brown-headed Nuthatches at Williamsburg far exceeded those found on any of the five other coastal counts that reported them. One or two Red-breasted Nuthatches were present on nine of the 17 coastal plains and piedmont counts while the mid-mountain areas of Clifton Forge and Roanoke had one each. White-breasted Nuthatches appeared in rather low numbers all across the state with only Northern Shenandoah Valley reporting over 100. Even the 149 seen there did not begin to approach their peak count of 236 in 1982.

(Summary Continued on Page 16)

Table 1. (following 10 pages). The 1984-85 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. Matthews	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	12/15	12/30	12/16	12/15	12/17	12/23	12/30	12/16	12/30	12/16	12/29
Red-throated Loon	15	<u>505</u>	9	92	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Common Loon	236	256	...	102	...	10	...	...	1	4	4	...	...	...	...
Pied-billed Grebe	7	34	51	3	21	1	18	7	1	<u>20</u>	10	...	4	...	1
Horned Grebe	246	79	2	3	153	16	7	...	...	<u>3</u>	1	...	...	...	...
Red-necked Grebe	4	...	...	<u>1</u>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Northern Gannet	25	<u>4504</u>	76	663	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
American White Pelican	<u>1</u>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Brown Pelican	...	<u>25</u>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Great Cormorant	...	<u>1</u>	...	...	...	...	<u>1</u>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Double-crested Cormorant	2	96	68	63	433	<u>31</u>	77	2	<u>1</u>	1	...	...	...	...	...
American Bittern	5	3	...	...	...	<u>3</u>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Great Blue Heron	134	97	110	43	45	43	173	119	23	57	8	5	5	4	1
Great Egret	29	29	28	6	17	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Snowy Egret	22	2	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Little Blue Heron	11	10	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tricolored Heron	21	45	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cattle Egret	...	...	...	<u>5</u>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Green-backed Heron	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Black-crowned Night-Heron	27	20	1	...	6	...	<u>1</u>	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	<u>1</u>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Glossy Ibis	<u>1</u>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tundra Swan	449	143	1	2235	...	549	129	6	140	<u>6</u>	...	...	...	<u>6</u>	...
Mute Swan	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<u>6</u>	...	...	...	...	...
Snow Goose (white form)	3185	498	...	14,900	...	2	5	25	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Snow Goose (blue form)	7	...	1	6	...	...	...	350	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Brant	12,042	1775	2160	...	96	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Canada Goose	1575	1770	1	682	1	171	...	8700	650	1200	74	1348	360	334	...
Wood Duck	2	2	47	18	7	...	7	336	...	<u>24</u>	...	...	...	...	...
Green-winged Teal	1037	28	18	500	51	...	2	46	2	<u>158</u>	1	...	...	15	...
American Black Duck	4292	1018	323	810	29	5	85	535	110	571	...	2	...	19	...
Mallard	631	750	700	1205	514	92	556	994	68	1478	66	41	5	109	1
Northern Pintail	3150	47	2	1200	...	...	1250	34	...	7	...	...	...	...	...
Northern Shoveler	386	9	13	139	...	...	...	7	...	3	...	...	...	...	...
Gadwall	477	147	36	43	14	...	6	3	...	<u>50</u>	...	...	...	...	...
American Wigeon	99	201	159	189	293	2	35	...	...	<u>5</u>	...	...	...	...	...
Canvasback	...	...	12	...	292	...	1411	1	...	105	...	...	...	5	...
Redhead	...	1	...	...	6	8	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
Ring-necked Duck	...	49	89	...	5	...	221	18	...	10	...	...	...	...	...
Greater Scaup	2	6	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	2500	...	...	...	...	...
Lesser Scaup	...	37	3	10	42	5	2	...	4	<u>8202</u>	...	...	...	1	...
Scaup, sp.	4	1	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	852	...	...	...	...	...
Oldsquaw	974	109	11	1	86	49	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
Black Scoter	163	211	16	36	13	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Surf Scoter	357	999	22	...	91	21	...	...	<u>4</u>	...	...	...	...	...	...
White-winged Scoter	35	65	10	...	25	7	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...

[illegible]

	1. Chincoteague	2. Cape Charles	3. Little Creek	4. Back Bay	5. Newport News	6. Mathews	7. Williamsburg	8. Hopewell	9. Broote	10. Fort Belvoir	11. Lake Anna	12. Gordonsville	13. Charlottesville	14. Warren	15. Sweet Briar
Date	12/29	12/30	12/31	12/29	12/15	12/30	12/16	12/15	12/17	12/23	12/30	12/16	12/30	12/16	12/29
Scoter, sp.	208	798	...	...	5006	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Common Goldeneye	93	49	10	4	142	349	61	...	27	16	...	...	...	...	...
Bufflehead	1002	1075	323	...	458	680	85	11	23	136	3	...	...	...	...
Hooded Merganser	4	45	206	1	39	4	28	117	11	60	...	...	4	1	...
Common Merganser	...	...	4	...	...	...	1	6	...	272	1	...	...	...	...
Red-breasted Merganser	322	1435	2520	855	56	63	4	...	28	2	...	...	...	...	...
Ruddy Duck	42	1	65	...	395	352	2808	11	100	204	...	...	...	1	...
Duck, sp.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Black Vulture	8	17	...	67	...	1	59	48	9	...	56	2	39	...	44
Turkey Vulture	445	120	...	87	1	42	61	28	69	20	106	29	445	2	17
Bald Eagle	3	4	...	...	...	3	7	17	1	10	...	...	...	...	...
Northern Harrier	41	55	...	46	5	12	6	11	3	2	...	1	...	...	...
Sharp-shinned Hawk	21	25	12	19	8	5	10	9	...	8	1	...	8	1	...
Cooper's Hawk	2	9	...	3	...	1	2	1	1	1	...	1	3	...	...
Accipiter, sp.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	5	2	14	2	5	5	14	9	23	1	1	1	...	...
Red-tailed Hawk	18	45	12	29	9	8	25	22	6	30	4	11	27	13	1
Rough-legged Hawk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Buteo, sp.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...
Golden Eagle	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
American Kestrel	55	67	24	78	11	13	11	16	7	9	...	6	9	7	...
Merlin	1	2	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Peregrine Falcon	6	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Falcon, sp.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ring-necked Pheasant	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ruffed Grouse	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...
Wild Turkey	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17	...	...	...	2	2	2	...
Northern Bobwhite	81	138	39	46	19	16	102	45	15	23	15	11	44	46	12
Clapper Rail	27	52	33	...	4	5	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
King Rail	...	1	...	19	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Virginia Rail	9	1	1	3	...	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
American Coot	10	19	39	12	106	...	38	3	...	302	38	1	...	...	...
Black-bellied Plover	385	717	83	107	12	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lesser Golden-Plover	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Semipalmated Plover	8	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Piping Plover	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Killdeer	64	52	127	263	54	73	77	137	9	99	7	1	...	32	...
American Oystercatcher	521	437	83	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Greater Yellowlegs	46	139	...	1	9	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lesser Yellowlegs	4	36	...	6	...	6	6	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
Willet	6	75	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Spotted Sandpiper	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wingsorel	...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Marbled Godwit	13	56	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ruddy Turnstone	23	46	85	...	10	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

[illegible]

	1. Chincoteague	2. Cape Charles	3. Little Creek	4. Back Bay	5. Newport News	6. Mathews	7. Williamsburg	8. Hopewell	9. Brooke	10. Fort Belvoir	11. Lake Anna	12. Gordonsville	13. Charlottesville	14. Warren	15. Sweet Briar
Date	12/29	12/30	12/31	12/29	12/15	12/30	12/16	12/15	12/17	12/23	12/30	12/16	12/30	12/16	12/29
Red Knot	3	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sanderling	652	780	107	1515	40	31	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Western Sandpiper	27	376	3	1	8	34	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Least Sandpiper	8	16	...	...	...	...	...	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pectoral Sandpiper	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Purple Sandpiper	...	...	55	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dunlin	11,165	7819	531	167	252	308	2	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Peep, sp.	...	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Short-billed Dowitcher	...	4	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dowitcher, sp.	16	30	...	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Common Snipe	7	31	2	16	...	1	29	1	...	8	...	1	...	2	...
American Woodcock	27	38	...	5	...	...	1	2	...	7	1	...	2	...	...
Red Phalarope	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Parasitic Jaeger	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Laughing Gull	...	1	7	17	9	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bonaparte's Gull	1	43	136	365	12	...	3	...	...	1	8	...	...	...	...
Ring-billed Gull	2572	4913	10,000	4650	1499	1591	874	3602	1450	4906	138	...	...	...	...
Herring Gull	5257	4174	17,150	940	828	421	75	78	300	910	2	...	...	...	...
Lesser Black-backed Gull	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Great Black-backed Gull	449	758	1220	213	57	119	31	57	48	86	...	...	...	...	...
Black-legged Kittiwake	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gull, sp.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	150	3	...	...	...	...
Caspian Tern	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Royal Tern	...	3	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Forster's Tern	1	18	45	106	4	56	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Black Skimmer	...	...	77	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alcid, sp.	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rock Dove	197	299	1480	186	799	37	98	106	19	116	8	169	193	14	125
Mourning Dove	148	144	580	262	1296	269	327	489	150	484	205	68	433	345	6
Monk Parakeet	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Common Barn-Owl	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Eastern Screech-Owl	25	24	9	11	5	1	9	2	...	1	1	...	3	...	8
Great Horned Owl	5	12	4	11	...	2	13	4	...	13	2	1	6	9	1
Barred Owl	...	...	...	5	...	1	6	10	...	5	...	1	3	1	...
Short-eared Owl	1	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Belted Kingfisher	42	27	52	15	40	33	42	29	10	34	7	6	16	11	2
Red-headed Woodpecker	...	1	1	2	...	...	3	37	5	7	...	...	...	1	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	14	21	36	33	27	20	104	67	34	150	18	29	71	42	2
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	3	5	7	...	6	8	34	28	5	34	3	4	17	23	1
Downy Woodpecker	27	56	85	34	15	27	49	58	23	168	17	50	81	59	5
Hairy Woodpecker	6	6	11	3	2	2	13	9	10	27	10	6	17	10	...
Northern Flicker	103	134	156	122	80	60	195	174	55	172	12	26	109	63	2
Pileated Woodpecker	2	2	34	22	6	9	48	39	11	40	5	12	48	21	8
Eastern Phoebe	6	5	...	2	...	6	8	16	7	1	1	2	5	4	3
Western Kingbird	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

[illegible]

	1. Chincoteague	2. Cape Charles	3. Little Creek	4. Back Bay	5. Newport News	6. Mathews	7. Williamsburg	8. Hopewell	9. Brooke	10. Fort Belvoir	11. Lake Anna	12. Gordonsville	13. Charlottesville	14. Warren	15. Sweet Briar
Date	12/29	12/30	12/31	12/29	12/15	12/30	12/16	12/15	12/17	12/23	12/30	12/16	12/30	12/16	12/29
Horned Lark	44	121	...	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	16	15
Tree Swallow	37	3	...	22	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Blue Jay	18	43	76	35	71	28	91	88	200	250	64	109	220	120	19
American Crow	185	415	522	244	1011	367	271	387	350	1497	308	381	1225	450	77
Fish Crow	6	247	157	16	130	39	272	...	9	408	...	...	77	...	...
Crow, sp.	...	7	...	...	...	...	210	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Common Raven	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	2	1
Black-capped Chickadee	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Carolina Chickadee	197	483	337	230	109	130	301	173	220	913	101	119	282	183	43
Chickadee, sp.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tufted Titmouse	39	50	100	40	58	47	91	70	60	443	21	40	117	47	28
Red-breasted Nuthatch	...	1	1	...	1	...	2	...	...	1	2	...	...	1	...
White-breasted Nuthatch	2	1	17	7	1	...	61	30	6	82	2	13	52	20	9
Brown-headed Nuthatch	36	2	40	4	...	8	74	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Brown Creeper	20	18	34	8	4	13	25	14	3	48	6	2	9	5	1
Carolina Wren	135	387	159	164	80	127	238	212	62	191	19	39	223	165	14
House Wren	4	17	4	6	1	...	8	4	<u>1</u>	2	...	...	...	...	...
Winter Wren	12	12	10	2	3	1	13	8	2	10	2	2	20	4	...
Sedge Wren	2	9	1	27	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Marsh Wren	2	10	...	8	...	...	4	...	<u>1</u>	...	...	...	...	...	...
Golden-crowned Kinglet	141	199	148	58	20	63	96	56	46	253	23	17	133	104	4
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	63	<u>192</u>	106	55	36	45	266	92	20	<u>235</u>	9	8	66	55	3
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	2	1	2	4	...	...	...	5	...	3	...	...	...	...	...
Eastern Bluebird	43	25	21	49	8	417	137	74	150	<u>166</u>	134	127	109	67	10
Hermit Thrush	10	33	9	7	2	3	28	9	2	24	2	...	32	24	1
American Robin	78	354	490	635	22	139	278	108	75	123	124	249	221	616	8
Gray Catbird	14	19	3	10	2	10	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
Northern Mockingbird	23	66	62	48	128	64	65	68	73	143	20	34	138	73	8
Brown Thrasher	7	14	4	5	...	2	7	9	1	2	...	2	...	2	...
Water Pipit	88	622	...	33	...	...	...	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cedar Waxwing	186	<u>500</u>	359	150	101	649	682	1007	135	503	638	470	1090	864	41
Loggerhead Shrike	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	<u>1</u>	...	1	2	...	3	...
European Starling	7083	7271	3700	2350	2235	856	1191	2683	1750	2086	254	648	1750	1447	57
Solitary Vireo	...	...	<u>1</u>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Vireo, sp.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<u>1</u>	...
Orange-crowned Warbler	...	2	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Yellow-rumped Warbler	4974	6493	840	2010	703	1128	889	517	150	556	157	130	263	231	25
Pine Warbler	12	4	34	3	6	27	28	5	<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>	2	...	2	...	...
Palm Warbler	7	74	8	9	...	6	2	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Black-and-white Warbler	...	<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>	...	...	...	...	<u>1</u>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ovenbird	<u>1</u>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Common Yellowthroat	4	4	3	8	...	3	...	...	...	<u>3</u>	...	1	2	1	...
Yellow-breasted Chat	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<u>1</u>	...	...
Wilson's Warbler	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<u>1</u>	...	...	...	...	...
Warbler, sp.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...

