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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. A newsletter, published quarterly, containing current news items of interest to members and information about upcoming events and pertinent conservation issues.
5. 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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RAVEN FILING AND PUBLICATION INFORMATION

TETA KAIN

For several years this journal was somewhat behind schedule and in 1985 publication ceased altogether with volume 54, number 2 (June 1983) being the last issue produced at that time.

At the 1987 summer meeting of the Board of Directors, a "Raven Recovery team" was appointed for the expressed purpose of bringing the journal up to date. Teta Kain was named as chairman of the team. Other members were YuLee Lerner, F. R. Scott, and Walter Smith.

The summary of the catch-up schedule by the team is as follows:

Volume 54, numbers 3 (September 1983) and 4 (December 1983) were sent to members in January 1988. These issues completed the quarterly publication of the journal.

By order of the Board of Directors, 1984 through 1989, designated annual volumes, were, or will be, published as follows:

The 1984 issue was sent to members in April 1988. (This issue was incorrectly designated "volume 54". The correct volume number is "55".)

The 1985 issue (volume 56) was completed and issued in July 1988.

The 1986 issue (volume 57) was completed and issued in September 1988.

The 1987 issue (volume 58) was completed and issued in January 1988.

The 1988 issue (volume 59) has been issued to members in July 1989.

The 1989 issue (volume 60) is expected to be sent to members in early January of 1990.

Numbers 3 and 4 of volume 54 were edited and published by YuLee Lerner of Staunton. From 1984 (volume 55) onward, the journal was edited and published by Teta Kain of Gloucester County, with F. R. Scott of Richmond serving as Editor Emeritus and YuLee Lerner of Staunton serving as assistant editor. In 1988 John Bazuin, Jr. of Annandale was appointed backup editor.

With the updating of the journal complete, materials for upcoming issues are now being accepted. The following information should be of help to anyone wishing to submit articles to be considered for inclusion in future editions:

The Raven, the official journal of the Virginia Society of Ornithology, functions to publish original contributions and review articles in ornithology, not published elsewhere, mostly relating to the birdlife of Virginia. Although most bird papers published in *The Raven* concern the distribution, abundance, and migration of birds in Virginia, other aspects of ornithology are also covered, such as historical and bibliographic reviews and life-history and behavioral notes, especially when these are based on observations in Virginia. The activities of various public and private organizations engaged in biological and conservation work in Virginia is also of interest to the readership of *The Raven*. In addition, the journal serves to

publish the official proceedings of the Society and other formal items pertaining to all aspects of the Society's activities.

All contributions should be sent to the editor (Route 5, Box 950, Gloucester, Virginia 23061). Those having IBM compatible computers at their disposal are urged to submit materials for publication on either high-density or low-density 5 1/4-inch diskettes, using either a WordPerfect 4.2 or 5.0 word-processing program. WordStar format is also acceptable, but WordPerfect is preferred. If computer use is not possible, manuscripts, tables, and literature cited should be typewritten and double-spaced on only one side of 8 1/2 x 11-inch paper.

At this time, only black-and-white photographs, graphs, maps, illustrations, figures, etc. may be used in *The Raven*. Generally the original size should not exceed 5 x 7 inches, keeping in mind that all such materials must be reduced substantially for final copy.

Format of *The Raven* generally follows guidelines set by the Council of Biology Editors as outlined in *CBE Style Manual*, 5th edition, published by Council of Biology Editors, Inc., Bethesda, Maryland 20814.

Starting with this issue, it is now a standard policy that most manuscripts will be reviewed by someone qualified in the subject matter. The editor will acknowledge, by phone or letter, receipt of all articles submitted and will discuss reviewing policies with the author at that time.

Deadlines for submission of articles will be announced in the Society's *Newsletter* for the next few editions; thereafter, a definite schedule will be established for receiving manuscripts and other items when the journal is changed to a semi-annual publication in 1990.

Deadline for the 1989 issue is 15 October 1989. 

Route 5, Box 950, Gloucester, Virginia 23061



COMPARATIVE BIRD COUNTS IN NATURAL AND MAN-MADE WETLANDS IN NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

CARVEL BLAIR

Paper received March 1989, accepted May 1989.

BACKGROUND

In the 1940's the U. S. Navy dredged a portion of Norfolk's Willoughby Bay and deposited the sediment on the Bay's eastern side. In ensuing years about 2.8 hectares (7 acres) of the spoil area subsided below mean high tide, was periodically inundated by salt water, and grew a cover of marsh grasses. In 1982 the Navy requested permission to place additional spoil on the area. The Army Corps of Engineers and the Norfolk Wetlands Board, in approving the request, required compensation for the wetland which was to be covered by dredge spoil, and thus destroyed. After completing the landfill in 1983, the Navy complied by creating a 2.8 hectare (7 acre) wetland about 1000 meters north of the destroyed marsh. Grading and planting were completed in autumn of 1984. Identified as Site "A" on Figure 1 and "28" on Figure 2, the area is locally termed "Monkey Bottom." (Figures are adapted from Silberhorn and Priest 1987.)

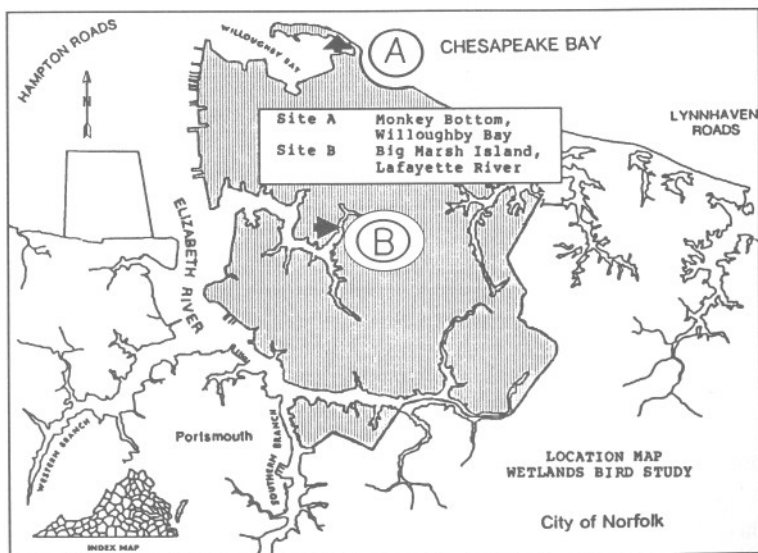


Figure 1.

City of Norfolk showing the general location of Monkey Bottom on Willoughby Bay and Big Marsh Island on Lafayette River.

The policy of wetlands compensation is controversial since no one knows how soon and to what extent a new marsh becomes the environmental equivalent of the old (USFWS 1981, Race and Christie 1982). To investigate this question, the City of Norfolk obtained a Coastal Zone Management grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration through the Virginia Council on the Environment. Under the grant, scientists from Old Dominion University and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science compared the new marsh with similar control marshes in Norfolk's Lafayette River. The comparison included plants, invertebrates, fish, sediments, and birds. The latter study, reported here, is part of the City's matching contribution.

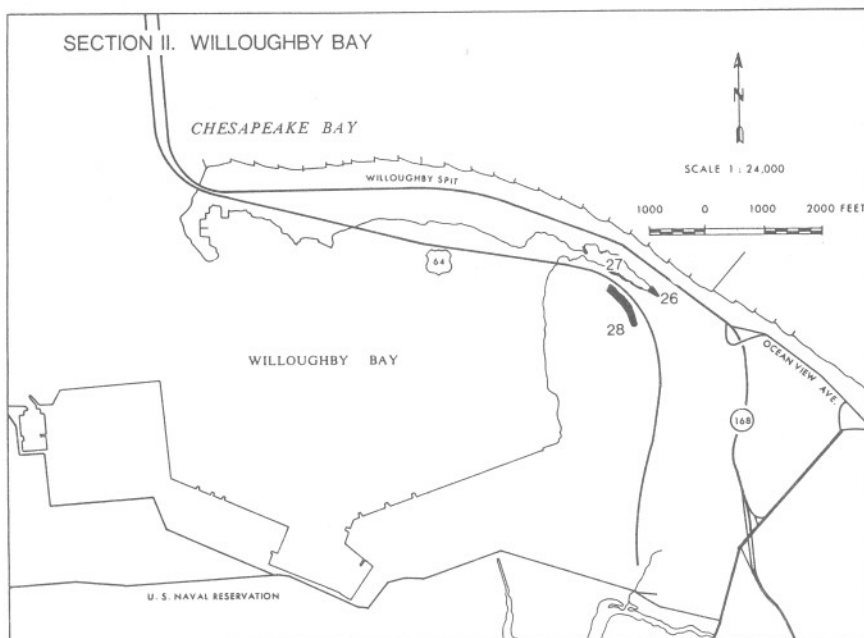


Figure 2.
Monkey Bottom Location Map. Site Number 28.