16. Lynchburg	17. No. Shenandoah Valley	18. Shenandoah NP-Luray	19. Big Flat Mt.	20. Rockingham Co.	21. Augusta Co.	22. Waynesboro	23. Lexington	24. Peaks of Otter	25. Clifton Forge	26. Fincastle	27. Roanoke	28. Blacksburg	29. Tazewell	30. Glade Spring	31. Nickelsville	32. Breaks Interstate Park	33. Wise Co.
12/15	12/15	12/16	12/28	12/15	12/29	12/27	12/26	12/18	12/23	12/16	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/16	12/16	12/15
3	39	235	...	56	50	8	4	...	10	8	6	171	1	...	3	...	6
...
196	228	184	6	83	114	139	104	16	66	95	69	113	35	49	40	13	79
600	1167	1595	27	207	767	10,032	398	65	82	556	609	624	103	117	1092	56	172
...	9	2	...	20	110	128	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...
4	4	37	7	6	...	15	1	11	3	6	5	3	16	...	7	3	4
...	12	1	...	4	7	...	5	18	3	8	8	9	...	...	...	...	1
351	503	259	80	77	161	103	79	33	68	120	193	210	60	97	146	51	153
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22	3	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
222	289	150	38	57	74	99	41	43	95	59	80	158	60	84	112	31	115
2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	3
42	149	58	13	4	36	38	17	27	20	21	24	97	15	22	60	25	78
...
29	31	16	4	19	3	6	1	...	2	4	14	22	2	4	5	...	5
221	95	87	39	41	49	55	69	39	32	97	139	195	29	44	130	27	114
1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...
23	1	8	8	11	1	1	7	1	3	12	5	17	1	3	5	1	7
...
...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
103	48	100	84	21	18	33	62	21	15	72	131	71	3	15	11	33	26
77	5	15	11	...	4	26	7	7	11	16	24	4	...	...	1	1	2
...
206	452	234	2	61	108	75	130	60	60	158	45	83	40	24	175	14	114
21	3	4	7	2	1	20	17	6	6	5	10	1	...	5	2	7	12
64	15	30	28	28	32	48	89	...	68	58	6	9	11	3	36	6	56
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
111	226	132	...	72	132	86	46	2	13	86	107	126	5	57	36	...	10
2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	1	...	...
...	5	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
215	220	169	17	74	42	153	170	53	...	397	36	21	...	...	156	20	82
1	5	5	...	5	4	3	4	...	...	5	3	...	...	...	1	7	...
2292	213,138	3931	280	3821	38,118	7226	571	3	132	1478	2851	1679	1419	55,402	859	42	312
...
...
154	250	205	1	86	63	99	230	10	14	112	37	52	...	30	191	16	20
6	...	4	2
2	4	3	...	1	...	1
...
...
1	1	2	...
...
...
...

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Date	12/29	12/30	12/31	12/29	12/15	12/30	12/16	12/15	12/17	12/23	12/30	12/16	12/30	12/16	12/29
Northern Cardinal	151	354	135	51	112	197	242	243	160	530	45	117	323	252	33
Rufous-sided Towhee	13	79	38	38	13	35	81	33	8	21	...	...	46	27	3
American Tree Sparrow	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	4	...
Chipping Sparrow	60	18	11	56	55	84	8	6	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Field Sparrow	48	139	22	36	86	133	296	101	175	106	87	88	211	195	8
Vesper Sparrow	...	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Savannah Sparrow	148	154	23	92	63	16	84	127	1	1	8	...	...	4	...
Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow	...	12	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sharp-tailed Sparrow	10	17	22	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Seaside Sparrow	15	10	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fox Sparrow	...	4	10	2	3	...	1	1	1	6	...	...	4	3	...
Song Sparrow	181	489	223	155	149	107	590	392	105	338	69	86	344	519	9
Lincoln's Sparrow	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Swamp Sparrow	131	150	30	89	7	8	128	65	7	57	4	...	14	34	...
White-throated Sparrow	453	1592	560	317	315	224	1151	1198	625	1025	144	523	343	1588	98
White-crowned Sparrow	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	...	4	...	8	59	32	96	20
Dark-eyed Junco	79	85	173	112	58	692	520	417	450	891	315	448	594	866	56
Snow Bunting	1	6	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Red-winged Blackbird	1159	1908	920	64,300	2276	760	2295	872	375	420	200	57	225	254	...
Eastern Meadowlark	465	193	27	160	87	43	144	154	17	21	100	8	13	78	1
Rusty Blackbird	168	10	15	12	3	...	6	...	...	31	...	...	...	5	...
Boat-tailed Grackle	817	311	294	210	11	114	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Common Grackle	560	3986	642	13,000	2373	47	3322	12	14,000	321	30	100	11	275	...
Brown-headed Cowbird	49	199	2025	500	451	101	184	958	75	93	...	136	...	1	...
Blackbird, sp.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Northern Oriole	1	...	...	...	1	...	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Purple Finch	2	7	2	...	...	7	10	25	12	24	21	4	35	38	2
House Finch	23	38	62	13	50	33	56	87	72	148	89	128	362	177	21
Red Crossbill	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pine Siskin	...	6	...	22	6	49	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
American Goldfinch	53	265	117	87	19	117	129	154	88	189	58	16	165	100	9
Evening Grosbeak	...	1	...	23	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
House Sparrow	636	175	276	445	493	54	166	68	58	158	40	20	74	32	5
Total Species	148	163	130	127	109	104	114	101	83	107	69	62	69	77	49
Total Individuals	72,810	66,802	52,339	119,309	24,950	12,664	24,129	27,103	23,002	36,138	3953	6024	11,802	10,254	870
Total Party Hours	151	201	103	119	77	84	93	108	86	198	37	43	110	87	17
Number of Observers	31	44	30	41	31	35	29	35	19	61	12	11	18	19	10

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	12/15	12/15	12/16	12/28	12/15	12/29	12/27	12/26	12/18	12/23	12/16	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/16	12/16	12/15
...	308	407	333	26	92	159	126	133	31	46	177	158	197	61	93	119	31	98
...	30	54	3	1	...	1	4	11	...	1	11	11	33	5	14	28	7	26
...	1	18	5	...	...	2	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	107	193	105	...	8	55	172	80	5	3	55	29	73	41	33	150	4	27
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	6	2	...	...	...	4	2	1
...
...
...	2	...	2	1	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
...	265	392	200	4	59	87	124	132	10	19	187	232	321	61	106	319	51	246
...	17	21	3	...	...	...	6	1	...	1	5	7	1	5	2	10	...	1
...	761	335	572	208	314	304	392	364	51	42	316	280	533	9	152	266	55	75
...	14	290	248	...	119	130	97	26	...	...	308	12	183	3	60	29	7	1
...	547	1109	1168	148	303	446	393	375	148	415	432	260	391	57	67	365	59	175
...	23	624	35	...	...	46,603	50	1	...	...	44	15	4	15	...	2	...	...
...	40	108	78	...	94	78	90	6	...	26	130	41	3	7	17	91	9	12
...	...	24	13	...	3	21	8	4	...	...	11	...	1	2	3	7	...	2
...	60	120	13	15	38	186,270	196	...	...	...	1	2	2	50	9303	...	...	...
...	21	282	51	...	26	47,384	82	...	...	...	1	...	3	9	44	...	1	1
...	...	...	...	...	...	7220	6000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	32	38	45	...	53	53	8	40	8	4	33	25	28	1	...	28	...	...
...	297	538	321	...	138	194	130	61	...	36	168	162	153	20	12	45	1	11
...
...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	13	...	...	...	4	...	...
...	188	280	127	23	109	71	78	74	49	42	108	143	178	22	63	113	26	84
...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
...	91	627	596	...	659	431	276	26	...	37	265	82	457	371	132	110	32	163
...	81	90	81	40	65	69	80	66	38	55	73	85	78	63	62	69	47	62
...	9405	225,747	14,254	1164	8600	331,266	27,930	3876	836	1526	6402	8535	8670	2682	66,623	5390	743	2637
...	127	190	120	29	57	91	69	41	25	20	81	118	117	35	46	58	31	60
...	42	55	41	3	23	36	24	20	11	5	20	25	31	5	11	12	11	16

Northern Shenandoah Valley, along with Brooke count, found a Marsh Wren, a most unusual discovery for either of these areas in December. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were present in extremely high numbers with Cape Charles and Fort Belvoir listing 192 and 235 respectively. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher's were seen on six of the ten coastal plains counts. The prolonged warm period probably accounts for the 17 birds, more than double last year's total of seven, seen on four counts. This species has been recorded on state counts almost every year since 1970, but never have numbers approached those of the last two seasons.

Bluebirds seem to be holding their own with Mathews almost equalling its 425 high in 1980 and four other counts finding record numbers. In spite of mild conditions, American Robins apparently did not linger in the region. Numbers appeared to be somewhat lower in all sections. Roanoke birders continued their impressive list of rarities with the only Gray Catbird found in the mountain and valleys region.

What is becoming almost an "expected rarity," a Solitary Vireo showed up at Little Creek again this year. Palm Warblers evidently took advantage of the milder temperatures in the northern mountain region of the state with a total of nine birds on four counts in that area, plus two more seen at Lynchburg. The usual scattering of Black-and-white Warblers were found in the southeastern sector with five seen at Little Creek, but the Ovenbird at Chincoteague was the first recorded since 1978. The Wilson's Warbler at Fort Belvoir was a bonafide rarity, becoming Virginia's 286th Christmas count species. A smattering of Common Yellowthroats lingered with reports from all three sections of the state.

A high 127 Savannah Sparrows was a record for the Hopewell count, while Fort Belvoir participants found a Lincoln's Sparrow lingering there during the count period. Sharp observers at Glade Springs spotted a Northern Oriole, the first ever for that count and only about the third Christmas count record for the middle to lower half of the mountain region.

1. CHINCOTEAGUE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. Center 2 miles N of center of Chincoteague. Dec. 29. Thirty-one observers in 21 parties. Total party-hours, 151 (128 on foot, 18 by car, 5 by boat) plus 4 hours owling; total party-miles, 418 (86 on foot, 320 by car, 12 by boat) plus 12 miles owling. Compiler: F. R. Scott.
2. CAPE CHARLES. Center 1.5 miles SE of Capeville PO, just S of Dunton Cove. Dec. 30. Forty-four observers in 11-26 parties. Total party-hours, 207 (176 on foot, 21 by car, 10 by boat) plus 9 hours owling; total party-miles, 429 (149 on foot, 250 by car, 30 boat) plus 18 miles owling. Compiler: Henry Armistead.
3. LITTLE CREEK. Center 3.8 miles NE of Kempsville in Virginia Beach. Dec. 31. Thirty observers in 10 parties. Total party-hours, 103 (82 on foot, 21 by car) plus 4 hours owling; total party-miles, 515 (78 on foot, 437 by car) plus 30 miles owling. Compiler: Paul Sykes.
4. BACK BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. Center 1.5 miles E of Back Bay. Dec. 29. Forty-one observers in 14 parties. Total party-hours, 119 (93 on foot, 24 by car, 2 by boat) plus 3 hours owling; total party-miles, 582 (58 on foot, 514 by car, 10 by boat) plus 16 miles owling. Compiler: Paul Sykes.
5. NEWPORT NEWS. Center a point equidistant from NE corner boundary of Thomas Nelson Community College and corner of Magruder Blvd. (rt. 134) and Cmdr. Shepard Blvd. Dec 15. Thirty-one observers in 9 parties. Total party-hours, 77 (52 on foot, 25 by car) plus 2 hours owling; total party-miles, 319 (33 on foot, 286 by car) plus 10 miles owling. Compiler: W. P. Smith.

6. MATHEWS. Center 0.5 mile E of Beaverlett PO. Dec 30. Thirty-five observers in 10 parties. Total party-hours, 84 (48 on foot, 35 by car, 1 by boat) plus 2 hours owling; total party-miles, 429 (51 on foot, 377 by car, 1 by boat) plus 11 miles owling. Compiler: Mary Pulley.
7. WILLAMSBURG. Center Colonial Williamsburg Information Center. Dec. 16. Twenty-nine observers in 13 parties. Total party-hours, 93 (62 on foot, 29 by car, 2 by boat), plus 7 owling; total party-miles, 395 (37 on foot, 355 by car, 3 by boat) plus 12 miles owling. Compiler: Bill Williams.
8. HOPEWELL. Center Curles Neck. Dec. 15. Thirty-five observers in 14 parties. Total party-hours, 108 (89 on foot, 15 by car, 4 by boat) plus 4 hours owling; total party-miles, 317 (44 on foot, 258 by car, 15 by boat) plus 15 miles owling. Compiler: F.R. Scott.
9. BROOKE. Center 3 miles ESE of Brooke. Dec. 17. Nineteen observers in 10 parties. Total party-hours, 86 (63 on foot, 23 by car); total party-miles, 153 (47 on foot, 106 by car). Compiler: E.T. McKnight.
10. FORT BELVOIR. Center Pohick Church. Dec 23. Sixty-one observers, 58-61 in 37 parties, 0-3 at feeders. Total party-hours, 198 (172 on foot, 26 by car) plus 5 hours at feeders, 4 owling; total party-miles, 524 (150 on foot, 374 by car) plus 8 miles owling. Compiler: Jackson Abbott.
11. LAKE ANNA. Center rt. 208 at N Anna River Bridge. Dec 30. Twelve observers, 9-11 in 5 parties, 1 at feeders. Total party-hours, 37 (19 on foot, 18 by car) plus 8 hours at feeders, 3 owling; total party-miles, 194 (20 on foot, 174 by car) plus 18 miles owling. Compiler: Jack Mozingo.
12. GORDONSVILLE. Center junction rts. 15, 33 and 231 in Gordonsville. Dec. 16. Eleven observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours, 43 (23 on foot, 20 by car) plus 5 hours owling; total party-miles, 302 (18 on foot, 284 by car) plus 21 miles owling. Compiler: Theodore Scott, Jr.
13. CHARLOTTESVILLE. Center near Ivy. Dec 30. Eighteen observers in 13 parties. Total party-hours, 110 (90 on foot, 20 by car) plus 6 hours owling; total party-miles, 247 (89 on foot, 158 by car) plus 25 miles owling. Compiler: Charles Stevens.
14. WARREN. Center near Keene. Dec. 16. Nineteen observers in 16 parties. Total party-hours, 87 (74 on foot, 13 by car) plus 4 hours owling; total party-miles, 200 (83 on foot, 117 by car) plus 19 miles owling. Compiler: Charles Stevens.
15. SWEET BRIAR. Center Sweet Briar College campus. Dec 29. Ten observers, 9 in 3 parties, 1 at feeders. Total party-hours, 17 (16 on foot, 1 by car) plus 3 hours at feeders, 3 owling; total party-miles, 22 (9 on foot, 13 by car). Compiler: Gertrude Prior.
16. LYNCHBURG. Center Lynchburg College. Dec. 15. Forty-two observers, 40 in 18 parties, 2 at feeders. Total party-hours, 127 (87 on foot, 40 by car) plus 8 hours at feeders, 10 owling; total party-miles, 507 (62 on foot, 445 by car) plus 32 miles owling. Compiler: Myriam Moore.