PROCEDURE

A man-made habitat, the wetland that existed from the 1940's until 1983 was atypical of natural saltmarshes. Moreover, little environmental information existed on the marsh or its plant and animal populations. Consequently, we decided to compare the newly created marsh with existing natural marshes rather than with the specific wetland that it was intended to replace. For control in the avian study, we selected Big Marsh Island on the North Branch of the Lafayette River (see Site "B" on Figure 1 and the darkened area on Figure 3) . Table 1 compares the conditions of the two sites. Because of limited resources, the bird comparison consisted of four relatively short counts, one in each location in June and one in

January. All birds seen in, above, or within about 200 meters of the marsh, were listed. Both marshes are long and narrow in shape, and the route of each count was a circuit around the wetland. Two observers paddled around Big Marsh Island in a canoe; the writer circled Monkey Bottom on foot. Since the bird populations in fringe marshes like these include not only wetlands species, but also visitors from adjacent upland habitats, we decided to list not only the marsh/water birds, but also any others found.

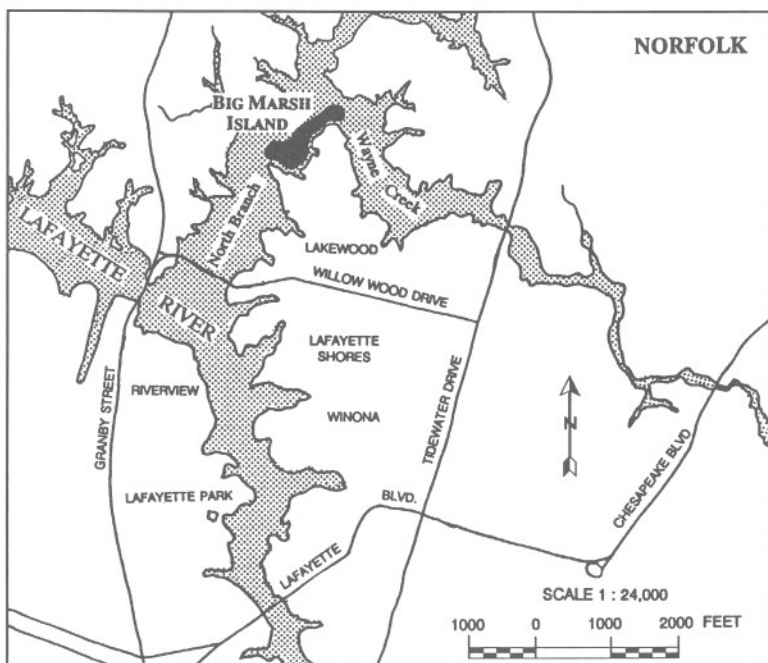


Figure 3.

The black area marks the location of Big Marsh Island.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

During the four counts we saw birds of 42 different species (Table 2). Population densities at Big Marsh Island were 21 individuals per ha in the June count, 15 per ha in January. At Monkey Bottom the densities were 30 per ha for June and 12 per ha for January. At both locations the most numerous species in June was the Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*). House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) were the most numerous at the Lafayette site in January; Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) at Monkey Bottom. Except for the domestic goose and duck, all species found are either common or abundant in Virginia's Coastal Plain (Kain 1987).

Sixteen species were recorded at both locations (Table 3). At Big Marsh Island we saw 14 species that we did not see at Monkey Bottom. The domestic waterfowl were probably escapees from waterside homes, and the Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) one of the population that has spread from the nearby zoo. Adjacent suburban yards, trees, and lawns produced the Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) and the perching birds absent from the relatively barren terrain surrounding Monkey Bottom. The other species seen on our count only at the Lafayette site occur regularly at Monkey Bottom also; for example, three Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias*) were feeding in a fresh water pond just outside the Monkey Bottom study area at the time of the June count.

At Monkey Bottom we saw 12 species not recorded on our Lafayette River count. Most of these also occur regularly along the Lafayette, although the Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) rarely moves as far upstream as Big Marsh Island. As expected, the *Phragmites* stands at Monkey Bottom were barren of birdlife except for a few Song Sparrows (*Melospiza melodia*). Longer and more detailed observations would probably confirm that the species using both wetlands, and the species diversity at both sites, are similar.

In summary, we found, at the two wetlands, a rough similarity in population densities and little significant difference in species assemblages. It thus appears that the man-made marsh and the natural marsh have, four years after establishment, become equally attractive habitats for birdlife. For effective wetland compensation, it is evidently important that the planting at the new site be very similar to that of the marsh that is being destroyed (i.e. *Phragmites* must not be substituted for *Spartina*). It is also evident that the new marsh must be established in similar terrain if it is to support the same species of birds, and that a period of years will pass before the new habitat matures. With these caveats, our study suggests that from the avian point of view, wetland compensation at Monkey Bottom was a successful management technique.

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1981. Mitigation policy, Federal Register. 46(15): 7656-7663.

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Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Virginia 23508-0276

TABLE 1. *Comparison of counts at Monkey Bottom and Big Marsh Island (Lafayette River)*

	Monkey Bottom	Lafayette River
Area	2.8 hectares (7 acres)	4.0 hectares (10 acres)
Vegetation	Sa 85%; Sb 5%; Pa 10% plus surrounding fringe	Sa 80%; Sb 10%; Jr 5%; Md 5%
Adjacent Terrain	Spoil area to south, highway to north and east open bay to west	River and suburban homes and gardens
June count:		
Date	13 June 1989	10 June 1989
Time	9:35-11:05 a.m.	7:25-8:50 a.m.
Tide	Near high	Near high
Temperature	27° C (80° F)	16° C (60° F)
Wind	S, 5 m/s (10 kt)	N, 6-8 m/s (12-15 kt)
Sky	Clear	Clear
January count:		
Date	26 Jan 1989	25 Jan 1989
Time	11:55 a.m.-1:10 p.m.	1:25 p.m.-1:55 p.m.
Tide	Near high	Near high
Temperature	17° C (63° F)	11° C (52° F)
Wind	SW 4 m/s (8 kt)	NE 8 m/s (15 kt)
Sky	Overcast	Clear
Vegetation key:		
Jr	Black Needlerush (<i>Juncus roemerianus</i>)	
Md	Saltmeadow hay (<i>Spartina patens</i>)	
Pa	Reedgrass (<i>Phragmites australis</i>)	
Sa	Saltmarsh Cordgrass (<i>Spartina alterniflora</i>)	
Sb	Saltbushes (<i>Iva frutescens</i> and <i>Baccharis halimifolia</i>)	

TABLE 2. *Birds seen on each count during comparison wetland study.*

Species	Scientific Name	Lafayette River		Monkey Bottom	
		June	January	June	January
Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	...	...	18	...
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	...	2	...	...
Great Egret	<i>Casmerodius albus</i>	4	...	1	...
Green-backed Heron	<i>Butorides striatus</i>	2	...	1	...
Yell.-cr. Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax violaceus</i>	1	...	3	...
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	8	...	...	...
Domestic Goose	<i>Anser cygnoides (?)</i>	1	...	...	...
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	5	3	1	...
Domestic Duck	?	1	...	...	...
Bufflehead	<i>Bucephala albeola</i>	...	4	...	...
Hooded Merganser	<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>	...	...	...	2
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	...	...	...	1
Clapper Rail	<i>Rallus longirostris</i>	1	...	1	...
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	...	...	1	...
Common Snipe *	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	...	...	...	1
Laughing Gull	<i>Larus atricilla</i>	3	...	2	...
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	...	6	...	7
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	1	...	4	4
Great Black-bk. Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	...	...	...	1
Royal Tern	<i>Sterna maxima</i>	...	...	3	...
Forster's Tern	<i>Sterna forsteri</i>	2	...	...	...
Least Tern	<i>Sterna antillarum</i>	1	...	1	...
Black Skimmer	<i>Rynchops niger</i>	...	...	1	...
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	...	...	...	5
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	2	6	4	5
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>	...	1	...	...
Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	...	1	...	...
Purple Martin	<i>Progne subis</i>	...	...	3	...
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	...	...	1	...
Blue Jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	1	...	...	...
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	7	14	1	...
Tufted Titmouse	<i>Parus bicolor</i>	1	...	...	...
Marsh Wren	<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>	3	...	...	...
American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	3	...	1	...
Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	2	...	...	...
European Starling	<i>Sternus vulgaris</i>	1	...	3	...
Northern Cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	2	...	...	...
Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	1	...	5	6
Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	27	2	22	1
Common Grackle	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	3	...	4	...
House Finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	...	...	3	...
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	...	20	...	...
Totals	Individuals	83	59	84	33
	Species 42				
* probably this species					

TABLE 3. *Birds seen at only one and both sites during comparison wetland study.*

Species seen at Lafayette River only	
Canada Goose	Northern Flicker
Domestic Goose	Blue Jay
Domestic Duck	Tufted Titmouse
Bufflehead	Marsh Wren
Great Blue Heron	Northern Mockingbird
Forster's Tern	House Sparrow
Belted Kingfisher	Northern Cardinal
Total species: 14	
Species seen at Monkey Bottom only	
Royal Tern	Brown Pelican
Black Skimmer	Hooded Merganser
Rock Dove	American Kestrel
Barn Swallow	Killdeer
Purple Martin	Common Snipe
House Finch	Great Black-backed Gull
Total species: 12	
Species seen at both locations	
Mallard	Least Tern
Great Egret	Mourning Dove
Green-backed Heron	American Crow
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	American Robin
Clapper Rail	European Starling
Herring Gull	Red-winged Blackbird
Ring-billed Gull	Common Grackle
Laughing Gull	Song Sparrow
Total species: 16	



THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OBSERVATION TIME AND COUNTS OF MIGRATING HAWKS IN VIRGINIA: A CORRELATIONAL STUDY

DANIEL H. KEGLEY

Paper received March 1989, accepted May 1989.

A number of variables have been shown to relate to bird migrations and to estimates of migrant numbers. For example, work has been done on the effects of weather variables on migration of both raptors and passerines (Able 1973, Titus and Mosher 1982, Smith 1983) and on geographic variables that influence migration counts (Klem et al. 1983, Smith 1983, Kerlinger and Gauthreaux 1985). Part of the variation in hawk migration counts comes from differences in the amount of time spent sampling at hawkwatch sites.

Hussell (1985) cites variations in the sampling effort "including variations in the techniques or abilities of different observers" as contributing to the accuracy or inaccuracy of hawk counts. This sampling effort includes the degree to which a given observation point is active on a daily basis through the season, the number of hours of observation per day, and the number of observers on watch.

In Virginia, the active hawkwatch network contributes valuable data to the literature, and there is much interest in finding ways to add to the value of this work. The first step in this process is to evaluate those variables that can be controlled, specifically, characteristics of the sampling effort, in order to more accurately measure variables that cannot be controlled.

The purpose of this study was to determine the extent to which observation time can be expected to influence autumn hawk migration counts. Observation time is a controllable variable upon which interpretation of uncontrollable influences depends. These uncontrollable influences include local and large scale weather, seasonal timing, topography, and characteristics of raptor populations.

METHODS

Hawk count data were obtained from *The Raven*, volumes 55 (designated 54) and 57 published in 1984 and 1988, respectively, and from *A Raptorian Report: A Virginia Hawkwatch* for the years 1985 and 1988. Each publication presents data for the fall migration immediately preceding publication date. In addition, the 1985 edition of *The Raven* lists data for the years 1977 through 1983, inclusive. Therefore, count data from each of ten years were used.

The data used include the observation sites in Virginia that were active during autumn migration seasons, total days and hours of observation, daily and yearly species totals by site, and statewide yearly totals. Most sites lie on the Blue Ridge mountains, but a few sites are located on other ridges and some are removed from mountain ranges. Only inland hawk watch site data were used. Count totals used include all species of migratory diurnal raptors sighted.

Relationships between two measures of time and hawk watch counts were calculated. These were number of days of hawkwatching and total hawks, and number of hours and number of hawks. Days and hawks correlations were calculated on season-end totals for both an individual site over six years with each day giving a pair of data, and on totals for one season at all sites, with each site providing a pair of data. Relationships between hours and hawks were calculated three ways. First, single sites' daily totals of observations hours and hawks counted were used to determine how closely related these measures were. Each day's totals of hours and hawks provided a pair of data. Second, all sites' season-end totals for a single year were used. In this calculation, each site's total hours and hawks at the end of the season provided the pairs of data. Finally, all sites' totals pooled over seven years were used. The total hours and hawks from all sites were summed for each of seven years, providing a pair of data for each year. Single site data was from Rockfish Gap and Harvey's Knob.

Data for other calculations were from these sites: Short Hill Mountain, Mendota, Brush Mountain, Linden, Pott's Mountain, Spittler Knoll, Sugar Loaf, Ivy, Calf Mountain, Blacksburg, Mason's Cove, Loft Mountain, Wind Rock, Timber Hollow, Thornton Gap, Fort Lewis Mountain, Old Rag Overlook, Wintergreen, Lynchburg, Massies Mill, Big Meadows, Dragon's Tooth, Roanoke, Fulhardt Knob, and Hawksbill.

Pearson Product-Moment Correlation Coefficients were calculated for each set of data, using critical values at the .05 level for two-tailed tests. The Pearson Correlation is an index of the strength of relationships between variables. In this study, each pair of data mentioned above consists of X and Y values. A correlation in which $X = Y$, and a change in X is followed by a corresponding change in Y, is described as a perfect linear relationship. Such perfect correlations are virtually non-existent in behavioral research, but are designated by .1. A complete absence of correlation is denoted as "0".

RESULTS

Table 4 on page 12 shows relationships between the variables examined. Included are the comparisons made, the number of pairs of data used in each comparison, the correlation coefficient (the index of relatedness), and the percent of variability in hawk counts that can be attributed to variability in observation time. For individual sites for a single year, the correlations range from .34 to .56, and for all sites totalled for a single year, the correlations range from .22 to .59. Interestingly, the highest correlations were for site totals pooled over a number of years, and range from .83 to .90.

The second column shows the number (n) of data pairs used in each calculation. This number ranged from 6, in the cases where all sites' totals were summed for each of 6 years, to 95, where totals are from individual days at single sites. Column three shows the strength of each correlation. $P < .05$ indicates that the probability that these figures were influenced by chance is less than .05. Column four indicates how much of the change in hawk counts from day to day, or between sites, can be explained by differences in the time spent observing.

TABLE 4. *Correlations between observation time and hawk counts.*

Comparison	n	Correlation coefficient ($p < .05$)	% count variability accountable by observation time
Days and Hawks, all sites, 1984	12 sites	.59	.35
Days and Hawks, all sites, 1986	10 sites	.35	.12
Days and Hawks, all sites, 1988	11 sites	.22	.5
Days and Hawks, one site, 6 years, 1980-1985	6 yearly totals	.90	.81
Hours and Hawks all sites, 1984	12 sites	.76	.58
Hours and Hawks, all sites, 1986	26 sites	.78	.61
Hours and Hawks, one site, 1985	59 days	.56	.31
Hours and Hawks, one site, 1986	66 days	.34	.12
Hours and Hawks, one site, 1986	73 days	.35	.12
Hours and Hawks, one site, 1988	81 days	.36	.13
Hours and Hawks, one site, 1988	95 days	.54	.30
Hours and Hawks, one site, 6 years, 1980-1985	6 years	.85	.73
Hours and Hawks, all sites pooled, 6 years, 1977-1983	6 years	.83	.69

DISCUSSION

It is clear, both intuitively and from an examination of these data, that migration counts are, in part, a function of the amount of time spent in observation. Obviously, if no observation is made on a particular day, no hawk counts will be recorded. In addition, days and hours are separate measures of observation time, but both are shown to be important considerations in counting hawks.

The pattern of higher correlations for pooled sites or years and lower correlations for single site data is due in part to the effect of greater ranges of data possible in pooled data which enhance any tendency toward linearity. This pattern may also

result from overall variance in the relationships among other influences over time and localities.