17. NORTHERN SHENANDOAH VALLEY. Center 2 mi. W-SW of Double Toll Gate at junction of Crooked Run and rt. 606. Dec. 15. Fifty-five observers in 21 parties. Total party-hours, 190 (78 on foot, 91 by car, 21 by canoe) plus 5 hours owling; total party-miles, 943 (79 on foot, 841 by car, 23 by canoe). Compiler: Rob Simpson.
18. SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK—LURAY. Center Hershberger Hill. Dec. 16. Forty-one observers, 34 in 16 parties, 7 at feeders. Total party-hours, 120 (78 on foot, 38 by car, 4 by canoe) plus 6 hours at feeders, 7 owling; total party-miles, 509 (72 on foot, 430 by car, 7 by canoe) plus 20 miles owling. Compiler: Dennis Carter.
19. BIG FLAT MOUNTAIN. Center on Pasture Fence Mountain. Dec. 28. Three observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours, 29 (all on foot) plus 3 owling; total party-miles, 43 (all on foot) plus 8 miles owling. Compiler: Charles Stevens.
20. ROCKINGHAM COUNTY. Center Ottobine. Dec. 15. Twenty-three observers in 12 parties. Total party-hours, 57 (25 on foot, 32 by car) plus 2 hours owling; total party-miles, 337 (23 on foot, 314 by car) plus 2 miles owling. Compiler: Max Carpenter.
21. AUGUSTA COUNTY. Center junctions rts. 780 and 781. Dec. 29. Thirty-six observers, 35 in 14 parties, 1 at feeders. Total party-hours, 91 (49 on foot, 42 by car) plus 4 hours at feeders; total party-miles, 550 (45 on foot, 505 by car). Compiler: John Mehner.
22. WAYNESBORO. Center Sherando at intersection of rts. 610 and 664. Dec. 27. Twenty-two observers, 19 in 10-12 parties, 3 at feeders. Total party-hours, 69 (45 on foot, 23 by car, 1 by bicycle) plus 3 hours at feeders, 2 owling; total party-miles, 374 (41 on foot, 331 by car, 2 by bicycle) plus 6 miles owling. Compiler: Ruth Snyder.
23. LEXINGTON. Center Big Spring Pond. Dec. 26. Twenty observers, 18 in 8 parties, 2 at feeders. Total party-hours, 41 (30 on foot, 11 by car) plus 3 hours at feeders, 2 owling; total party-miles, 174 (32 on foot, 142 by car) plus 12 miles owling. Compiler: Bob Paxton.
24. PEAKS OF OTTER. Center Peaks of Otter Visitor Center. Dec. 18. Eleven observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours, 25 (16 on foot, 9 by car); total party-miles, 64 (18 on foot, 46 by car). Compiler: Barry Kinzie.
25. CLIFTON FORGE. Center junction rts. 42 and 60 Dec. 23. Five observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours, 20 (16 on foot, 4 by car) plus 1 hour owling; total party-miles, 136 (12 on foot, 124 by car) plus 5 miles owling. Compiler: Allen LeHew.
26. FINCASTLE. Center N of Fincastle near intersection of rts. 220 and 679. Dec. 16. Twenty observers in 12 parties. Total party-hours, 81 (56 on foot, 25 by car) plus 7 hours owling; total party-miles, 174 (61 on foot, 113 by car) plus 24 miles owling. Compiler: Barry Kinzie.
27. ROANOKE. Center junction Oakland Blvd. and Williamson Rd. Dec. 15. Twenty-five observers, 24 in 14 parties, 1 at feeders. Total party-hours, 118 (56 on foot, 57 by car, 5 by canoe) plus 1 hour at feeder, 13 owling; total party-miles, 549 (49 on foot, 497 by car, 3 by canoe) plus 42 miles owling. Compiler: Barry Kinzie.

28. **BLACKSBURG.** Center near Linkous Store (intersection of rts. 685 and 657). Dec. 15. Thirty-one observers, 28 in 18 parties, 3 at feeders. Total party-hours, 117 (99 on foot, 16 by car, 2 by canoe) plus 8 hours at feeders, 4 owling; total party-miles, 283 (86 on foot, 195 by car, 2 by canoe) plus 2 miles owling. Compiler: Curtis Adkisson.
 29. **TAZEWELL.** Center Fourway. Dec. 15. Five observers, 4 in 4 parties, 1 at feeders. Total party-hours, 35 (5 on foot, 30 by car) plus 6 hours at feeders, 1 owling; total party-miles, 94 (8 on foot, 86 by car) plus 1 mile owling. Compiler: Sarah Cromer.
 30. **GLADE SPRING.** Center junction rts. 750 and 609. Dec. 15. Eleven observers, 10 in 6 parties, 1 at feeders. Total party-hours, 46 (16 on foot, 30 by car) plus 2 hours at feeders, 1 owling; total party-miles, 263 (20 on foot, 243 by car) plus 2 miles owling. Compiler: Chuck Byrd.
 31. **NICKELSVILLE.** Center Nickelsville. Dec. 16. Twelve observers in 7 parties. Total party-hours, 58 (36 on foot, 22 by car) plus 3 hours owling; total party-miles, 332 (14 on foot, 318 by car) plus 8 miles owling. Compilers: Betsy Baker and E.E. Scott.
 32. **BREAKS INTERSTATE PARK.** Center 4.5 miles NE of Haysi. Dec. 16. Eleven observers, 9 in 5 parties, 2 at feeders. Total party-hours, 30 (20 on foot, 10 by car) plus 8 hours at feeders, 3 owling; total party-miles, 156 (19 on foot, 137 by car) plus 9 miles owling. Compiler: Kenneth Markley.
 33. **WISE COUNTY.** Center Dorchester. Dec. 15. Sixteen observers, 14 in 8 parties, 2 at feeders. Total party-hours, 60 (37 on foot, 23 by car) plus 8 hours at feeders, 3 owling; total party-miles, 228 (33 on foot, 195 by car) plus 20 miles owling. Compiler: Richard Peake.
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THE 1985 VSO ANNUAL MEETING

TETA KAIN

The fifty-first Annual Meeting of the Virginia Society of Ornithology was opened at Ingleside Red Carpet Inn in Staunton by President Dr. Jerry Via at 7:30 p.m. on 10 May 1985. He extended thanks and congratulations to Augusta Bird Club members for excellent preparations for the event.

The president also extended a welcome to all VSO chapters including the newest chapter, Fairfax Audubon Society. He reported that the current VSO membership is 973.

Present officers, board of directors members, chairmen of committees, and immediate past president, YuLee Larner were presented to the membership. Thanks was extended to the three retiring board of directors members, Ruth Beck, John Mehner, and Richard Goll.

On opening the business meeting, Dr. Via conducted election of officers. The slate of nominees as presented by the nominating committee were:

President: Dr. Jerry Via
Vice-President: Mr. Bill Williams
Secretary: Mrs. Teta Kain
Treasurer: Mrs. Thelma Dalmas
Raven Editor: Mr. Fred Scott
Newsletter Editor: Mrs. Myriam Moore
Board of Directors (for a three-year term)
T. Paul Smith
Jackson Abbott
John Bazuin, Jr.

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

Thelma Dalmas, treasurer, reported that as of 1 January 1985, the balance in the VSO treasury was \$14,155.01. Mrs. Dalmas announced that several VSO publications were available to members in the exhibit room. Some items available were free of charge to members, others were on sale.

Conservation chairman, Dr. R.J. Watson discussed the following two items:

1) A Washington D.C. newspaper announced that a developer in that area plans to construct a dam on the upper James River. Since that section of the River is under Scenic River Designation, the action will require a vote by the state legislature. However, Mr. Watson expects the legislature to approve the proposal.

2) Chincoteague National Wildlife Federation officials are holding a "scoping plan" on 1 June 1985 to entertain suggestions for management practices on the refuge. Individuals and organizations have until 15 June 1985 to respond. Dr. Watson read a set of resolutions he had drawn up to be presented at the meeting. Mr. Watson moved that the VSO formally accept the resolutions for the secretary to present to the Chincoteague Committee. The motion was seconded. Discussion revealed that some of the phrases and/or wording of the resolution were not clear and Dr. Watson withdrew his motion. Fred Scott then moved that the matter be handled by a committee. The new motion was seconded and approved by the membership. The matter will be referred to a subcommittee appointed by President Via to be carefully studied and amended before the resolutions are presented to the Chincoteague Committee on or before the deadline of 15 June 1985.

Ruth Beck of the Site Guide Committee announced that the updated 1985 version of the Site Guide has been completed and is on sale in the exhibit room for \$3 a copy. Mrs. Beck thanked members of the Site Guide Committee for their help in completing the project.

Announcements were as follows:

1) The VSO Board of Directors planning retreat is scheduled for 19-21 July at Warm Springs Inn. Members were asked to submit ideas and suggestions to board members for discussion during that weekend.

2) The VSO Foray is scheduled for 11-16 June. Anyone interested in information should contact Fred Scott.

3) The annual trip to Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge is again scheduled for this coming autumn. Details will be in the July newsletter.

4) The Newsletter deadline is 20 June 1985.

5) Sarah Cromer, president of Clinch Valley Bird Club announced that their club is selling "Bird Trivia Packets" for \$3.50 each to anyone interested in a fund-raising project for his organization.

6) Dr. Mitchell Byrd asked for two volunteers to man a Peregrine release site somewhere in Tazewell County in the very near future. Interested persons should contact him immediately.

7) Mrs. YuLee Lerner, arrangements chairman of the weekend, announced that 225 people registered for the Annual Meeting this year.

Sue Ridd, Breeding Bird Atlas Coordinator reported on the project's first year. She introduced the 12 regional coordinators and announced 220 blocks have been completed, 176 of those comprised of data from the priority southeast sectors. Ms. Ridd went on to explain that a total of \$11,641.50 has been spent on the Atlas program thus far. She has been urged by the Virginia Environmental Endowment Fund to apply for a grant which would supply matching funds. She said Atlas handbooks will be completed by 21 May. At the conclusion of Ms. Ridd's slide presentation Dr. Via thanked her for the work she has done on the Atlas Program to date.

Allen Hale, head of the newly formed Neotropical Committee outlined the committee's three primary objectives:

- 1) To study problems and identify what is happening in the neotropical region of the Americas.

- 2) Investigate the possibility of associating with another organization with the same objectives to work together to preserve habitat in that region.

- 3) Investigate the possibility of organizing field trips to the Central American region for the purpose of studying the situation there.

Dr. John Mehner welcomed everyone to the Annual Meeting on behalf of the Augusta Bird Club. He went on to discuss and promote the Breeding Bird Survey in the state of Virginia. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service started the Breeding Bird Survey in 1965. At the present time there are 44 routes in Virginia. Thirty-nine were run in 1984. Dr. Mehner is aiming for 100% coverage of the routes in 1985.

The film, "The Private Life of a Kingfisher," by Ronald and Rosemary Eastman, was shown to the audience.

Immediately following, Sy Larner described Saturday morning's line-up of field trips and instructed everyone interested to sign up on sheets available in the lobby.

Dr. Via closed the evening session with an invitation to visit the exhibit room and enjoy the refreshments provided.

After a morning of successful field trips to several locations in the area, Vice-president, Bill Williams presided over the papers session on Saturday afternoon beginning at 2 p.m. The first speaker, Tim Kinkead, Department of Biology, College of William and Mary, recounted Osprey population dynamics in the Tidewater region of Virginia. His study indicated that 1) there is no significant difference in breeding performance between age classes, 2) 73% of the birds studied displayed a strong tendency to use identical nesting sites in following years, and 3) of 19 pairs banded in 1983, 12 were still together in the following year.

Stuart L. Porter, VMD, displayed the only Gyrfalcon ever reported in Virginia and elaborated on the purposes and goals of the Shenandoah Valley Wildlife Treatment and Rehabilitation Center. When the bird was found it was severely injured with a gunshot wound. It was eventually taken to the Shenandoah Center where two months of intensive veterinary work restored the bird to good condition; however, trauma to the wing was so extensive it left the bird unable to fly.

Amanda McDaniel, John Mehner, and Lora Schneider of Mary Baldwin College demonstrated with live Ring-necked Doves that developing behavior in birds is dependent upon the reactions of the intruder. They also demonstrated that the head region, of a dummy bird stimulates courting behavior in the male dove more than the tail or body regions.

Melva and Charles Hansrote of Lynchburg examined the effect of urban development in a rural area of the Piedmont region by comparing data collected over a recent two-year period with old records of the same area. The latest study seems to be in general agreement with the old records and no significant change can be noted at present. However, development is expected to be intense in the next several years and the Hansrotes plan to develop a data base from records they are collecting and will continue to study the area.

Following intermission, Dr. Via extended special thanks to Michael Beck for his successful efforts of the night before to sell over \$250 worth of VSO Site Guides and other materials.

Chuck Rosenberg, Department of Biology at the College of William and Mary noted a marked decrease in the Common Barn-Owl populations of eastern Virginia. He cited fewer waste areas and more intensive agricultural practices as a probable cause for the decline. He will monitor owl movements over the next year by means of radio telemetry to identify preferred habitats of these birds. Mr. Rosenberg was the 1984 winner of the VSO Murray Award.

Brooke Meanley, retired biologist of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service noted the close similarity of King Rails in Virginia and Clapper Rails in the Gulf Coast area. He also remarked on the decline of Clapper Rail nests in a 47-acre tract of salt marsh at Chincoteague. In 1950 seventy-eight active nests were found. In 1980 only 22 nests were located. Mr. Meanley noted that a pronounced increase in Laughing Gulls nesting in the area may have effected rail nesting success since they do prey on rail chicks.

The papers session was concluded with Robert W. Nero, Wildlife Specialist, Division of Natural Resources, Winnipeg, Manitoba, presenting a 24-minute color documentary film on comparative aspects of territorial, courtship and mating behavior, and vocalization of Red-winged and Yellow-headed Blackbirds.

Dr. Via presided over the banquet in the evening. Immediately following the meal, he conducted roll call of chapters. Members then adjourned for a 30-minute intermission and reconvened in the meeting room of the Inn. Dr. Mehner introduced the keynote speaker, Dr. Robert W. Nero of Winnipeg, Manitoba. After a few introductory remarks, Dr. Nero showed a 9-minute film by George S. Cotter on the activities of Great Gray Owls at their nest. He went on to discuss the success of man-made nests for the owls, and pointed out the habitat and food preferences of the owls. He showed slides on winter trapping and banding activities of Great Gray Owls southeast of Winnipeg. Dr. Nero then pointed out threats to owl habitat and steps taken to cope with this problem.

Awards ceremonies were conducted by Charles Hansrote of Lynchburg. He recognized Mrs. Grace Wiltshire who was the only charter member of VSO present. Mr. Hansrote also recognized members who had joined the organization during the weekend.

This year's James Eike Award recipients were J. Enoch Johnson, Ruth Beck, YuLee Lerner, and Bill Opengari.

The 1985 VSO Conservation award was presented by Dr. R.J. Watson to Sylvia Ann Brugh for successfully leading opposition against the Burke's Dam project which threatened plant and wildlife habitat on the upper James River. This resulted in Scenic River Designation for that section of the river.

Door prizes painted by Craig Peterson and Bonnie Williamson were awarded to five lucky winners. Dr. Watson presented a resolution expressing thanks to all who contributed to the success of the weekend. The resolution was approved by acclamation. Dr. Via adjourned the meeting at 10:30 p.m.

LOCAL CHAPTERS OF THE VSO

This list of local chapters, compiled by Bill Opengari, chairman of the Membership Committee, has been revised to May 1985. 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. Fairfax Audubon Society (2000), Vienna
10. Hampton Roads Bird Club (170), 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), Middletown
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 (55), Montross
25. Williamsburg Bird Club (130), Williamsburg

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES OF THE VSO, 1985-1986

President: JERRY W. VIA, Department of Biology, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia 24061

Vice President: BILL WILLIAMS, 204 Captain Newport Circle, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

Secretary: MRS. TETA KAIN, 322 Wilderness Road, Hampton, Virginia 23669

Treasurer: MRS. THELMA DALMAS, 520 Rainbow Forest Drive, Virginia 24502

Raven Editor: F.R. SCOTT, 115 Kennondale Lane, Richmond, Virginia 23226

Newsletter Editor: MRS. MYRIAM MOORE, 101 Columbia Avenue, Lynchburg, Virginia 24503

Immediate Past President: MRS. YULEE LARNER, 1020 West Beverley Street, Staunton, Virginia 24401

Elected Members of the Board of Directors:

Class of 1986

John W. Dillard, Jr., 2803 Brentford Drive, Richmond, Virginia 23225

Leonard Teuber, P.O. Box 112, Weyers Cave, Virginia 24486

Mrs. Polly Turner, 23 Sellers Avenue, Lexington, Virginia 24450

Class of 1987

James L. Ayers, P.O. Box 508, Roanoke, Virginia 24003

Charles L. Hansrote, 24 Greenwell Court, Lynchburg, Virginia 24502

J. Enoch Johnson, Route 3, Box 212, Montross, Virginia 22520

Class of 1988

Jackson Abbott, 8501 Doter Drive, Alexandria, Virginia 22308

John B. Bazuin, Jr., 7495 Little River Turnpike, Apt. 201, Annandale, Virginia 22003

T. Paul Smith, Route 1, Box 124, Onancock, Virginia 23417

Committees:

Atlas Project: Sue Ridd, 10718 Almond Street, Fairfax, Virginia 22032

Circulation: John W. Dillard, Jr., 7803 Brentford Drive, Richmond, Virginia 23225

Conservation: Robert J. Watson, 2636 Marcey Road, Arlington, Virginia 22207

Education: J. Enoch Johnson, Route 3, Box 212, Montross, Virginia 22520

Field Trips: David L. Hughes, 4729 Camellia Drive, Suffolk, Virginia 23455

Kiptopeke Review: Bill Williams, 204 Captain Newport Circle, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

Membership: Bill Opengari, Route 1, Box 491, Daleville, Virginia 24083

Murray Award: Charles Ziegenfus, 332 Franklin Street, Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801

Neotropical: Allen Hale, Route 1, Box 242, Shipman, Virginia 22971

Publicity: Valerie Kitchens, 5013 North 25th Road, Arlington, Virginia 22207

Records: Mrs. Teta Kain, 322 Wilderness Road, Hampton, Virginia 23669

Research: F.R. Scott, 115 Kennondale Lane, Richmond, Virginia 23226

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

THE HIGHLAND COUNTY FORAY OF JUNE 1985

YULEE LARNER

The eighteenth in a series of breeding bird forays sponsored by the Research Committee of the VSO was held in Highland County, Virginia, 11-16 June 1985. A record 52 VSO members participated in the count and found a total of 132 different species, three more than the 129 recorded by 32 participants in the only previous Highland County foray held in 1975.

Participants were housed at the Montvalee Motel which served as headquarters the first three days, and at Highland Inn where tally sessions were held Friday and Saturday, due to inclement weather. A few camped at Locust Spring for several nights.

The foray was directed by F.R. Scott, Chairman of the Research Committee with advance preparations made by YuLee Lerner.

Highlights of the foray included the sighting of an adult Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, one of the few records west of the Great Valley, a Peregrine Falcon and a Golden Eagle. The eagle, an immature bird, remained in the same place all week and was observed closely by almost all foray participants. Observers found Tree Swallow, Savannah Sparrow and Bobolink to be increasing as breeding birds and the Mourning Warbler to be at least holding its own with reports from at least five localities, all on the slopes of Allegheny Mountain. Bewick's Wren, barely holding out at all, was found in two locations.

Under the direction of Clair Mellinger, a tremendous amount of data was gathered for the Virginia Atlas Project, including breeding evidence for many species. Because of the interest of many observers in the Atlas Project, much field work was done in the nine priority blocks located in Highland County.

As in other VSO forays, field work was conducted in small groups, usually of from two to four observers, covering as much of the county as possible, and with different parties covering different routes on successive days.

Previous field work in Highland County, as well as the geology and topography of the region, has been summarized in detail (Peake, 1978) and, for convenience of the reader, is repeated here. The mountains and rivers in Highland County flow generally from northeast to southwest. From east to west, the major ridges are Shenandoah Mountain (2800-3800 feet), Bullpasture Mountain (2800-3200 feet), Jack Mountain (3200-4300 feet), Monterey Mountain (3500-3900 feet), Lantz Mountain (3200-3800 feet), and Allegheny Mountain (3800-4500 feet). US 250 runs through the center of the county from east to west and provides a convenient dividing line between the northern and southern portions of the county. The southern three-quarters of the county drains southwestward via Back Creek and the Jackson, Bullpasture and Cowpasture Rivers, all tributaries of the James River. The northernmost quarter of the county is drained by the South Branch of the Potomac River and its tributaries. Lower and middle elevation areas include Blue Grass Valley, Back Creek, Jackson River and Big Valley. Only the lower reaches of Cowpasture and Bullpasture Rivers are below 2000 feet.

Species found in 1975 but not in 1985 include American Woodcock, Long-eared Owl, Carolina Chickadee, Winter Wren, and Blue-winged, Nashville and Yellow-throated Warblers. Found on the foray but not in 1975 were, in addition to the three species mentioned above, Canada Goose, Mallard, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Summer Tanager and House Finch.

The temperature ranged from low 40s to 70 degrees F. with predominantly overcast skies, cold rain showers and strong winds. The following annotated list of birds was compiled from 75 field lists.

The following observers participated in the foray: Robert L. Ake, Jorn Ake, Mary Arginteanu, Lynn Bailey, Robert T. Barbee, Floy Burford, John and Thelma

Dalmas, Fenton Day, John W. Dillard, Bernice Eubank, Gisela Grimm, Virginia Hank, Charles and Melva Hansrote, Diane Holsinger, Helen C. Irving, Barry L. Kinzie, Valerie Kitchens, YuLee Larner, Bob and Joyce Livermore, Mary Anne Madison, Clair Mellinger, Dorothy Mitchell, Brian Moore, Norwood Middleton, Isabel Obenschain, Bill Opengari, Bonnie Painter, Brian Patteson, Arthur and Lois Pieper, Mike Purdy, Sue Ridd, Anne Rallo, Larry Robinson, F.R. Scott, Evelyn Stalnaker, Charles E. Stevens, Leonard Teuber, Randy and Sue Thrasher, Craig Turner, Harry Turner, Robert and Laura Watson, Tom and Ali Wieboldt, Josephine E. Wood, Dan Yates, and Zelda Silverman. 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."

Great Blue Heron. Two reports. Larner and Obenschain found one in lower Cowpasture Valley on 12 June and the Dalmases saw one in Blue Grass Valley on 14 June.

Green-backed Heron. Ten reports from middle and lower elevations with all records of from one to two birds except for the high count of 3 found by Mitchell, Silverman and Stalnaker in Jackson River Valley on 12 June.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron. One report. A single bird was seen at a small pond on VA 648 (2800 feet) on Bullpasture Mountain (in the Doe Hill "priority block") by Larner, Obenschain and Ridd on 10 June. A number of observers visited the site during the foray period but the bird was not seen again.

Canada Goose. This species was not reported during the 1975 foray but was present at two locations this year. Two adults with 9 young were seen by Mitchell et al. on a pond on US 250 just west of Hightown on 10 June and Patteson and Purdy found a pair with 3 young at a pond on US 220 south of Monterey on 11 June.

Wood Duck. There were nine reports from three areas all at low or middle elevations. Larner and Obenschain found 2 adults with nine young at a pond on US 250 just west of Hightown; Akes found 2 immatures in lower Cowpasture Valley on 15 June and Dalmases saw an adult and 8 young along lower Bullpasture River on 16 June.

Mallard. Two reports. Middleton and Teuber found one in Blue Grass Valley on 11 June and Irving, Madison and Rallo saw one in lower Cowpasture Valley on 14 June. This species was not found on the 1975 foray.

Black Vulture. Fifteen reports mostly lower and middle elevations of southern Highland County. Dillard and Scott and Watsons and Kitchens saw single birds in Blue Grass Valley on 13 June. The only high elevation record was from Shenandoah Mountain where Dillard and Scott saw one on 11 June. The high count of 14 was made by Middleton and Teuber in Jackson River Valley on 16 June.

Turkey Vulture. Common at lower and middle elevations with many counts of 10 or more birds. Mitchell et al. made the high count of 47 in Jackson River Valley and Big Valley on 12 June.

Osprey. One report. A single bird was seen along lower Cowpasture River on 15 June. Ospreys are seen at Coursey Springs in nearby Bath County on a regular basis in summer, possibly unmated immatures that find sufficient food supply at the fishery.

Sharp-shinned Hawk. Six reports, all of single birds. Hansrotes saw one in upper Bullpasture Valley on 13 June and Opengari found one in Blue Grass Valley on 14 June. Other records were from lower Cowpasture Valley and Back Creek Valley.

Cooper's Hawk. Only two records. Bailey and Moores reported 2 on VA 600 south of US 250 on 13 June and Larner and Obenschain saw one on VA 648 on Bullpasture Mountain on 15 June.

Red-shouldered Hawk. Of the ten reports, only two were from lower and middle elevations: one was seen in Back Creek Valley on 12 June by Irving et al., and Teuber

and Middleton found one in Lower Cowpasture Valley on 13 June. Single birds were seen on Shenandoah Mountain and Monterey Mountain as well as several locations in Locust Spring area where Kinzie discovered a nest, 50 feet high in a maple tree, 2 adults and 2 young, at the head of Slap Camp Trail (3750 feet).

Broad-winged Hawk. Five reports of single birds, two from Locust Springs, one from VA 601, one from Back Creek Valley and one from upper Bullpasture Valley. Hansrotes had the high count of 2 birds in Blue Grass Valley on 14 June.

Red-tailed Hawk. Twenty-three reports from all sections of the county mostly of single birds. There were several reports of 2, but Dalmases had the only count of 3 in Blue Grass Valley on 14 June.

Golden Eagle. A single immature bird was present throughout the foray period at Straight Fork on the west slope of Lantz Mountain. It was first reported by Day, Patterson and Purdy, on 12 June and later seen by virtually all foray participants. Burford, Grimm and Hank reported two of undetermined age on US 250 west on Allegheny Mountain on 12 June. This species was not reported on the 1975 foray.

American Kestrel. There were 15 reports of from one to two birds in the low and middle elevations. Kinzie saw a pair carrying food on VA 612 at Clover Creek.

Peregrine Falcon. One report. One was seen by Dillard and Scott just south of the junction of VA 84 and VA 600 on 13 June.

Ruffed Grouse. There were twenty-eight reports from middle and high elevations, significantly higher count than the seven reports in 1975. There were sightings from Allegheny, Jack and Shenandoah Mountains, Laurel Fork and Paddy Knob with a number of family groups reported. Opengari saw 7 fledged young in Big Valley on 12 June and Middleton and Teuber saw 3 young there on 16 June. Larner and Obenschain saw an adult and 6 young on the east side of Jack Mountain and an adult and 5 young on VA 629 on the west side, on 13 June. Middleton and Teuber reported an adult and 4 young in upper Bullpasture Valley on 15 June and the Piepers saw a female with 6 young on VA 642 on 15 June. Dillard and Scott had the high count of one female with 10 young on VA 642 on 12 June.

Wild Turkey. There were eight records of Wild Turkeys, three of which were from low to middle elevations. Larner and Obenschain saw one in upper Bullpasture River Valley on 11 June and Ridd found one there on 15 June; Mitchell et al. found 2 in the Jackson River Valley on 12 June. High elevation reports included 4 on Paddy Knob on 12 June (Holsinger, Painter and Tumer), 1 on VA 642 on 14 June (Opengari) and 3 at Locust Spring on 15 June (Arginteanu and Robinson). Mellinger saw an adult and 10 young on Shenandoah Mountain on 12 June and Dillard and Scott counted one adult and 10 one-fourth grown young on VA 642 also on 12 June.

Northern Bobwhite. There were only nine reports all from low and middle elevations of which six were of single birds. Dalmases counted 6 on VA 642 on 14 June and the high count of 11 was made by Burford et al. in Jackson River Valley on 13 June.

Killdeer. There were reports from all low and middle elevation sections of the county with most sightings in Blue Grass Valley where Middleton and Teuber listed the high count of 15 on 11 June. Larner and Obenschain found an adult on a nest on 13 June, Dalmases saw a pair with downy young on 14 June and Hansrotes found 2 adults with 2 young on 14 June, all three reports from Blue Grass Valley.

Rock Dove. There were ten reports, all from low to middle elevations. Dalmases had the top count of 8 on VA 614 north of US 250 on 15 June. This species was not recorded on the 1975 foray.

Mourning Dove. There were thirty reports distributed over all low and middle elevation areas with most records from the southeast section. The high count of 15 was listed by Barbee and Stevens from the lower Cowpasture River Valley on 13 June.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Of the eighteen reports, four were from high elevations: in

Laurel Fork area, Middleton and Teuber saw one 11 June, Larner and Obenschain listed one on 13 June and Ridd reported one there on 16 June; Purdy and Patteson saw 2 at Paddy Knob on 11 June. Dillard and Scott listed the high count of 4 in the Doe Hill area on 14 June.

Eastern Screech-Owl. There were only three reports of Screech Owls during the foray. Larner and Obenschain heard one in the Doe Hill area on 12 June and Barbee and Stevens reported one there on 13 June. The peak count of 2 was from the Jackson River Valley on 16 June (Middleton and Teuber).

Great Horned Owl. One report. Hansrotes found one bird on Middle Mountain Trail on 14 June.

Barred Owl. Three reports, all from Locust Spring area: Middleton and Teuber found 3 on 10 June and Kinzie counted 6 on 15 June. Akes saw 2 fuzzy-headed young on 16 June.

Northern Saw-whet Owl. One report. Middleton and Teuber heard one calling on Locust Spring on 14 June.

Whip-poor-will. Only six scattered reports from low and middle elevations. Mitchell et al. heard 4 on VA 631 east of Monterey on 10 June and 4 on US 220 south of Monterey on 12 June.

Chimney Swift. There were forty reports from low and middle elevations with a peak count of 13 from Jackson River Valley on 12 June (Mitchell et al.).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird. The thirty-two reports were widely distributed throughout the county, common in low to middle and somewhat less common at high elevations. There were two high counts of 6 and Dalmases found a nest along Bullpasture River on 15 June.

Belted Kingfisher. There were twenty-nine reports with a peak count of 5 in Blue Grass Valley on 15 June (Holsinger and Painter).

Red-headed Woodpecker. Eight records from widely scattered areas but none from high elevations or the southeast section. Many records were from Blue Grass Valley, where Kinzie found 2 adults feeding young in a nest on 15 June and Piepers saw an adult, possibly one of the same birds, feeding young on the same day. Hansrotes and Wood saw an adult feeding young on US 250 near Hightown on 14 June. There were a few other records from Back Creek Valley and near Doe Hill.

Red-bellied Woodpecker. There were eleven reports, considerably more than the three in 1975, only in low and middle elevations, and mostly of from one to two birds. Ridd listed 3 in the Doe Hill area on 15 June and Kinzie saw 2 adults feeding 2 young on VA 614 on 13 June.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Reported from only three locations all at high elevations. Piepers found one at Paddy Knob on 10 June; there were three reports from Locust Spring on 14 June. Kinzie, Patteson and Purdy saw 2 adults feeding "screaming young" on 14 June on VA 601. This is the area where it was believed sapsuckers were attempting to nest during the 1975 foray.