There are some important implications of the results at hand for future hawk migration counts. First, these results suggest that count methodology needs to be consistent across years, days, and locations. Standardized data collection, types of data gathered, methods of recording and reporting, and observation dates and hours per day of observation, along with increased coordination of hawkwatchers, would be instrumental in evaluating controlled variables. Second, future analyses of uncontrolled variables influencing hawk migration and/or our sampling of migration need consider count effort in the interpretation of these measures.

Future research may illuminate these other variables and their relationships to hawk migration and to our sampling ability, in Virginia and elsewhere. Other flyways and concentration points need to be identified to increase sampling. The most important goal is to increase our ability to infer increasing amounts of information about the raptor population based on the samples that migration counts represent.

Monitoring of hawk migrations is needed for a number of reasons. Most importantly, because hawks are at the top of the ecological pyramid, effects of environmental change, both harmful and beneficial, are amplified in the raptors. It is necessary to establish baseline data for use in the evaluation of changes in population characteristics, so that the relationships between these and the quality of the environment may be better understood. In increasing this understanding, it may be possible to better protect the raptors, as well as the environment, which is crucial to the long-term welfare of all forms of life.

SUMMARY

The relationship between the amount of time spent observing hawk migrations at several observation sites in Virginia and the numbers of hawks reported was examined. Relatively strong correlations were found in most cases, suggesting that observation time must be considered in interpreting the influence of other variables on hawk counts. This consideration places emphasis on the consistency of count methodology across years and localities, and increased awareness of observation effects could contribute to the movement toward greater standardization of count methods.

Acknowledgements

I wish to thank Dr. Steve Hopp for his advice in preparing the manuscript, and Mr. David Holt for his enthusiastic encouragement, his review of an earlier version of this manuscript, and for his work in organizing the hawkwatch data. Thanks is also extended to Mr. Bill Williams for his helpful comments and suggestions, and to my wife, Sara, for her support and enduring patience in reading each revision.

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A KING-CLAPPER RAIL HYBRID FROM A RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER MARSH

BROOKE MEANLEY

Paper received January 1989

Mixed populations, mixed matings, and apparent hybrids between King Rails (*Rallus elegans*) and Clapper Rails (*Rallus longirostris*) have previously been reported from a Delaware brackish marsh by the writer (1968 and 1985). Also, A.H. Bledsoe (1988) reported a hybrid King-Clapper Rail specimen taken in Connecticut, and now in the Peabody Museum of Natural History at Yale University. The King Rail is generally associated with fresh-water marshes; the Clapper with salt marshes. This paper describes a hybrid specimen from a Virginia brackish marsh.

On several occasions while on an assignment for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the Rappahannock River section of Richmond County, Virginia, I have observed muskrat trappers remove several large rallids, particularly King Rails, from their traps. Rails use muskrat runways for travelling through the marsh, and this is where some muskrat traps are placed.

On 22 January 1958, in a brackish marsh across the river from Tappahannock, a trapper gave me a dead rail that he found in one of his traps. The predominant vegetation in this marsh was big cordgrass (*Spartina cynosuroides*) with lesser amounts of Olney threesquare (*Scirpus olneyi*), and saltmarsh cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*).

Although this female rail specimen was more typical of a King Rail than a Clapper, it had some morphological characteristics of the latter. The plumage of the upper parts (back, nape, and crown) varied from olive-brown to black, typical of a King Rail; while the lower parts (breast and abdomen), unlike the King, were not rufescent, but varied from creamy buff in the center of the breast to ochraceous buff along the sides of the abdomen. A diagnostic plumage character of the Clapper in the specimen is the neutral gray or bluish gray cheek patch. The cheek patch in the King is brown. The difference in the coloration of the cheek patch in the two forms is clearly shown in recent field guides of Peterson, Robbins et al., and National Geographic; also in museum specimens that I have examined.

S. D. Ripley (1977) believes that the King and Clapper Rails should be combined into a single species (*Rallus longirostris*) based on known cases of hybridization where their habitats overlap.

Acknowledgements

I wish to thank Gorman M. Bond, formerly of the Division of Birds of the Smithsonian Institution, for reviewing this paper.

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1988 WINTER INVASION OF PINE SISKINS

CHARLES HANSROTE and MELVA HANSROTE

Paper received in April 1989

On 14 February 1988 the Lynchburg Bird Club and the Augusta Bird Club conducted independent Super Siskin Sunday (SSS) bird counts, designed to document the number of Pine Siskins (*Carduelis pinus*) present at that time within each local area.

The counts were undertaken because of the large numbers of Pine Siskins reported throughout December and January. The first Augusta County region sightings were two Pine Siskins observed by Ruth Snyder on 23 October 1987 in Waynesboro. The first Pine Siskins in the Lynchburg area were reported by Edward Theisinger on 1 November 1987.

Myriam Moore suggested conducting a one-day Pine Siskin bird count. YuLee Lerner, upon learning about the proposed Lynchburg Bird Club survey, suggested that the Augusta Bird Club conduct a similar census on the same day. Volunteer participants were instructed to count and report the highest number of Pine Siskins seen at one time on SSS.

Lynchburg Bird Club sightings were from the City of Lynchburg and Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, Campbell, and Nelson Counties. Augusta Bird Club sightings were from Staunton and Waynesboro and from communities in Albemarle, Augusta, Bath, Highland, and Rockbridge counties.

Table 5 on page 17 lists the number of reporters and the number of Pine Siskins. On 14 February 1988, 121 reporters saw 4672 Pine Siskins. The Lynchburg one-day total of 2450 supersedes the previous Virginia Piedmont region peak count of 596 seen on the Lynchburg Christmas count on 19 December 1981. The Augusta one-day total of 2222 replaces the previous Mountains and Valleys region peak count of 700+ seen in Highland County on 28 February 1982.

TABLE 5. *Number of reporters for each club and total number of siskins counted.*

Bird Club	Number of Reporters	Number of Pine Siskins
Augusta Bird Club	61	2222
Lynchburg Bird Club	60	2450

Additional data supporting the invasion of Pine Siskins in the Lynchburg area were obtained by Melva and Charles Hansrote working at their banding station in Campbell County. A total of 1269 were banded from 1 January to 15 May 1988.

Two Pine Siskins were seen by Myriam Moore on 23 May in Lynchburg and one in Waynesboro was seen by Ruth Snyder on 13 May for the 1988 late dates.

In the Mountains and Valleys physiographic region of Virginia, the Pine Siskin is considered to be "irregularly common to rare transient and winter resident from 15 October to 15 May." Pine Siskin status for the Piedmont region of Virginia is identical to the above definition except for the replacement of the word "common" with the word "abundant" (Kain 1987). Pine Siskins are well known as an erratic species in their winter range. The reasons for this nomadic behavior are not always clear. One theory that may explain the sudden appearance of large numbers of Pine Siskins is failure of the food crop in their normal winter range. The majority of the SSS reports were of birds visiting local feeders frequently stocked with niger seed.

There was no general agreement among reporters regarding the answers to two widely discussed questions—did the invasion of Pine Siskins affect winter populations of Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*), House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*), and American Goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*), and did the large numbers of roving Pine Siskins interfere with bird species normally found at feeders during the winter?

Several reporters in the Lynchburg area suggested that there were not as many Pine Siskins on SSS as had been seen on the preceding days and some speculated that a change in the weather may have caused the lower numbers. Others felt the number of birds observed to be consistent with previous sightings and that the weather had no adverse effect.

Acknowledgements

The assistance of so many individuals in this purely voluntary project is gratefully acknowledged. The authors particularly wish to thank YuLee Larner and Myriam Moore for their help in preparing this report.

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PRAIRIE BIRDS INVADE CAMPBELL COUNTY

JOHN H. DALMAS

Paper received January 1989.

A fellow worker's persistent tale of unfamiliar night sounds lured my wife, Thelma, and me to his home near New London, about four miles southwest of our home in Lynchburg, on the evening of 7 June 1988. En route, we encountered a singing Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) in a weedy hayfield on route 625, 0.7 mile west of its intersection with route 623. This location is at the western edge of Campbell County, less than a mile from the Bedford County line. The last record in the Lynchburg area was the pair found feeding young in what is now Meadow-wood subdivision, Bedford County, in July 1979 (Hansrote 1987). Also, this species had not been recorded in four years of field work in Region 9 of the Virginia Atlas Project. However, earlier Virginia reports from Loudoun County (during the VSO annual meeting), Amelia County, and Charles City County (the Fork-tailed Flycatcher site) [see pages 35-37] had built expectations of a better-than-average season. (It turned out that the night sound was made by a Chuck-will's-widow (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*) another uncommon bird in this area.) Upon returning home, we found that this site was in the priority block of the Forest quadrangle first covered in 1984, the inaugural year of the Virginia Atlas Project.