Downy Woodpecker. Recorded in all sections of the county. The peak count of 10 was made by Dalmases and Thrashers in the Cowpasture Valley on 14 June. Arginteanu and Robinson saw adults with fledglings near Mill Gap on 14 June.

Hairy Woodpecker. There were 30 reports, mostly of from one to two, scattered through the county with two peak counts of 3. Hansrotes and Wood saw a pair feeding fledged young on VA 616 north of US 250 on 16 June.

Northern Flicker. There were forty-four reports from all elevations and distributed over the entire county. The peak count of 10 was made by Dalmases and Thrashers in the southeastern section on 16 June. Opengari found a nest in Big Balley on 12 June and Larner et al. saw an adult feeding fledged young in Blue Grass Valley on 13 June.

Pileated Woodpecker. There were thirty-four reports with a high count of 9 made by Barbee and Stevens from Shenandoah Mountain and Cowpasture River Valley

on 12 June. Larner et al. saw an adult on a nest at McDowell on 13 June.

Eastern Wood-Pewee. Common at all elevations with sixty reports of from one to 15 birds. Dalmases and Thrashers listed the high count of 22 in Cowpasture River Valley on 15 June. Larner and Obenschain saw an adult with 2 fledged young on the Jack Mountain road to Sounding Knob on 13 June.

Acadian Flycatcher. There were thirty-eight reports of this species, generally of from one to 5 birds, and from all elevations. Barbee and Stevens listed the high count of 11 from Allegheny Mountain and Ruckman Draft on 13 June.

Alder Flycatcher. Single birds were reported from only two locations. Mellinger found one on Shenandoah Mountain south of VA 250 on 12 June and there was one at Straight Fork, VA 642 on the west side of Lantz Mountain throughout the foray period. It was in the same location as the Golden Eagle and was seen and heard by most foray participants who went to that area.

Willow Flycatcher. Eleven reports of this species from only four locations. There were three reports of single birds from Blue Grass Valley and several counts of from 2 to 3 from Mustoe, Doe Hill and lower Cowpasture River Valley. The high count of 14 was made by Mitchell et al. in Jackson River Valley on 12 June.

Least Flycatcher. There were twenty-three reports of from one to 3 birds, with most records from the high elevations of Laurel Fork area and Allegheny Mountain. The four reports from low to middle elevations included 2 birds seen and heard by Larner and Obenschain near Mustoe, one in Back Creek Valley (Arginteanu and Robinson), one near Doe Hill (Dillard and Scott) and one on VA 600 south of VA 84 (Hansrotes and Wood) all on 14 June.

Eastern Phoebe. Common throughout the foray area more so in lower to middle elevations. There were numerous reports of from 10 to 25 birds with Mitchel et al. listing the high count of 40 in Back Creek Valley on 11 June. Opengari found a nest in Big Valley and Middleton and Teuber saw a family group of fledglings being fed by adults in Blue Grass Valley, both on 12 June; Arginteanu and Robinson found an adult on a nest and Kinzie reported one nest with 5 eggs and another nest with young, all in Bullpasture-Cowpasture Valleys on 13 June; Hansrotes and Wood found a female on a nest on US 250 east of Monterey, Dalmases and Thrashers saw an adult on a nest in Blue Grass Valley, and Arginteanu and Robinson reported an adult on a nest on VA 600 south of US 250, all on 14 June; Akes found a nest on VA 614 on 15 June.

Great Crested Flycatcher. Common at all elevations with fifty-eight reports of from one to 10 birds. High count of 20 was made by Barbee and Stevens from Shenandoah Mountain and Cowpasture Valley on 12 June; Mitchell et al. listed 14 in the Mustoe area on 12 June. Hansrotes and Wood saw an adult feeding young on VA 600 on 16 June.

Eastern Kingbird. Absent in highlands but common at low and middle elevation farmlands. There were forty-seven reports of from one to 10 birds with Mitchel et al. reporting a high of 13 in Jackson River Valley on 12 June. Larner et al. saw an adult on a nest near Doe Hill on 11 June; Dalmases and Thrashers found a nest on VA 614 on 15 June and Hansrotes and Wood saw an adult feeding young on VA 600 on 15 June.

Horned Lark. As in the 1975 foray, Horned Larks were found in widely separated areas. Most reports of from one to two birds but Dalmases and Thrashers counted 9 in Blue Grass Valley on 14 June where Hansrotes and Wood found 2 adults and 2 fledglings on 16 June. Another high count of 7 was made by Arginteanu and Robinson on VA 601 on 16 June, where Kinzie et al. found an adult at a nest containing 2 eggs with 2 eggs nearby on the ground, on 14 June. In addition to these two areas, there were scattered reports from Jackson River Valley and from both upper and lower Bullpasture-Cowpasture drainages.

Purple Martin. Only two reports. Irving, Madison and Rallo counted 9 in Back

Creek Valley on 12 June and Dalmases and Thrashers saw 2 on the Cowpasture River on 15 June. This species appears to be rare and local in Highland County.

Tree Swallow. As compared with the 1975 foray, this species seems to have moved from the northwestern highlands to the lower and middle elevations with many reports from south of US 250. The high count of 27 was made by Opengari from the Jackson River Valley on 12 June. There were several reports of active nests on VA 678 south of McDowell (Larner and Obenschain on 11 June, Mitchell et al. on 12 June and Dalmases and Thrashers on 15 June); Hansrotes and Wood saw an adult with 2 fledged young in Blue Grass Valley on 14 June and Arginteanu and Robinson saw an occupied nest in Back Creek Valley on 14 June.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow. There were twenty-eight reports of this species from low and middle elevations with many records from the Doe Hill area where it was not seen in 1975 and where Dillard and Scott listed the high count of 17 on 14 June. Middleton and Teuber saw an adult feeding young and carrying fecal sac in Blue Grass Valley on 11 June; Hansrotes and Wood saw adult feeding 3 young in Doe Hill area on 13 June.

Cliff Swallow. This species was found, as in 1975, locally in the Blue Grass and Trimble areas, with added records this year from Cowpasture River Valley. There were sixteen reports of from one to 7 birds with a high count of 9 made by Dalmases and Thrashers in Blue Grass Valley on 14 June. Kinzie found a pair at a nest (contents unknown) on VA 678 on 13 June, and four active nests in a woodshed at intersection of VA 640 and 642 in Blue Grass Valley on 15 June; Middleton et al. saw adults going in and out of a nest near Mustoe on 16 June.

Barn Swallow. Abundant in low and middle farmlands and common at higher elevations where there was suitable habitat with numerous counts of 50 or more. The high count of 109 was made by Dalmases and Thrashers in the southeastern section on 15 June. Middleton and Teuber saw an adult feeding young in Blue Grass Valley on 11 June; Opengari found fledged young near Mustoe, Larner and Obenschain saw a pair building a nest along Cowpasture River, Middleton and Teuber observed adults feeding young and Arginteanu and Robinson found adult on a nest, all in Blue Grass Valley on 12 June; an adult feeding young was seen in Cowpasture River Valley by Kinzie on 13 June and by Akes on 15 June and Middleton et al. saw adults feeding young on US 220 south of Monterey on 16 June.

Blue Jay. There were reports from all elevations but most were of less than 5 birds. The high count of 10 was listed by Middleton and Teuber, west of Monterey on US 250 on 10 June.

American Crow. Common throughout the area with fewer reports from higher elevations. There were numerous counts of 25-50 birds with Middleton and Teuber reporting the high of 80 in the southeastern section on 13 June, where they also saw an adult feeding fledged young on VA 678; Dillard and Scott reported a high of 72 in the Doe Hill area on 14 June.

Common Raven. There were fifty-two reports of Common Ravens throughout the foray area with a peak count of 12 on VA 642, east side of Lantz Mountain (Larner and Obenschain) on 13 June and 12 in Back Creek Valley on the same day (Dillard and Scott).

Black-capped Chickadee. This is the only chickadee species reported on the foray. In 1975, Carolina Chickadees were reported from the southeastern portion of the foray area, but observers on repeated visits to these areas found none this year. High count for the lowlands was 19 in the southeastern section by Dalmases and Thrashers on 16 June; on the same day, Akes reported 11 from Locust Spring and Bearwallow Run. There were ten confirmed nesting records: at Locust Spring Opengari found a nest on 14 June and Akes saw fledged birds at Bearwallow Run on 16 June; Larner and Obenschain saw 2 adults and 3 young along the Sounding Knob road on Jack Mountain; Arginteanu and Robinson found adult on a nest on VA 629 on

east side of Jack Mountain on 12 June; Kinzie found a nest with eggs on VA 601 on 14 June; adults with fledged young were seen in Bullpasture-Cowpasture River Valleys on 11 June (Larner and Obenschain), and adults with young were seen there on 14 June (Akes); Mitchell et al. saw adults feeding young in nest on VA 220 north of Monterey on 12 June, Larner and Obenschain saw adults carrying fecal sac near Trimble on 13 June and Dalmases and Thrashers saw a pair nest-building on VA 600 in Back Creek Valley on 16 June.

Tufted Titmouse. Fairly common at lower and middle elevations with only scattered reports from Laurel Fork area and none from Paddy Knob on VA 601. While in 1975 there was only one report from VA 600, this year there were six records of from 2 to 17 birds in that area along Back Creek west of Lantz Mountain. There were two high counts of 18 birds, one from the southeastern section on 14 June (Irving et al.) and one from the Doe Hill area on the same day (Dillard and Scott). Arginteanu and Robinson saw adults with fledglings in Blue Grass Valley on 12 June.

Red-breasted Nuthatch. Two reports. Dillard and Scott found one along Allegheny Road in Laurel Fork area (3400 feet) and Barbee and Stevens saw and heard one on Shenandoah Mountain fire road (2250 feet) above west prong of Sugar Tree Draft, in pitch and table pine, both on 12 June.

White-breasted Nuthatch. Small numbers reported from Allegheny, Lantz, Monterey and Shenandoah Mountains, with scattered reports elsewhere. The high count of 9 was from Back Creek Valley on 14 June (Arginteanu and Robinson) who also observed adults with fledglings on Lantz Mountain on 12 June.

Brown Creeper. Reports from only three parties, all from Locust Spring area: Dillard and Scott saw one near Slabcamp Run on 12 June and again on the 16th; Watsons and Kitchens reported one at Locust Spring picnic area on 16 June; Middleton and Teuber listed a high of 8 along Allegheny Road on 14 June.

Carolina Wren. Uncommon with only scattered reports from low and middle elevations, usually of from one to 5 birds. There was one count of 7 in Back Creek Valley, and two counts of 7 in the Doe Hill area, where the high count of 8 was made on 16 June by Dalmases and Thrashers.

Bewick's Wren. Two records. One had been seen repeatedly on Monterey Mountain, 2.5 miles west of Monterey, since early May. During the foray it was seen on 10 June by Middleton and Teuber; on 15 June, a pair was seen in the same location by Holsinger and Painter and later by many other foray observers. A second bird was reported on VA 614 at the intersection with VA 613 by Irving et al. on 14 June. It was heard singing the following day by Patteson and Purdy. Following the foray, two were found there by Teuber on 17 June but not seen or heard again.

Note: The Monterey Mountain birds nested successfully with one fledgling and two adults seen for the last time on 22 July.

House Wren. Fairly common at low and middle elevations with a few reports from the higher mountains. Dillard and Scott reported 4 along Allegheny Road on 15 June and the high count for lowlands was 26 in Back Creek Valley on 11 June (Mitchell et al.). Hansrotes and Wood saw adults feeding young and carrying fecal sacs near Doe Hill on 13 June; Larner and Obenschain observed adults with fledglings in Back Creek Valley and Hansrotes and Wood observed an adult on a nest in Blue Grass Valley, both on 14 June.

Golden-crowned Kinglet. There were only nine reports, mostly from Locust Spring area where counts of from one to 5 were common with a high of 7 listed by Arginteanu and Robinson on 15 June. Kinzie saw 2 on VA 601 on 14 June.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Fairly common in lower and middle elevations and reported on Shenandoah Mountain by three different parties: Dillard and Scott on 11 June, and by Mellinger as well as Barbee and Stevens, both on 12 June. The peak count of 11 was from the southeastern section on 14 June (Irving et al.). A pair with

fledglings were seen on VA 678 near Flood by Arginteanu and Robinson on 13 June.

Eastern Bluebird. Common at low and middle elevations with two high elevation records: one at Locust Springs (Opengari) and 8 on VA 601 (Kinzie) both on 14 June. The high count of 57 was from the Mustoe area on 12 June (Mitchell et al.). There were at least fourteen confirmed breeding records mostly from Blue Grass Valley, Doe Hill, Back Creek Valley and lower Bullpasture-Cowpasture Valleys.

Veery. All records, with the exception of one from VA 600 in Back Creek Valley, were from high elevations where counts of up to 20 birds were common. The high count of 36 was from Allegheny Road, Locust Spring area on 16 June (Dillard and Scott).

Hermit Thrush. There were eight reports of from one to two birds, all in Locust Spring area, with one count of 3 on 16 June (Akes) who also heard 2 along Bearwallow Run.

Wood Thrush. Common throughout the foray area with many counts in high elevations of 5 or more birds; Kinzie reported 10 in Laurel Fork area on 15 June, while high count for lower elevations was 22 in Back Creek Valley on 11 June (Mitchell et al.). An adult feeding young was seen along Bullpasture River by Arginteanu and Robinson on 13 June and Larner and Obenschain saw adults feeding young on Jack Mountain on 13 June.

American Robin. Abundant in valleys and common at high elevations. Peak count of 78 was from lower Bullpasture-Cowpasture Valleys on 13 June (Burford et al.) while 12 was the high count from Monterey and Shenandoah Mountains on 11 June (Dillard and Scott). Burford et al. found two nests in Back Creek Valley; adult on a nest was seen by Arginteanu and Robinson in Blue Grass Valley on 13 June where Larner and Obenschain observed adults feeding young, also on the 13th; Hansrotes and Wood saw adults feeding young in Blue Grass Valley on 14 June.

Gray Catbird. Reported from all elevations in all sections of the county with high count of 29 in Back Creek Valley on 11 June (Mitchell et al.). Hansrotes and Wood saw adults feeding young on US 250 west of Monterey on 13 June; Larner and Obenschain saw adults feeding young in Back Creek Valley on 14 June and Hansrotes and Wood saw adults feeding young in Blue Grass Valley on 15 June.

Northern Mockingbird. Uncommon and found only in Blue Grass Valley, Back Creek Valley and upper and lower Bullpasture-Cowpasture Valleys. The high count of 5 was listed by Middleton and Teuber from Blue Grass Valley on 12 June.

Brown Thrasher. Fairly common at lower and middle elevations with a few records from Paddy Knob and Jack Mountain. It was most common in Blue Grass Valley where a high count of 17 was listed by Hansrotes and Wood on 17 June. Also in Blue Grass Valley, Middleton and Teuber saw adults feeding young on 12 June and Hansrotes and Wood found two nests about 20 feet apart and two pairs of birds, two fledglings and one adult carrying food.