Word of these finds was spread the next night at the Lynchburg Bird Club picnic, and Charles and Melva Hansrote found three singing Dickcissels along route 625 the following day, 9 June. Two days later, we returned to find four singing birds. Numerous return trips were made in an effort to confirm breeding, and on each subsequent trip the birds expanded both in number and range, becoming common all along the first 1.5 miles of route 625. By the end of June, there were 14 singing birds, a new peak count for Virginia. The habitat was ideal—an extensive open area atop a long ridge above Buffalo Creek, made up of numerous hayfields in various stages of development, with few fencerows to conceal predators. Normally, the most common bird in this area is the Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*). The Dickcissels' preferred areas were the tall grass fields with abundant chicory (*Cichorium intybus*), Queen Anne's lace (*Daucus carota*), red clover (*Trifolium pratense*), alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*), pigweed (*Amaranthus retroflexus*), daisy fleabane (*Erigeron annuus*), and especially cudweed (*Gnaphalium uliginosum*), their favorite perch. The birds were also found in the purer hayfields with a smattering of weeds such as sweet clover (*Melilotus*, sp.), milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), pokeweed (*Phytolacca americana*), wingstem (*Actinomeris alternifolia*), thistle (*Cirsium*, sp.), and dogbane (*Apocynum*, sp.). By this time, we were hearing reports of the birds all over the state and realized this was a genuine irruption, perhaps due to the severe drought in the midwest.

Any doubt that this was a most unusual season was dispelled with the events of 25 June. Passing by one of the few mowed fields late that evening, I was astonished to hear a call which I thought must be a Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*). A second call was heard a few minutes later, but the search for the bird was futile in the near-darkness, and there was a fair possibility that the sound could

have been made by a Grasshopper Sparrow. However, Thelma and I returned the next morning, and this time the bird was singing its "song" every five seconds. After a brief search, the bird was found perched on a milkweed in a swale about 150 feet north of the road. Field marks were studied using a 20X spotting scope, and the characteristic shape, streaked breast, and olive head readily identified the bird as an adult Henslow's Sparrow. This is the first summer record for this area since 1938 (Hansrote 1987). This one singing bird was still on territory until 11 July when the field was again mowed.

Meanwhile, the Dickcissel activity was becoming intense as the singing birds crowded into the more desirable habitats. The competing males displayed aggressively, even frantically in their search for mates; some were even seen skylarking. By the first week of July, sightings of female birds became more frequent (although we never saw more than five), and by 6 July they were often seen to be highly agitated. The first breeding evidence was finally found on 9 July, a female was seen carrying food the next day, 10 July, and young birds were heard from a spot about 25 feet from the road. Two probable nest sites about 50 feet apart were pinpointed, although no attempt was made to locate a nest. Fledged young were found on 13 July. Song diminished rapidly thereafter, and by 1 August, there was only one bird still singing. The last sighting was an immature bird on 6 August.

As these unprecedented events unfolded, we were always speculating on the possibilities of still other prairie birds being forced out of their normal habitat to more hospitable areas. So perhaps we were not unduly surprised at the next development, a flock of Bobolinks (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*), four males and two females, found on our 10 July visit. Technically, this was a legitimate Atlas finding, 10 July being the last "safe date." These birds had not been seen the day before, and it was presumed that they were simply very early fall migrants. There are no previous summer records for this area (Hansrote 1987).

We were fascinated by the behavior of these birds. Although the males were never heard singing, the birds would space themselves out and pair up as if on territory, but flock back together whenever they were disturbed. The highest count obtained on later visits was 18 birds—12 males and six females—on 23 July, in a flock which included about six Dickcissels. The males were in full breeding plumage when first discovered, but had begun molting by 19 July. This is the first time we had ever observed the various stages of molt in this species. The males were almost fully molted when the birds were last seen in the area on 6 August. The Bobolinks could have been disturbed by mowing operations, since by 13 August, most of the fields in the area had been mowed. Still, the Dickcissels fared better than usual in this respect—not one of the hayfields they seemed to prefer was mowed until late July, well after the young were fledged.

There is an interesting epilogue to the Henslow's Sparrow story. The original "Birds of Lynchburg" checklist (Freer 1973) noted that "three colonies were found by the author in Campbell County in 1937 and 1938." We began to wonder exactly

where in Campbell County Dr. Freer found these birds, and a search was begun which was rewarded by the following article, quoted from the November-December 1937 issue of *The Raven*:

ANOTHER VIRGINIA RECORD FOR HENSLOW'S SPARROW

While driving along the state highway from New London in Bedford County to Evington which is in Campbell County, on June 25, 1937, Mrs. Freer and I found a small colony of Henslow's Sparrows, near the county line. Several singing males were heard over three adjacent abandoned fields, and one was closely studied through the glasses. Two other visits were made to the place, the last about July 15, when the males were still in song. This is a new species for my Lynchburg list.

Ruskin S. Freer
Lynchburg

Dr. Freer, our mentor, co-founder, and first president of the VSO, found these birds in virtually the same spot exactly 51 years ago! I cannot describe the exhilarating sense of *deja vu* I experienced reading this article! Was it simply a coincidence, or does this have implications about the distribution of this species in the area? Dr. Freer found the birds in the same area the following year, and he probably monitored the area in subsequent years without finding them. It is speculated that this species makes sporadic appearances in this area only during severe drought conditions in the midwest, the center of its breeding range. Dr. Freer's birds could well have been refugees from the infamous "Dust Bowl" years of the early thirties.

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BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERONS NESTING IN EASTERN ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

MICHAEL G. SMITH

Paper received October 1988.

On 26 April 1988 six adult Black-crowned Night-Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) were seen in a 30-year-old stand of white pines (*Pinus strobus*) in eastern Rockingham County, Virginia. The herons were actively constructing nests using nearby Chinese elm (*Ulmus Parvifolia*), sticks, which they placed in the fork of a pine tree about 30 feet off the ground. The heronry is located on the Charles Coffman property next to Salsburg Church, one mile west of Elkton on route 891.

At least three active nests were seen at one time. The population swelled to 15 on 5 June, which included eight juveniles and seven adults. Nest building was in progress on 26 April and continued to 13 July. On 1 August four juveniles and one adult were seen at the heronry. Three of the juveniles were still in the nest and were calling steadily. By 22 August only two juveniles and no adults were found at this site. All the observations were made between 8 and 9 a.m. This is the second year the heronry has been used, according to Mr. Coffman. The colony relocated here from a nearby woodlot, where they may have nested in the past.

There have been attempted nestings of Black-crowned Night-Herons in the Shenandoah Valley previously. In June 1977, three occupied nests were seen in Shenandoah County. Also, Kathleen Finnegan (1981) cited an unsuccessful nesting in northwestern Rockingham County, where the eggs were destroyed by a predator. This old heronry was destroyed the following year by an ice storm. The birds never returned. Fifteen birds at the Coffman site represents a new peak count for the Mountains and Valleys region of Virginia. The previous high was 13 birds at North River in Rockingham County on 22 Jun 1979, as listed in *Virginia's Birdlife, An Annotated Checklist*. The Black-crowned Night-Heron is listed in the Checklist as a rare summer visitor in the Mountains and Valleys region. This may be the first documented successful nesting of *Nycticorax nycticorax* in this area of Virginia.

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BROAD-WINGED HAWKS NESTING NEAR THE BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY

CHARLES HANSROTE and MELVA HANSROTE

Paper received January 1989

On 16 May 1988, Taylor Piephoff and Charles Hansrote were driving north on the Blue Ridge Parkway toward Sunset Field. Just past Onion Mountain Overlook, Taylor heard a Common Raven (*Corvus corax*) call on the ridge to the immediate left. He pointed to two birds harassing the raven and identified them as Broad-winged Hawks (*Buteo platypterus*). Almost at the same instant he also located a large nest in a tree near the road.