Cedar Waxwing. Reported from all sections of the county with high counts of 20 in Back Creek Valley on 11 June and 19 in Big Valley on 12 June, both records from Mitchell et al. Opengari found a nest and Mitchell et al. saw adult feeding young in Big Valley on 12 June; Larner and Obenschain observed an adult carrying nest material on VA 630 on 13 June; Hansrotes and Wood saw adults feeding young and Watsons and Kitchens watched a pair building a nest at Locust Spring picnic area, both on 14 June.

Loggerhead Shrike. There were two known locations of apparently nesting pairs. Larner and Obenschain found a pair in courtship display on VA 614 north of US 250 on 11 June and these birds were seen by other observers on subsequent trips. Arginteanu and Robinson found a pair with fledged young on VA 644 in Blue Grass Valley on 12 June, and these were seen on 13 June by Patteson and Purdy.

European Starling. Reported from all sections of the county except at highest elevations with a peak count of 205 in Blue Grass Valley on 14 June (Hansrotes and

Wood), where they also saw an adult on a nest and Middleton and Teuber saw adults feeding fledged young on 12 June. Middleton and Teuber saw adults with fledged young on VA 678 on 13 June.

White-eyed Vireo. There were sixteen reports of from one to two birds scattered fairly evenly throughout the study area, unlike the 1975 foray when there were only two records west of Jack Mountain. There were six reports from Blue Grass Valley, and four from Back Creek Valley.

Solitary Vireo. Most records of this species were from Locust Springs and other high elevations with a few records from Doe Hill area and Big Valley. Middleton et al. reported the high count of 7 at Locust Spring on 14 June. Mellinger saw adults feeding young on Shenandoah Mountain on 12 June.

Yellow-throated Vireo. There were twenty-one reports of from one to three birds throughout the entire area with most records from low to middle elevations. These numbers are considerably smaller than the high counts of 12 and 8 found in 1975.

Warbling Vireo. This species was reported from three different locations. A pair was seen and heard at Forks of Water, at intersection of US 220 and VA 642 on 11 June (Mitchell et al.) and seen later by many other foray participants; one was seen at Cowpasture River on VA 614 by Kinzie, and by Middleton and Teuber on 13 June; two were seen and heard on VA 654 near Doe Hill by Dillard and Scott on 14 June.

Red-eyed Vireo. Reported from all sections of the county with largest populations in heavily forested areas. The high count of 70 was from Laurel Fork area on 14 June (Dillard and Scott). Middleton and Teuber observed an adult carrying fecal sac near Clover Creek on 13 June.

Golden-winged Warbler. There were twenty-four reports of this species throughout the county with the exception of Laurel Forks area. Most counts of from one to three indicate a locally fairly common population in suitable habitat. Patteson and Purdy saw 4 birds at Paddy Knob but most reports were from middle and low elevations. Middleton and Teuber listed the peak count of 7 in the Jackson River, Bolar Run area on 16 June. A pair was seen on VA 600 south of US 250 on 12 June (Middleton and Teuber); Dalmases and Thrashers found an adult on a nest with at least 2 young at Shaws Fork on 15 June.

Northern Parula. Virtually all reports of this species were from middle and low elevations with two high counts of 16 from Bullpasture-Cowpasture drainages both on 16 June (Akes) and (Dalmases and Thrashers). Larner and Obenschain observed adults feeding young in Big Valley on 14 June.

Yellow Warbler. Of the thirty-eight reports of this species, only one was from US 250 west of Monterey Mountain. Counts up to 10 were common in low and middle elevations and most common in Bullpasture-Cowpasture River Valleys where the high count of 18 was made on 12 June (Mitchell et al.) and again on 13 June (Burford, et al.).

Chestnut-sided Warbler. Most common at high elevations with a few reports from Back Creek and Blue Grass Valleys and the Doe Hill area. Patteson and Purdy listed the high count of 34 at Paddy Knob on 11 June and the high for Locust Spring was 26 on 15 June (Dillard and Scott). Adults building a nest were seen by Middleton et al. on 14 June at Locust Spring.

Magnolia Warbler. Of the sixteen reports, all but one were from Locust Spring area. Mellinger saw one on Lantz Mountain on 13 June. Kinzie listed the high count of 9 on 15 June and Akes reported 7 at Bearwallow on 16 June. Young in nest were observed by Holsinger and Painter on 15 June.

Black-throated Blue Warbler. Of the twenty-three high altitude reports of this species, fifteen were from Locust Spring, and all but two were from the northern part of the county. Mellinger saw two different females behaving as if on territory on Shenandoah Mountain on 12 June and there were two reports of single birds from Paddy Knob.

Black-throated Green Warbler. This species was reported from all observers at Locust Spring with the high count of 12 made by Dalmases and Thrashers on 14 June. Kinzie noted one on VA 601 on 14 June. Piepers saw one on VA 600 south, and 2 at Paddy Knob while Mellinger saw 2 on Shenandoah Mountain on 12 June. The only low elevation report came from Cowpasture River Valley where Dalmases saw 1 on 14 June.

Blackburnian Warbler. All but one of the fourteen reports were from Laurel Fork-Locust Spring area where the high count of 6 was made by Arginteanu and Robinson on 15 June and by Dillard and Scott on 16 June. Mellinger reported a single bird on VA 614 in Cowpasture River Valley (1700 feet) on 14 June.

Pine Warbler. Eleven reports, all from low and middle elevations, mostly east of Jack Mountain where the high count of 15 was made in Cowpasture River Valley by Barbee and Stevens on 12 June. There were four reports from the Doe Hill area, four from Bullpasture and Cowpasture River Valleys, two from Jackson River Valley and one from Back Creek.

Prairie Warbler. There were only eight reports all from middle and low elevations; four were from the Doe Hill area, three from lower Bullpasture-Cowpasture River Valleys, all of from one to two birds. Watsons and Kitchens reported one bird from Blue Grass Valley on 14 June.

Blackpoll Warbler. One report. Dalmases and Thrashers saw one along Bullpasture River on 15 June, undoubtedly a late migrant.

Cerulean Warbler. There were seven reports, all from low and middle elevations, and most from VA 642. Mellinger saw and heard one on the east side of Bullpasture Mountain (2500 feet) on 14 June and Middleton and Teuber found one there on 15 June. There was one report from lower Cowpasture River Valley on 15 June (Akes).

Black-and-white Warbler. Fairly common with thirty reports of from one to two birds from all sections of the county. The high count of 5 was listed from Lantz Mountain on 11 June by Middleton and Teuber and from Shenandoah Mountain (3300 feet) on 12 June (Mellinger).

American Redstart. There were twenty-eight reports of this species from all areas of the county, mostly of from one to 5 birds. There were seven reports from Locust Spring where the high count of 7 was listed by Dillard and Scott on 16 June. High count for lower elevations was 5 from the southeastern section on 15 June (Middleton and Teuber). Hansrotes and Wood saw an adult feeding a fledged Brown-headed Cowbird in Blue Grass Valley on 15 June.

Worm-eating Warbler. Locally fairly common at middle elevations, mostly east of Jack Mountain. There was one report from Back Creek, and there were two from Blue Grass Valley. Middleton saw one on Shenandoah Mountain (3300 feet) on 12 June. The high count of 16 was listed by Dalmases and Thrashers in the southeastern section on 15 June, where Akes saw an adult feeding young on VA 614.

Ovenbird. Fairly common throughout the area with most records from Back Creek and Laurel Fork areas. Larner and Obenschain listed the high count of 10 in Laurel Fork drainage on 14 June. High counts of 8 were made, also by Larner and Obenschain in Doe Hill area on 11 June and lower Bullpasture-Cowpasture River Valleys on 12 June. Mellinger reported 6 on Shenandoah Mountain on 12 June.

Northern Waterthrush. One report. Dillard and Scott saw and heard one bird on VA 642 near the WV line (3500 feet) on 12 June.

Louisiana Waterthrush. There were sixteen reports, generally of from one to three birds, scattered throughout the county. The high count of 9 was made by Barbee and Stevens from Allegheny Mountain and Ruckman Draft on 13 June. Arginteanu and Robinson saw an adult feeding young at Bullpasture River on 13 June.

Kentucky Warbler. There were twelve reports of from one to two birds, all from low or middle elevations and most from east of Jack Mountain. The exceptions are reports of three single birds from Monterey and Lantz Mountains. Dillard and Scott

saw an adult feeding young on VA 618 in the Doe Hill area on 14 June.

Mourning Warbler. There were fourteen reports of which eleven were from Locust Spring area where Middleton and Teuber listed the high count of 6 on 14 June, and Opengari and Eubank observed a male carrying nesting material in a blackberry thicket near the beaver ponds on 14 June. Patteson and Purdy saw one near Paddy Knob (4200 feet) on 11 June and one was seen there again on 14 June (Piepers); one was seen and heard on Allegheny Mountain in a two-to-three-year-old clearcut at the head of Erwin Draft on 13 June (Barbee and Stevens).

Common Yellowthroat. This species apparently was more common than in 1975. Reported from all sections of the county, there were forty-six reports of generally from 2 to 6 birds with the high count of 12 listed by Mitchell et al. from Back Creek Valley on 11 June. Other high counts were from Blue Grass and Jackson River Valleys. There were also three reports from Locust Spring, two from Paddy Knob and one from VA 601.

Hooded Warbler. Uncommon throughout the area with only fourteen widely scattered reports of from one to four birds. There were no reports from lower Bullpasture-Cowpasture or Jackson River Valleys.

Canada Warbler. There were eight reports all from high elevations, most from Locust Spring area where Dillard and Scott listed the high count of 16 on 16 June. One was seen on Alleghany Mountain on 12 June by Barbee and Stevens, and one at Paddy Knob on 14 June (Piepers).

Yellow-breasted Chat. There were twenty-seven reports of this species from low and middle elevations, well distributed over the area with the exception of the northwest section. Akers reported the high count of 6 in Bullpasture-Cowpasture River Valleys on 15 June. Kinzie saw an adult feeding young in a nest on VA 614 along Cowpasture River on 13 June.

Summer Tanager. One report. One was seen and heard by Arginteanu and Robinson on VA 629 near the intersection with US 220 on 12 June. On 13 June, Larner, Middleton, Obenschain and Teuber heard a bird singing which may have been this species but no positive identification was made.

Scarlet Tanager. Common at all elevations with eleven reports of over 10 birds. There were two high counts of 16, one by Mitchell et al. in Back Creek Valley on 11 June, and the other from Shenandoah Mountain and Cowpasture River Valley on 12 June (Barbee and Stevens). Mellinger saw an adult feeding young on Jack Mountain on 13 June.

Northern Cardinal. Uncommon to fairly common in low and middle elevations. Of thirty-three reports, all but one were less than 10 birds. This species was apparently not as common as in 1975. The high count of 11 was listed by Middleton and Teuber in the Jackson River Valley on 16 June.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Twenty-seven reports, with all but two from high elevations. Dillard and Scott saw one along Back Creek on 13 June and Middleton and Teuber found one on Bullpasture Mountain near Doe Hill on the same day. The high count of 10 was listed by Burford et al. from Monterey and Allegheny Mountains, west of Monterey on 12 June. Arginteanu and Robinson found an adult on a nest on VA 642 on Lantz Mountain on 12 June.

Blue Grosbeak. Four reports from three locations. One was seen in Back Creek Valley by Irving et al. on 13 June and by Arginteanu and Robinson on 14 June; one at Big Valley on 16 June (Middleton and Teuber); one on VA 654 near Doe Hill on 15 June (Dillard and Scott).

Indigo Bunting. This species was reported on all but two of the sixty-eight field cards. Burford et al. listed the high count of 90 from US 250 west and VA 600 on 12 June and there were counts of over 50 from all low and middle elevations. A nest with young was found on VA 614 on the Cowpasture River by Kinzie on 13 June.

Rufous-sided Towhee. Common at all elevations with twenty-six reports of more

than 10 birds. The high of 46 was listed by Irving et al. from Back Creek Valley on 12 June.

Chipping Sparrow. Of the fifty-nine reports, twelve were from high elevations with two counts of 41 in middle elevations, and counts of over 20 were common. Dalmases and Thrashers found an adult feeding young on Monterey Mountain on 14 June; Akes saw fledglings begging for food on VA 614 south on 15 June; Hansrotes found adults feeding young on VA 614 north, on 16 June.

Field Sparrow. Common at all elevations with fourteen of the sixty reports from high elevations. The high count of 40 was listed by Mitchell et al. in the Jackson River Valley on 12 June. Breeding evidence included: adults and 2 fledglings in Blue Grass Valley on 13 June (Watsons and Kitchens); adults feeding fledglings, VA 614 north, on 13 June (Hansrotes and Wood); fledged young on VA 614 south on 15 June (Akes); adults feeding young on VA 600 south, Dalmases and Thrashers.

Vesper Sparrow. Of the seventeen reports, ten were from Blue Grass Valley, two from Back Creek Valley, two from Doe Hill area, and one each from Big Valley, Cowpasture River Valley and VA 601. The high count of 9 was listed by Kinzie on VA 601 on 13 June. Middleton and Teuber found a nest on VA 637 on 12 June.

Savannah Sparrow. Most of the fifteen reports were from Blue Grass Valley where the high count of 12 was made by Dalmases and Thrashers on 14 June. Other scattered reports were from VA 654 north near Doe Hill and from Clover Creek area where Larner and Obenschain saw a pair and heard one singing on VA 612 near Bullpasture River on 12 June. There were none found on VA 601 on Allegheny Mountain where Ake (1976) found the first Virginia nest.

Grasshopper Sparrow. Eight reports with only two reports of one to two birds from Back Creek, Bullpasture and Cowpasture River Valleys, and Doe Hill area, and the high counts of 3 and 6 from Blue Grass Valley.

Song Sparrow. Common at all elevations reported on all but eight of the sixty-eight field cards. As in 1975 this species appeared to be abundant in the northeast section of the county with the high count of 49 from the Doe Hill area made by Dillard and Scott on 15 June. It was not reported from Paddy Knob or VA 601 and there were only a few records from Locust Spring. There were eight counts over 20 and fifteen over 10. Larner and Obenschain saw adults feeding young at Shaws Fork on 12 June.

Dark-eyed Junco. There were thirty-six reports mainly from high elevations with a peak count of 22 from Monterey Mountain and Locust Spring area on 16 June (Dillard and Scott). There were counts of 9 from Paddy Knob and VA 601. Middle elevation reports included one on Shenandoah Mountain on 14 June (Mellinger), 2 in Blue Grass Valley (2600 feet) on 14 June (Hansrotes and Wood) and one on Jones Trail off VA 614 north (2600 feet) on 16 June (Ridd). Arginteanu and Robinson found a pair nest building at Locust Spring on 14 June.

Bobolink. There were fifteen reports from two general locations: US 250 just west of Hightown where the high count of 16 was listed by Burford et al. on 12 June, and a section of Blue Grass Valley including VA rtes. 635, 637, 640 and 642, where the high count of 5 was listed on VA 637 by Middleton and Teuber on 12 June. This is in the same general area as the first Virginia breeding record documented on the 1975 foray (Peake 1978) but no nest was found this year.

Red-winged Blackbird. Abundant throughout the area except at high elevations where it was common. The peak count of 227 was from Jackson River Valley on 12 June (Mitchell et al.), with numerous counts of more than 50.

Eastern Meadowlark. There were only two reports from US 250 west of Hightown, and one from Allegheny Mountain but this species was very common in the southeastern part of the county and in Blue Grass Valley where it was not so widely reported in 1975. There were numerous reports of over 20 with the peak count of 50 from Blue Grass Valley on 15 June (Hansrotes and Wood).

Common Grackle. Common in low and middle elevations but absent at Locust Spring and Paddy Knob. There were only 2 found on VA 601 and 2 on Monterey Mountain, but counts of 10 or more were common in other areas. The high count of 105 was from Jackson River Valley on 13 June (Mitchell et al.). Larner and Obenschain found adults feeding young on VA 616 south on 11 June; Burford et al. saw fledged young on 12 June and Middleton and Teuber saw adults feeding young there the same day; Kinzie saw adults feeding young on VA 678 south on 13 June.

Brown-headed Cowbird. Reports from throughout the area but more common in the southern and northeastern sections. The high count of 24 was from Back Creek Valley on 13 June (Dillard and Scott). There were 9 reported from VA 601, 2 at Paddy Knob and 2 at Locust Spring. A young Brown-headed Cowbird was being fed by an adult American Redstart on VA 600 on 15 June (Hansrotes and Wood).

Orchard Oriole. Only eight reports of this species of from one to two birds, of which three were from Blue Grass Valley, three from Back Creek Valley, one from Cowpasture River Valley, and one from Doe Hill area. As this species was not found west of Jack Mountain in 1975, the population appears to be spreading westward in this region.

Northern Oriole. There were thirty-one records of this species, all from low to middle elevations, with counts of from one to six birds and a high count of 18 in Jackson River Valley on 12 June (Mitchell et al.). Larner and Obenschain saw adult on a nest on VA 678 on 11 June; Opengari saw a nest with 2 young in Jackson River Valley on 12 June; Kinzie reported a pair nest building on VA 614 south on 13 June where Akes found adult on a nest on 15 June.

Purple Finch. Five reports all except one from Locust Spring area. Dillard and Scott reported one singing at Slabcamp Run on 12 June, Arginteanu and Robinson reported one along Buck Run on 15 June; Akes saw one at Bear Wallow on 16 June and Dillard and Scott reported one from Locust Spring on 16 June. The only other report was of one bird at VA 601 on 14 June (Kinzie).

House Finch. There were ten reports of this species which was not found on the 1975 foray. Reports of from two to six birds were all from low to middle elevations in the southwestern section of the county and Blue Grass Valley, with a high count of 8 from US 250 west and Blue Grass Valley on 11 June (Middleton and Teuber).

Red Crossbill. Two reports. One was seen on Allegheny Road by Day, Patteson and Purdy on 12 June, who also observed a small flock of 8 to 10 birds on Lantz Mountain near Straight Fork on 13 June.

American Goldfinch. Common at high elevations and abundant elsewhere with many reports of 50 to 100 birds and a high count of 191 in Jackson River Valley on 12 June (Mitchell et al.).

House Sparrow. Of thirty-seven reports, only four were from high elevations. The peak count of 32 was from Back Creek Valley on 11 June (Mitchell et al.). Dalmases and Thrashers saw an adult feeding young in a nest in Blue Grass Valley on 14 June.

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ELEGANT TERN AT CHINCOTEAGUE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

CLAUDIA WILDS

On 20 June 1985, I was at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, censusing the few shorebirds that remained at the end of spring migration. In the early afternoon as I drove south on the service road west of the Washflats impoundments, I came upon a small flock of terns. They were resting on some grass-and-mud-bars emerging from very shallow water at the upper end of the north impoundment, about 60 yards east of the road.

Eight days earlier, on 12 June, a strong warm front had come through from the southwest, and on my next two visits to the Refuge, 13-14 June and 19-20 June, I observed about 20 sub-adult (one-and-two-year-old) terns of several species—Royal, Forster's, Common, Least, and Black—which had not been present earlier in the month. Mid-June is the usual arrival time on the Refuge for the first non-breeding terns.

The flock on the Washflats appeared at first glance to contain Royal, Common, and Forster's Terns in immature plumages, as well as members of these species plus two Gull-billed Terns that were all in breeding plumage. It was an excellent opportunity to study them carefully, and I began to examine each in turn, looking through a 40x Questar telescope and taking notes.

After observing two or three of them, I was astonished to see that the next bird in line was different from any of the species I had thought were present and, indeed, from any I had ever observed at Chincoteague. It was 10-15 percent larger than the Common and Forster's Terns and 15 percent smaller than the Royals in the same binocular view, about equal in length (excluding its bill) to the nearby Gull-billed Terns but much slimmer, with a longer neck and a smaller head.

Its most striking feature was its long bill, longer than the head (excluding the crest), slim and tapered, with a decurved culmen and a straight gonys, apparently lacking a gonydeal angle; the bill gave the impression of being slightly decurved overall. It was predominantly orange, fading to yellow toward the tip (the distal 15-20 percent), and less reddish-orange than the bills on the neighboring Royal Terns. The bird's size, relative to the terns close to it, in combination with its long, slim, orange bill led to my immediate conclusion that it was an Elegant Tern, *Sterna elegans*.

The head was largely white, including the lores, forehead, and forecrown, extending as a U into the black hindcrown. The center of the crown was spotted or streaked black-and-white in front of the solid black area, which extended forward on the sides in a narrow band to include the black eye. A very long, shaggy black crest extended well down the nape.

A broad white collar separated the crest from the pale gray back, scapulars, and wing coverts, about the same shade as on the Royal Terns. The grayish-white tertials (and possibly the inner primaries) formed a paler panel separating the back from the outer primaries. The centers of the latter were just slightly darker than the back, fading to pale edges and tips; these primaries seemed to be very fresh and unworn. The tail did not extend beyond the wing tips. The underparts were entirely white. The legs and feet were black.

The bird, usually facing toward me, spent most of its time preening its breast. In its few pauses from preening it stood very erect and alert. After about 20 minutes it moved into the water to join one of the Royals in bathing. My only glimpse of the underwing and tail came while it bathed and stretched one wing, revealing the outermost primary to be dusky and the tips of the outer 4 or 5 to be tipped dusky for the last centimeter or so. The tail seemed to be all white and strongly forked. I never saw the upper surface of the extended wing.

I was photographing the bird when the whole flock of terns took off, flew west over my car, and went out of sight. I did not have time to pick this tern out in flight. I drove quickly south in the hope that the flock would land on a favorite loafing area for terns, a sand bar in Assateague Channel (the channel between Assateague and Chincoteague Islands), but they did not stop. Heading down the channel, they disappeared behind a wooded point and were not seen again, despite diligent searching in the area by several observers for the next few days.

Although the vagrant tern appeared to fill all the requirements of size, structure, and coloration for an Elegant Tern, the lack of any published records for this species east of Texas (Oberholser 1974) and its great similarity to two other species required that both Lesser Crested Tern, *S. bengalensis*, and "Cayenne" Tern, *S. sandvichensis eurygnatha*, (a race of Sandwich Tern) be considered.

The former is an Old-World species breeding from Africa to Australia. While the average proportions of Lesser Crested heavily overlap those of Elegant Tern, the bill is typically shorter and straighter. The only other differences likely to be obvious in the field are the Lesser Crested's gray rump and tail and the very long decurved culmen of the Chincoteague tern virtually eliminated the possibility that it was a Lesser Crested.

"Cayenne" Terns breed in the Caribbean and along the coast of northern Brazil (Voous, 1983). There is also a southern population in Argentina, Uruguay, and southern Brazil, apparently not recorded north of 22° South (Rodolfo Escalante, personal communication). Cayennes average smaller than Elegants, but this difference might be difficult to determine in the field if the two forms are not side by side. The bill averages proportionally shorter and straighter, but there is much overlap in length and shape with Elegant bills. Typical Cayennes have largely yellow bills, variably mixed with black. Less than one percent have orange bills, and these birds have apparently been found only from the southern Caribbean to Argentina. This subspecies of Sandwich Tern does not normally wander appreciably north of its breeding grounds; the only North American sighting of a Cayenne, identified as such and differing from accompanying Sandwich ("Cabot's") Terns, *S. s. acuflavida*, only by its yellow bill, was recorded in North Carolina in 1983 by Buckley and Buckley (1984).

Elegants, in contrast, winter south to Chile and wander to northern California. They are regularly seen on the Caribbean coast of Costa Rica (F.G. Stiles, *vide* Ruud van Halewyn, personal communication). Given the highly migratory habits of this species and the classic field characters of *S. elegans* exhibited by the Chincoteague bird, the probability that it was an Elegant Tern is convincing. Without a specimen or, at least, measurements falling outside the range of overlap with Cayenne Tern, there is no way to be entirely certain.

To my knowledge, no ornithologists have extensive experience with all three species of mid-sized orange-billed terns. In reaching my conclusion I was generously advised, however, by students of one species or another: Rudd van Halewyn and Rodolfo Escalante (Cayenne Tern), Fred Schaffner and Richard Webster (Elegant Tern), and Peter J. Grant (Lesser Crested Tern). I am extremely grateful to them all for detailed information and to Richard Webster for excellent photographs.

Fred Shaffner, who wrote his master's thesis on Elegant Terns, suggests that the Chincoteague bird was an Elegant Tern two or three years old, identifiable as a probable male by its bill, "longer and more stiletto-like, less robust, and (more) tangerine-colored" than that of a typical female.

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3331 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007

HIGH ALTITUDE RECORDS OF WHITE-EYED VIREOS

STEVEN L. HOPP

During spring of 1985, while conducting field trips for the VSO-sponsored breeding bird atlas project, I observed White-eyed Vireos, *Vireo griseus*, near Laurel Bed Lake in the Clinch Mountain State Wildlife Management Area in southwest Russell County. I was surprised to find this species there since many sources note its absence at higher altitudes (Barbour, Petersen, Rust, Shadowen, & Whitt, 1973; Petersen, 1980; Potter, Parnell, and Teulings, 1980). A historical review of regional accounts suggests that this species has been gradually shifting to higher elevations. Brooks (cited in Bent, 1965) reported that in 1920 White-eyed Vireos occurred in the central Appalachian region at elevations up to 1800 feet. Mengel (1965) noted that the bird "does not occur above approximately 2600 feet" (p. 378), and Stupka (1963) gave 3000 feet as the "uppermost extent of its breeding range" (p. 137). More recently, Hall (1983) gave a summer record of 3600 feet in the Appalachians.

My records of trips to Laurel Bed Lake on 27 May, 12 June, 29 June, and 10 July show that White-eyed Vireos were found singing in four locations at elevations from 3200 to slightly above 3600 feet, based on topographic maps. All were in appropriate breeding habitat of dense deciduous scrub. Birds were found singing at all four locations on at least two different dates. On 27 May I tape-recorded birds singing at two of the locations with a Uher 4200 Report Monitor and Sennheiser K3U microphone outfitted with a ME88 'spot' head. Birds at both locations responded strongly to playbacks (of themselves) by approaching the source and increasing their singing rate. One male was joined by a female, who also responded with alarm chattering. Although I was unable to find any nests or fledglings, the birds' behavior, the presence of a pair in breeding habitat, and the repeated occurrence in the same locations suggest that the birds probably nested in these areas. Previous forays in June 1972, 1974 and 1980 (published in *The Raven* for June 1973, December 1975 and March 1982 respectively) have also noted the occurrence of White-eyed Vireos in the

same area up to 3600 feet, based on the altitude of the lake (F.R. Scott, personal communication).

It is unclear why this species is now present at higher elevations where it has previously been absent. It probably does not represent a simple range expansion since the birds' normal breeding range surrounds the Appalachian region. Possibly the bird was overlooked in upper elevations until recently. However, the extensive field coverage by Mengel (1965) and his coworkers argues against this. Another possibility is that the clear-cutting associated with the building of the lake, and the wildlife clearings maintained in the management area have provided the necessary scrub growth that was previously unavailable at higher elevations. Since this species nests in a transitional habitat, it is likely that they exhibit a relatively high degree of post-fledgling dispersal wherein the birds 'discover' available habitat and return for nesting the following season. Indeed, the bird has been noted at higher elevations in late summer and during the autumn migration (Potter, Parnell, and Teulings, 1980; Stupka, 1963). However, these authors do not mention if the birds were hatching-year or older. Such a pattern of late-season nest-site selection has been suggested by Brewer and Harrison (1975). This spring I banded a number of nestling and fledgling White-eyed Vireos in Washington County. Returns next spring may provide a clue to the mechanism of expansion of this species into high elevations.

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HERMIT THRUSH NEST IN HIGHLAND COUNTY

JAMES S. CALVER

On 14 July 1985 my family and I discovered a Hermit Thrush, *Catharus guttatus*, nest near Locust Spring shelter in northwest Highland County, Virginia.

My son Patrick saw a bird flush in front of him and discovered a nest. He pointed out the bird to my wife Sandra who observed its red tail. I observed the bird for approximately five minutes with 10x50 Bushnell binoculars from 30-90 feet. The bird appeared quite agitated and began working its way back towards the nest. We did not remain in the area long enough to actually see the bird return and sit on the nest.

The bird appeared brown on its head, neck and back and had a distinctly red tail. It was white below with heavy dark streaks on its throat and breast: not a Wood Thrush because of its red tail, lack of red on head and being much too slim; not a Veery because of its brown, not red, back and its heavy black spots on white breast; not a Swainson's Thrush because of its red tail, lack of distinct eye ring and very dark spots on breast.

The nest was on the ground, made of coarse grasses, and contained four clear bluish eggs. It was concealed by overhanging ferns. I did not spend time at the nest to make detailed notes but did take photographs.

The nest was at the edge of an old road leading from the Locust Spring shelter to some old beaver ponds. The forest is a mixture of northern hardwoods and a few red spruce (3600 feet).

This was the third nesting record for Virginia and the first record for Highland County, Scott (1980).

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8 Queen's Court, Savannah, Georgia 31406

BEWICK'S WREN NESTING IN HIGHLAND COUNTY

LEONARD TEUBER

Bewick's Wren, *Thryomanes bewickii*, decreasing greatly in Virginia in recent years, nested successfully in Highland County in the summer of 1985. I saw a single bird on US 250 on the east side of Monterey Mountain (3700 feet) on 13 May 1985, and again on 15, 16, 22, 25 May and 8 June. On 14 June, Diane Holsinger, a participant in the VSO breeding bird foray, saw two adults at the same location, as if on territory on the south side of the road where there was a steep shale bank, rocks, moss, sparse low vegetation and old tree stumps.

On 19 June I saw two birds there and one on 23 and 24 June. On 27 June, I saw an adult going in and out of a nest hole, on the ground, under roots of an old stump, almost at the top of the bank, and again on 30 June and 3 and 8 July. On 17 July an adult entered the nest carrying a worm; on 19 July an adult carried a worm into the nest and left with a fecal sac. On 22 July, I saw two adults with one fledged young

outside the nest hole. They flew across the road where they remained about 10 minutes, then left the area and were not seen again.

While Peake (1978) reported a very small population of Bewick's Wrens in Highland County during the 1975 VSO foray, there were no nests found. This represents the first breeding record since Scott (1952) found young and a recently vacated nest on Allegheny Mountain west of Monterey on 19 June 1952, where, at that time, Bewick's Wrens were more common than House Wrens.