Between 19 May and 17 July, the nest site—about a 35-minute drive from Lynchburg, Virginia—was visited by Charles and Melva Hansrote on different dates. Using 8 X 40 Bushnell binoculars, they observed the nest from a parked car.

An adult hawk was on the nest during each of the first six visits. No second hawk was sighted or heard, nor were there any chick noises emanating from the nest.

On 20 June, about 9:30 a.m., both adult Broad-winged Hawks were observed for the first time going into the nest area. In its beak, one of the adult birds carried a branch containing green leaves to the nest. Bent (1937) reports this is a custom of the Broad-winged Hawk. Thirty-five days had passed without detection of young birds in the nest. This time interval was in agreement with Harrison (1978) who reported a 28-day incubation period, while Ehrlich et al. (1988) suggested 28 to 32 days.

Ten days later on 30 June, nestling sounds were heard. At 3:42 p.m. three motorcycles roared past on the nearby road and a small white head, with a black beak and black eyes came into view above the side of the nest. Three minutes later a second white, down-covered nestling appeared, above the side, within the nest. One adult was also observed in the nest. Descriptions of plumages of newly hatched to 9-day-old chicks by Bent suggest our sightings were of recently hatched birds.

Eighteen days later on 8 July, one chick was observed. Its white head revealed a black eye surrounded by black feathers and a slightly hooked, black bill with a yellow spot at the junction with the head. The upper breast had a few dark feathers. The small wings were darker than the observable body color. The size of the chick was slightly larger than a young Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*). Ten minutes later, a second chick raised its head. A minute later an adult hawk momentarily visited the nest before flying off.

On 17 July, a young Broad-winged Hawk was still on the nest. It was more heavily feathered than at the 8 July visit; however, it still had traces of downy feathers on its auricular, chin, and throat. Bent's description of plumages suggest this was not yet a fully grown young bird. The adult hawk whistled, causing the young bird to become agitated. Eventually the young hawk flew from the nest. In about ten minutes a second young hawk raised its head in the nest. It had fewer downy feathers. Later, both young birds were observed off the nest.

The park map at the Peaks of Otter visitor center show the nest in Bedford County, Virginia. The nest, on the left as one drives north, was 12 to 15 feet from the side of the road, near mile-post 79 on the Blue Ridge Parkway. The nest site was located at approximately 3200 feet elevation.

The nest was 48 to 50 feet from the ground in a white oak (*Quercus alba*). The nest, made of twigs and branches, was placed on the main trunk where a large branch had been broken off leaving smaller limbs. It was well concealed from the road. The nest location, building materials, construction and placement in the deciduous tree were in agreement with descriptions given in the previously cited references.

Virginia's Birdlife An Annotated Checklist (Kain 1987) listed the following information about Broad-winged Hawk breeding in the Piedmont region: eggs, 25 Apr-15 May. Our observations indicate nestling Broad-winged Hawks present from 30 June to 17 July 1988 for the Piedmont region.

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1988 REPORT OF THE VSO RECORDS COMMITTEE

JOHN H. DALMAS

This is the first annual report of the newly-constituted VSO Records Committee. This committee originated many years ago but was only recently expanded to include a panel of voting members to review "rarities." This concept, similar to that already being used by other state ornithological societies, was adopted at the fall 1986 VSO Board meeting. The formal bylaws for this committee, which are appended to this report, were approved at the fall 1988 Board meeting. The 1988 committee members are as follows:

Non-voting Secretary-Compiler: Teta Kain

Voting Members:

Three-year term — John H. Dalmás (chairman)

Jerry W. Via, Claudia P. Wilds

Two-year term — Robert L. Ake, A. Clair Mellinger, Bill Williams

One-year term — David W. Abbott, Richard H. Peake, F. R. Scott

Fifteen (15) records were submitted to the committee. Of these, six were accepted, six were not accepted, and three are still unresolved pending further rounds of voting. Contributors of accepted records are identified by [.....]. The Records Committee thanks all contributors for their patience and for their participation, without which this report would not be possible.

ACCEPTED RECORDS

ALDER FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax alnorum*). A pair was found nesting on Mt. Rogers, Grayson County, on 13 June 1980 about one-half mile east of the summit, at an elevation of 5400 ft, by Barry Kinzie and John Pancake [Kinzie]. The birds were seen carrying nesting material every 3-4 minutes to a nest about 2 1/2 feet off the ground in a blackberry thicket. This is the first nesting evidence of this species for Virginia. This review was made to provide official confirmation of a record already appearing in the 1987 *Annotated Checklist*.

SANDHILL CRANE (*Grus canadensis*). Two immature birds were seen flying over Barry Kinzie's farm near Troutville, Botetourt County, on 21 October 1986. This constitutes the third record for the Mountains and Valleys region [Kinzie]. This review also was made to confirm the record already appearing in the 1987 *Annotated Checklist*.

PINE SISKIN (*Carduelis pinus*). An unfledged bird later identified as this species was brought uninjured by a cat to the cat owner's house in Falls Church, Fairfax County, on 1 June 1987. The owner of the cat, Mrs. Sandra Holton, raised the bird to fledgling in her home and took many excellent color photographs of it after it had feathered out enough to be recognizable. It was released at Mason Neck Park on 5 July 1987 [J.M. Abbott]. This is the first confirmed breeding record for this species in the Piedmont, and only the second for Virginia.

SANDHILL CRANE (*Grus canadensis*). A single immature bird was present at a farm northwest of Middleburg, Loudoun County, from 3 to 5 June 1987, as documented in two independent reports [Louis F. Herrmann, Jesse J. Fulton III]. Another bird seen the next day, 6 June, at the intersection of Goose Creek and

route 15 in Loudoun County and about 9 miles west of this farm, was presumed to be the same bird [Edwin P. Weigel]. There are at least nine previous records of this species in Virginia, but this is the first Piedmont record.

MISSISSIPPI KITE (*Ictinia mississippiensis*). A year-old bird was seen seven miles south of Leesburg, Loudoun County, on 5 June 1987, during work on the southeast block of the Lincoln quadrangle for the Virginia Atlas Project [Edwin P. Weigel]. This sighting was confirmed the following day, 6 June, at which time both this and the previous species were seen in the sky together! This bird was last seen on 7 June after several authoritative photographs were obtained. There have been at least eight previous sight records for this species, but this is the first documented sighting, moving the bird from "hypothetical" status to the regular checklist.

LEWIS' WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes lewis*). A single adult bird was found in the Lucketts area of Loudoun County on 2 January 1988, during the Sugarloaf Mountain Christmas Bird Count [Valerie B. Kitchens, Harry & Marion Mudd, Erika Wilson, Margaret I. Hawk, George W. Barlow III]. Over the next few months, this bird was seen by hundreds of observers and documented by scores of photographs. It was last seen in this area during the VSO annual meeting, on 7 May 1988. This is the first record for Virginia and only the third record for the Eastern United States. It is species no. 412 on the official state list.

UNACCEPTED RECORDS, identification questionable

THICK-BILLED MURRE (*Uria lomvia*). A single bird was seen off the beach at Assateague Island, Accomack County, on 31 January 1987. This would have been the sixth state record, moving the bird out of the "accidental" category onto the "regular" checklist. Most of the committee members were concerned with the brief description and lack of details on bill shape and size.

ROSS' GOOSE (*Chen rossii*). A single bird was seen flying with a flock of about 65 Snow Geese (*Chen caerulescens*) over Wise Point, Northampton County, on 22 February 1987. This would have been only the second record for the state. The documentation was extensive, describing both those field marks which were seen and those which were not seen. However, most of the committee members commented on the lack of definitive details concerning the bill markings and shape which separate this species from Snow Goose (*Chen caerulescens*) and the Snow/Ross' hybrids.

THAYER'S GULL (*Larus thayeri*). A single bird was seen on the southernmost Chesapeake Bay bridge-tunnel island on 24 February 1987. This would have been the third state record and would have moved this species from "hypothetical" to "accidental" status since photos, taken from a distance, were submitted along with considerable written description. Committee members all agreed that the identification was inconclusive, lacking field marks such as the dark iris and the darker grey mantle which help to separate it from the Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*).

SAY'S PHOEBE (*Sayornis saya*). A bird was seen in a yard in Arlington on 29 October 1987. This would have been the third Virginia record, but most of the committee felt that the details did not support the identification, especially the prominent wing-bars.

UNACCEPTED RECORDS, origin questionable

CINNAMON TEAL (*Anas cyanoptera*). A male in breeding plumage, was seen along with four Blue-winged Teals (*Anas discors*) and two Northern Shovelers (*Anas clypeata*) at Stuarts Draft sewage treatment plant, Augusta County, on 7 May 1987. Most thought it was unlikely to be a wild bird. Also, it was noted that corroboration by a specimen, photograph, or another observer would be necessary for a first state record.

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*). An immature male was killed by a hunter in King William County on 7 October 1987, specimen on file at Virginia Commonwealth University. There is no question about the identification, and it was noted there was no indication the bird had been in captivity. Nevertheless, most felt that any occurrence of this species in Virginia is more likely to be an escape.

UNRESOLVED, further committee action required

REEVE (*Philomachus pugnax*). Occurrence at New Hope, Augusta County, 9 May 1987

UPLAND SANDPIPER (*Bartramia longicauda*). Breeding in Loudoun County, 10 June 1987

ROSS' GOOSE (*Chen rossii*). Occurrence at Curles Neck Farm, Henrico County, 21 February 1988

Literature Cited

Kain, Teta, editor

1987. Virginia's birdlife, an annotated checklist. Virginia Aviflora
No. 3. Virginia Society of Ornithology.

520 Rainbow Forest Drive, Lynchburg, Virginia

VSO RECORDS COMMITTEE BY-LAWS

I. Name and Affiliation

This committee shall be known as the "Records Committee" of the Virginia Society of Ornithology (VSO).

II. Purpose

- A. Maintain the official list of Virginia birds. Publish annual updates of this list in the VSO journal, *The Raven*, or in the VSO Newsletter.
- B. Validate records of birds from the State of Virginia and adjacent ocean. "Adjacent ocean" is defined as that area extending eastward for 200 statute miles from the coastline.

III. Membership

- A. Number and Definitions. The committee shall consist of ten people, nine voting members and one non-voting Secretary-Compiler. One of the voting members shall be designated as the committee chairman by the VSO Board of Directors (hereafter the "Board").
- B. Qualifications. Any person is eligible to be a voting member if, in the estimation of the Board, that person has demonstrated expertise in the field identification of birds and is a member in good standing of the VSO.
- C. Voting Members.
 - 1. Terms of Office.
 - a. The nine voting members shall be appointed by the Board at the fall VSO Board meeting on a staggered basis, each for a term of three years, so that three members will be replaced each year.
 - b. Voting members take office for the three calendar years following their appointment. A voting member may not serve consecutive terms, but may be reappointed after one year.
 - 2. Nominations. Nomination of new voting members shall be made by the current voting members to the committee chairman at least thirty days prior to the Fall VSO Board meeting. Each person may make a maximum of one nomination per vacancy, and is responsible for obtaining approval from his/her nominee(s). The committee chairman or delegate committee member shall submit the names of the nominees to the Board at the Board meeting.
 - 3. Duties.
 - a. Votes to accept or reject specific records as provided in Section VI.
 - b. Attends special meetings of the committee.
 - 4. Additional Duties of Committee Chairman.
 - a. Calls and presides at all meetings of the committee; distributes agenda at least 30 days prior to proposed meeting date.
 - b. Annually reports results of committee action to the VSO membership.
 - c. Reports activities of committee to VSO Board at regular Board meetings.
 - d. Handles all requests for assistance from recognized authorities for certain records, as necessary.
 - e. Serves as primary contact on all inquiries to the committee.
- D. Secretary-Compiler.
 - 1. Terms of Office.
 - a. The Secretary-Compiler shall be appointed by the Board at the fall VSO Board meeting for a single one-year term.
 - b. The Secretary-Compiler takes office for the calendar year following his/her appointment, and may serve consecutive terms.
 - c. The Secretary-Compiler may delegate correspondence duties listed below to an assistant(s) of his/her choice.

2. Nominations. Nominations for Secretary-Compiler shall be made by the VSO Nominating Committee, in the same manner as provided in the VSO Bylaws for the VSO Officers.

3. Duties.

- a. Receive, tabulate and file all bird records and supporting data submitted to the committee.
 - b. Keep current the database for the official list of Virginia birds, to support periodic revisions of the Annotated Checklist.
 - c. Copy and circulate details submitted on "rarities" (as defined in Section VI) to voting members.
 - d. Tabulate results of all votes of the committee.
 - e. Correspond with individuals submitting rarities reports to the committee to acknowledge their receipt, and to provide feedback on committee action.
 - f. Keep minutes of any committee meetings.
 - g. Furnish copies of the current "Records Committee Report Form" to anyone upon request and free of charge.
 - h. Keep current a master copy of these Bylaws and assure that they are properly applied.
- E. Removals. The Board may remove any members of the committee who are delinquent in their duties. This action requires the concurrence of at least 12 of the 16 voting VSO Board members.
 - F. Vacancies. If the committee loses a member during his/her term (due to death, resignation, removal, etc.), the Board will appoint a replacement at its next regularly scheduled meeting. The Board shall choose from nominees presented at the last fall Board meeting.
 - G. Compensation. None of the members of this committee shall receive compensation for his/her services. Members may be reimbursed by the Treasurer of the VSO for expenses reasonably incurred in the performance of committee duties.

IV. Meetings

There are no regularly scheduled meetings of this committee. Special meetings of the committee may be called by the Secretary-Compiler or the Committee Chairman, provided each member is notified and provided an agenda at least 30 days prior to the meeting.

V. Bylaws

- A. Formation. All Bylaws and other procedures of the committee are subject to approval by the Board.
- B. Review. The Bylaws shall be reviewed regularly (at least once every five years) by the committee.
- C. Changes. These Bylaws may be changed by concurrence of at least 9 of the 16 voting VSO Board members at any regularly scheduled Board meeting.

- D. Waivers. Provisions of these Bylaws may be temporarily waived by a simple majority vote of the Board members present at any regularly scheduled Board meeting.

VI. Records

A. Definitions.

1. Record. Any written documentation submitted to the committee as evidence of the identity of a sighted, heard, collected, banded or photographed bird, or one appearing in recognized ornithological journals.
2. Rarity. Any record which meets the criteria below, or which the Secretary-Compiler judges sufficiently rare or unusual to require action by the voting members. Published accounts of rarities are specifically not exempted from action by the VSO Records Committee.
 - a. First occurrence of species in the state or a particular physiographic region.
 - b. Occurrence of a species with "accidental" or "hypothetical" status within the state or a particular physiographic region, as defined in the most recent version of *Virginia's Birdlife, An Annotated Checklist*.
 - c. Occurrence of any seasonal species well outside of its previously known early/late dates, or comprising a first seasonal record.
 - d. Any occurrence which could change the breeding status of a species within the state.

B. Criteria for Consideration of Records.

1. Within the State of Virginia and adjacent ocean, as stated in Section II.B.
2. Apparently wild and naturally occurring.
3. Full species status and/or recognizable sub-species as defined in the most current AOU checklist.

C. Submission of Records.

1. Records of distribution, seasonal abundance, arrival and departure dates and breeding evidence obtained for normally occurring species may be submitted in any convenient format.
2. Records of rarities should be submitted on the "Records Committee Report Form" or other format in sufficient detail to enable a fair evaluation by the committee.
3. The Secretary-Compiler may request submission of rarity records reported elsewhere, e.g. other ornithological journals or birding publication/services.
4. A record which has received a final committee decision, whether accepted or rejected, may be resubmitted by the Secretary-Compiler or any other person if new evidence becomes available which might reverse the decision. Such a record must be resubmitted and circulated as if never before submitted, except that it shall be accompanied by all previous votes and comments of the committee, and all of the new evidence clearly identified as such.

C. Circulation Procedure for Rarities.

1. Receipt by Secretary-Compiler.

- a. Reports are received, reviewed, catalogued and maintained on file until 5-10 reports have accumulated or three months have elapsed since receipt of the first report.
- b. Receipt of all reports shall be acknowledged.
- c. Reports found to be lacking sufficient information may be returned to the originator without committee action, at the discretion of the Secretary-Compiler.
- d. Other reports are copied, and a package is sent to each voting member. This package will include a ballot for each of the records.