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P.O. Box 492, Monterey, Virginia 24465

COMMON TERNS NEST ON A MAN-MADE ISLAND AT HAMPTON

TETA KAIN

A colony of Common Terns, *Sterna hirundo*, is located on the southern most island of the Hampton Roads Bridge-tunnel complex. This road is the main route (Interstate 64) over the mouth of the James River between the Hampton-Newport News peninsula and Norfolk. This is to distinguish the site from the Chesapeake Bay bridge-tunnel islands over which US 13 passes. The main concentration of bird nests are on the western most side of the island just as one emerges from the tunnel and makes a sharp right-hand turn onto the island road from the interstate. One may enter this area only with permission from the tunnel authority officials. Traffic is extremely heavy, visibility is limited when exiting the area, and visiting the colony is a hazardous adventure, especially during hours of peak traffic.

The island is a man-made structure, comprised of great slabs of stone hauled in to weight down the tube that holds the roadway on the bottom of the channel. These slabs form the base of the island and are overlaid with loose, coarse pebble-like material. There is a system of macadam roads around the perimeter of the island and a large building in the center which houses offices, storage areas, and vehicle maintenance facilities for the tunnel authority. All vegetation on the island appears to be "volunteer" growth, much of which is rabbit's foot clover, *Trifolium arvense*, salsify, *Tragopogon porrifolius*, and various types of thistles. It is under this latter type of vegetation that the young tern chicks seek shelter from sweltering temperatures.

The island is joined to the adjacent island of Fort Wool by a 100-yard causeway of stone slabs. I was told by bridge-tunnel employees and officials of the city of Hampton that there were very few birds nesting on Fort Wool Island. During my visit I saw very few birds alight or show any interest in that area, and would have to concur that there seemed to be little bird activity there.

In 1983 I gained permission to visit the area, talked with employees who work

on the island, photographed the nests and young, and attempted to count the total number of birds. I was there twice, once on 6 June, and again on 8 June. I did not linger on either trip since the chicks were at a stage that, left unattended by the parents for very long, would have perished. I did, however, manage to obtain photographs of adults, eggs, and chicks of all ages—from newly hatched to nearly fledged.

It was very difficult to accurately assess the number of birds on the island; however, the following estimate was later confirmed by Ruth Beck: 118 Black Skimmers, *Rynchops niger*, and approximately 400-500 pairs of Common Terns. The skimmers were nesting in the same area with the terns and on the same kind of surface (coarse pebbles with sparse vegetation) but their nesting area was fairly well segregated from the tern colony.

In talking with employees, I learned that they had been noticing the birds in the area for about six years and they felt that the numbers of birds had been increasing each year. For the past two years there have been enough terns in the vicinity to cause officials' thoughts about discouraging nesting activity. I attempted a bit of "educational insight" about the value of the birds' presence, but I doubt that my plea for "peaceful coexistence" had much impact. Happily, however, no attempt has been made to this date (September 1985) by tunnel authorities to discourage the birds from nesting on the island.

In June 1984 Ruth Beck, Jerry Via, Bill Akers and I again visited the area and counted approximately 120 Black Skimmers, 100-1200 Common Terns, 6 Horned Larks and two pairs of Song Sparrows on the island.

I did not visit the island in 1985, but learned that Ruth Beck conducted a census there in mid-June and estimated at least 600 pairs of terns were again returned to nest.

322 Wilderness Road, Hampton, Virginia 23669

SAGE THRASHER AT CHINCOTEAGUE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

CLAUDIA WILDS

On 10 October, 1985 I was conducting one of my weekly shorebird censuses at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge. In mid-afternoon I was driving north on the service road that lies west of the Washflats impoundments. At the first major bend to the left north of the "pony fence" gate, I flushed a bird from the gravel into a clump of bushes on the west side of the road. To the naked eye it appeared in flight as a plain brownish-gray bird too long and slim to be a sparrow. Since I could see that it was still easily visible under the crown of a rather open bush, I stopped to look at it, first through 10x binoculars, then through a Questar at 40x (resting on a bean bag on the car window frame). When I turned to reach for my camera after five minutes of observation, the bird disappeared and could not be relocated in the bushes within 100 yards in each direction along the road.

It was a sunny day, and, though the bird was in the shade, it was in excellent light when studied, at a distance of no more than 20 yards. It perched erectly, about three-quarter face to me, bowing twice to pull a berry off a cluster on the bush.

It most closely resembled a Northern Mockingbird, *Mimus polyglottus*, but was

smaller, with a proportionally shorter tail. The striking difference lay in its whitish underparts, which were prominently and densely marked with spots on the throat elongating to thin, black, sharply-defined streaks on the breast, more widely spaced on the belly. The undertail coverts and feet were concealed, but the visible part of the tail was gray, broadly tipped with white. These characters readily identified the bird as a Sage thrasher, *Oreoscoptes montanus*.

Close study of the head revealed a gray crown separated from dark lores and dark, streaked ear coverts by a pale line through the top of the eye, ill-defined on its upper edge. The malar region was finely streaked, separated from the throat by a thin, dark submalar streak. The dark bill was short (less than half as long as the head), the culmen clearly decurved, the gonys nearly straight. The eye was a medium gray.

Like the crown, the nape and back were medium gray, the wings darker. The median and greater secondary coverts were tipped with grayish-white, the tips forming two obvious wing-bars. The visible primary coverts were dark, unlike those of a mockingbird. The rump and upper tail surface were not visible.

This sighting is the second record for Sage Thrasher in Virginia. On 5 December 1962, a bird of this species was banded and photographed in Loudoun County.

331 N Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20007

1985 VIRGINIA BREEDING BIRD ATLAS PROJECT RESULTS

SUE RIDD

The Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas Project (VAP) began its second field season with high hopes and great expectations.

Looking at a Virginia map on the 7½-minute quadrangle level, it appears that the Atlasers did not gain much ground this field season compared to 1984. The computer, however, indicates another story. At the quadrangle level, the Atlasers increased the number of covered quadrangles from 176 to 237 in 1985. Block coverage also increased, rising from 220 to 517 blocks, with only 58 blocks repeated from 1984.

The number of volunteers grew from 120 to over 200 and over 4,000 field hours were recorded, a remarkable feat for such a small group. The database jumped from 14,000 data points to over 25,000.

An article in the Atlas newsletter entitled, "Sherlock Shrike" alerted Atlasers to the Loggerhead Shrike study by Dr. James Fraser and graduate student Dave Lukonen of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Seven new nesting sites were the result.

Norwood C. (Woody) Middleton confirmed a Cooper's Hawk nesting near Salem and Dennis Carter found a Black-billed Cuckoo incubating eggs in the Mathews Arms campground of Shenandoah National Park.

The VSO foray provided some exciting results for the quadrangles of Thornwood, Snowy Mountain, Hightown, Monterey, Doe Hill, and Paddy Knob. Confirmed breeding records of note listed the following species: Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, Bewick's Wren, Hermit Thrush, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, Golden-

winged Warbler, Vesper Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow and Dark-eyed Junco. Species on territory were Red-headed Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Horned Lark, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Possible breeders were Magnolia Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Mourning Warbler, and Bobolink. An adult Golden Eagle, a non-breeder, was very accommodating to Atlasers' long gazes.

High hopes and great expectations were fulfilled for the 1985 field season especially for those Atlasers who attended the foray.

10718 Almond Street, Fairfax, Virginia 22032

BANDING RESULTS AT KIPTOPEKE BEACH IN 1985

WALTER SMITH

The twenty-third consecutive year of operation of the Kiptopeke Beach Banding Station opened on 31 August and ran continuously through 20 October, a total of 51 days. The station, which overlooks Chesapeake Bay at the southern tip of the Eastern Shore peninsula, 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 1985 season 4,621 new birds of 84 species were banded in 7,985 net-hours. Other results included ten returns of previously banded birds, 146 repeats of birds banded here earlier, and three foreign recoveries of birds banded elsewhere.

One of the most interesting periods of this year's banding season occurred 25-29 September. During those five days the winds were constantly in the northwest-northeast sector and, on four of the five days, we banded an average of about 300 birds per day. On the fifth day, 27 September, a hurricane brushed the ocean side of the Eastern Shore, precluding the opening of nets at all that day. A visit to the station, after the 70-mile-per-hour winds had subsided somewhat, revealed six downed pine trees which had to be removed from our furled nets.

The most commonly banded species this year was 1204 American Redstarts. The 782 Yellow-rumped Warblers were a surprisingly distant second; apparently the Yellow-rumped migration was late and the bulk of the migration occurred after the station was closed on 20 October. Other high totals were 595 Common Yellowthroats, 221 Gray Catbirds and 218 Black-throated Blue Warblers. A Red-bellied Woodpecker was our second record in twenty-three years.

The highest daily totals of individuals banded were 554 on 12 October, 419 on 12 September and 320 on 28 September.

Licensed banders who alternated in charge of the station were Don Schwab, F.R. Scott, Walter P. Smith, John Buckalew, Charlie Hacker and Karen Terwilliger. 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 again kindly extended by John Maddox, of Virginia Beach.

3009 Chesapeake Avenue, Hampton, Virginia 23661

1985 VIRGINIA HAWKWATCHING

DAVID J. HOLT and TETA KAIN

Raptorian reports for Virginia enjoyed an upsurge as the number of watch hours increased by 144 over last year's 1543 hours and the number of days stations were manned increased by 13.

The number of sites increased to 18 from last year's 12, although two sites—Fulhardt Knob and Byrd Center SNP—listed last year do not appear in Table 2. New sites include Stony Man, Brush Mountain, Calf Mountain, Mason's Cove, Wind Rock, downtown Roanoke, Timber Hollow Overlook and Roanoke Mountain.

The seasonal total of Bald Eagles almost doubled while the number of Northern Goshawks nearly tripled from a mere nine in 1984 to 22 in 1985! While other species held their own with numbers comparable to the past year, Sharp-shinned Hawk sightings decreased from 21,512 in 1984 to 15,521. This drop is due to 7000 less at Kiptopeke, even though more inland stations enjoyed higher numbers than previous years.

The numbers and variety of raptors passing over Kiptopeke are impressive and the data collected from that station provides some insight into the migrational patterns for certain raptors. Data comparisons of the many sites around Virginia indicate that falcons, accipiters, Ospreys and Northern Harriers migrate almost exclusively along the coast.

Outstanding coverage of 66 days from August into December at Rockfish Gap netted some impressive totals for the Afton Mountain region. In a 2-day period (12-13 September) observers at that site reported 14,779 Broad-winged Hawks passing overhead. Action was slower during weeks that followed until 6 November when a record-breaking 751 Red-tailed Hawks were counted by Lerner, et al.

Lying only 60 miles south of Rockfish Gap, Harvey's Knob observers did not come close to recording such high totals. A mere 8393 season total of all species leaves much speculation about flight paths when comparing this number with Rockfish Gap's 24,019 season total. Do raptors ignore this area in favor of better routes or do these numbers reflect the absence of observers on peak flight days? Only increased coverage in the coming years can answer these questions.

Short Hill Mountain in Loudoun County just south of the Potomac River is one of the first lookouts hawks pass over in the state. Although the primary birds here at Short Hill are Red-tailed and Sharp-shinned hawks, hawkwatchers there saw all but five of the raptor species reported around the state.

Other sites are located on firetowers, along Skyline drive, in back yards, and even atop a parking garage in downtown Roanoke. During her lunch hour on two different days, Joyce Holt recorded 78 individuals of six different species and 10 unknowns at this site, leaving room for speculation about numbers possible if this site were manned more fully.

The following list is a general description of the location of each hawkwatching station. Table 2 lists all totals of all species reported at each of the 18 state sites.

3904 Forest Acre Trail, Salem, Virginia 24154 (D.H.)
322 Wilderness Road, Hampton, Virginia 23669 (T.K.)

VIRGINIA HAWK LOOKOUT LOCATIONS

Kiptopeke Beach: At the southern tip of the Eastern Shore peninsula.

Rockfish Gap: Crest of the Blue Ridge on Afton Mountain adjacent to Interstate Highway 64.

Harvey's Knob: Crest of the Blue Ridge at milepost 95 on the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Short Hill Mountain: Across the Potomac River from Harper's Ferry in Loudoun County.

Pott's Mountain: About five miles north of New Castle in Craig County.

Linden Fire Tower: Eight miles north of Linden on SR 638 in Warren County.

Mendota Fire Tower: Crest of Clinch Mountain near SR 802 in Washington County.

Stony Man and Timber Hollow: At milepost 38.6 of Skyline Drive in Shenandoah National Park.

Brush Mountain: On SR 460 just north of Blacksburg.

Hawksbill Mountain: In Shenandoah National Park.

Calf Mountain: Shenandoah National Park five miles north of Rockfish Gap.

Mason's Cove: Northwest Roanoke County.

Ivy: Four miles southwest of Ivy, east of the Blue Ridge in Albemarle County.

Wind Rock: Crest of Pott's Mountain in Giles County.

Roanoke: Parking garage in downtown Roanoke (lunch hour watch).

Fort Lewis Mountain: Near Bear Rock Gap in northwest Roanoke County.

Timber Hollow Overlook: At milepost 43.3 on Skyline Drive in Shenandoah National Park.

Roanoke Mountain: On the Blue Ridge Parkway in Roanoke.

VIRGINIA HAWK LOOKOUT TOTALS—FALL 1985

Table 2. Totals of all hawkwatching activities at all sites in Virginia during August-December 1985.

LOCATION	Total days station manned	Total hours station manned	Black Vulture	Turkey Vulture	Osprey	Mississippi Kite	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 Raptors	TOTAL
Kiptope Beach	49	397.00	166	867	1051	3	16	610	12,337	286	8	24	829	210	3	2	4147	386	156	185	21,286
Rockfish Gap	66	377.25	...	237	99	...	10	97	1334	32	2	21	19,936	2101	...	5	68	3	5	69	24,019
Harvey's Knob	59	330.50	47	110	72	...	2	30	705	34	...	25	6513	699	...	6	36	1	3	110	8393
Short Hill Mountain	51	240.00	...	...	29	...	10	72	599	64	7	18	65	951	...	2	10	1	...	37	1865
Pott's Mountain	18	101.50	4	...	16	...	...	8	249	24	1	...	523	24	...	...	16	...	1	85	951
Linden Firetower	25	97.50	18	35	8	...	1	18	201	43	2	14	336	217	...	...	15	...	...	24	932
Mendota Firetower	12	88.80	38	3	12	...	6	1	71	34	2	2	6441	11	...	...	8	2	3	29	6663
Stony Man	2	10.25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Brush Mountain	4	7.50	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	...	2	42	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	54
Hawksbill	1	7.00	...	...	1	...	...	2	9	4	...	...	69	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	95
Calif Mountain	1	6.50	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	1	...	...	142	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	150
Mason's Cove	2	5.50	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	73	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	85
4 miles SW of Ivy	1	4.00	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	218	...	...	...	...	...	4	225	
Wind Rock	2	3.75	...	...	1	...	...	1	3	...	...	1	18	...	...	...	1	...	...	8	33
Roanoke	2	3.00	...	7	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	55	12	...	...	...	...	...	10	88
Fort Lewis Mountain	1	3.00	7	7	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	38	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Timber Hollow Overlook	1	2.75	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Roanoke Mountain	1	2.00	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	5	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	9
TOTALS:	298	1687.80	280	1267	1291	3	46	841	15,521	526	22	108	35,275	4280	3	15	4302	393	168	578	64,919

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