2. Receipt by Voting Member.

- a. Judge validity of each record and vote to accept or reject. For any record which is rejected, the reason for rejection shall be provided.
- b. Complete the enclosed ballot and return to the Secretary-Compiler by the required date (usually thirty days from date of receipt).
- c. Voting members may abstain only in the event of a possible conflict of interest. A voting member may not vote on his/her own record.
- d. The initial vote shall be made without consultation with another voting member of the committee, and exclusively on the basis of the evidence presented.
- e. The criteria used by a voting member for acceptance or rejection of a record are an individual matter and shall not be treated by these Bylaws. Separate guidelines may be issued to assure consistency of records treatment.

3. Disposition of Records.

- a. A record shall be accepted on any round of voting if every eligible voting member votes to accept.
- b. A record shall be rejected on any round of voting if five or more voting members vote to reject.
- c. Any other result shall require a record to be recirculated to all voting members, together with the votes and comments of every voting member from the previous round. The Secretary-Compiler may solicit additional details from the originator for inclusion in the recirculated package.
- d. A record shall be rejected if there are still two or more votes to reject after three rounds of voting.
- e. A single vote to reject after three rounds of voting may be overruled and the record accepted, provided each of the other voting members reaffirms acceptance in the face of the one negative vote.

E. Dissemination of Results.

1. The Secretary-Compiler shall report the results of committee action to the person(s) submitting records, prior to publication elsewhere.
2. The decision of the Committee shall be published annually in the VSO journal, *The Raven*, or in the VSO Newsletter, by the Committee Chairman.

FIRST SIGHT RECORD OF BARROW'S GOLDENEYE FOR VIRGINIA

BILL WILLIAMS

(Editor's note: This record was accepted by the VSO Records Committee in November 1982 and became the 408th species on the Virginia state list.)

On 28 February 1982 Rich Goll and Cindy Carlson observed an unusual female goldeneye off the second island of the Chesapeake Bay bridge-tunnel. Weather conditions for birding were less than ideal with a steady rain and northeast winds of 20-25 miles per hour. They called several people to alert them about the bird. I arrived around 1:30 p.m., approximately two hours after the initial sighting and was able to locate the goldeneye quickly.

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

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

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

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

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

Based on field comparison of this duck with female Common Goldeneyes and supporting evidence for the differences in the literature, I concluded that the bird in question was definitely a female Barrow's Goldeneye, and therefore repre-

sented a new species for Virginia. The bird was subsequently seen by several other observers who concurred with the aforementioned field marks.

Literature Cited

Johnsgard, P.A.

1975. Waterfowl of North America. Indiana University Press, Bloomington.

Palmer, R. S.

1987. Handbook of North American birds. Vol. 3. Waterfowl (Part 2). Yale University Press, New Haven.

108 Deerwood Drive, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

SECOND BURROWING OWL RECORD FOR VIRGINIA

NELSON LEWIS

(Editor's note: The following record was accepted by the VSO records committee in 1984 as the second occurrence of this species in the state. Photographs and written documentation of the bird are contained the Society's archives.)

While hunting on Scotland Farm, approximately five miles west of Scottsville in Albemarle County on 10 August 1983, a Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*) was observed perched on a slab of cinderblock at the edge of a field. It was standing erect, facing to our left.

We could see that the legs of this screech-owl-sized bird were quite long, that it had a very short tail and that its blazing yellow eyes were set in a white-bordered face. The bird's ground color was light with brown horizontal bars extending over its entire body. As we neared the owl, it began bobbing up and down, and allowed us to approach quite near before it flushed. Its flight was strong, but very erratic and close to the ground. It usually flew less than 50 yards during any one flight. After landing, it would again start bobbing up and down and make a cackling sound that seemed to be a scolding call. When we moved closer, it ducked down low, becoming almost invisible in the meadow grasses. As we moved away, the bird flew back to the cinder block where it was first observed.

During subsequent visits to the site, the owl usually perched on the ground, but occasionally could be seen standing on cinderblocks and fence posts in the imme-

diate area. During the first few days of its discovery, the owl was never observed very far from the initial observation site. When disturbed, it flushed to an adjacent field, returning to its original perch a while later and diving into one of two groundhog burrows near the cinderblock. It seemed evident that the bird was using one or both these excavations as a roost.

A casting, regurgitated by the bird at the base of its favorite perch, primarily contained the remains of Japanese beetles (*Popilla japonica*) and other insects, but no fur or bones. At this same site a few tail, breast and secondary feathers of the owl were found and collected. On 13 August, slides were taken of the bird standing erect on the ground. More were obtained as it crouched low in the meadow grasses.

There are two phases of the Burrowing Owl — western and Florida. The Florida phase is quite dark. The Scotland Farm bird was very pale compared to any illustrations of the Florida phase that I have studied. The Florida strain is non-migratory; the western population is migratory. The owl at Scotland Farm had a rather small bill, whereas the Florida phase is described as having a large bill for its size. Given these differences, I determined that the Scottsville bird was a western phase Burrowing Owl.

1313 Hill Top Road, Charlottesville, Virginia 22903

LEWIS' WOODPECKER IN LOUDOUN COUNTY

VALERIE B. KITCHENS

(Editor's note: This record was reviewed and accepted by the Records committee in February 1988 and became the 412th species on the Virginia state list. Photographs and documentation by other observers are on file in VSO archives.)

On 2 January 1988, Mary A.B. "Danny" Crookston and I were participating in the Lucketts sector of the Sugarloaf Mountain, Maryland-Virginia Christmas bird count. Shortly before 2 p.m. we were driving west on route 657, approaching the intersection with route 661, when I saw a dark bird fly across the field on our right. We turned right on route 661 and drove a short distance when the bird flew across the road and landed on the cross-tie of a telephone pole in front of us. I stopped the car about 50 yards away from the pole, and we looked at the bird with binoculars through the car's windshield. The sun was behind us and the light was excellent.

We were astonished to see a bird with a dark green iridescent back and rosy-pink breast. The head and bill looked dark; the bird had the bill and stiff, pointed tail of a woodpecker. On further observation, I noted the grayish-white neck/collar. The bird reminded me of the Lewis' Woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*) which I had seen most recently in British Columbia in the summer of 1984. When we turned to the picture in the National Geographic field guide, we confirmed our identification of the bird as this species.

The bird remained in the same area and was seen that day by all the members of our count group. The others were our sector leader, Erika Wilson, Margaret "Maggie" Hawk, Patricia "Pat" Schindler, and Susie Weber. George "Cricket" Barlow, who was birding independently in Lucketts that day, also saw the woodpecker and joined the count. Erika, Maggie, and Pat had also seen this species previously in the West. Because none of us had a camera, we phoned Claudia Wilds, an hour away in Washington, D. C. She came to Lucketts to photograph the bird and confirm our finding later that afternoon.

The bird flew from the telephone pole to a tree on the edge of the woodlot at the north end of the cornfield on the west side of route 661. We observed it flying from the woodlot to the cornfield, landing on cornstalks, and then returning to the trees carrying kernels of corn in its bill. The bird sat on horizontal limbs, and spent some time preening, but it also climbed tree trunks as woodpeckers do. The bird looked all dark when flying and in poor light; I observed its iridescence only when it was perched and in good light. Although I attempted view the bird with a scope, my best looks that day were with my Leitz 7 X 42 power binoculars.

The woodpecker was seen again the next day, and almost daily thereafter until early May. I saw this bird again briefly on 5 January, and I observed it at length on 15 January, each time in company with other observers. On the latter date, the woodpecker was found along a driveway on the east side of route 661 (across from the woodlot mentioned earlier). From the small tree where it was perched, it flew down to the driveway (referred to as a "lane" in some reports because it was very long) and appeared to be getting grit there, providing us with several minutes of excellent views with both binoculars and telescope. Then it flew across the adjacent cornfield, coming much closer, landing on a cornstalk, and dropping to the ground to eat corn; finally, the bird flew back across the field with a kernel of corn in its bill and landed out of sight near the spot where I had first observed it that day.

While observing the bird's behavior, I also studied its marking further and noted that the grayish-white collar extended in the front to the upper breast and faded into the pink. At this time, I also saw the red on the face, around its bill, and noted that the red color was apparent only in good light; otherwise, the head above the collar looked dark. The Lewis' was slightly larger than a Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*) which was seen nearby.

In response to a request in the VSO Newsletter, I received approximately 70 written reports from VSO members that they had seen the Lewis' Woodpecker in Lucketts. These members came from as far away as Blacksburg, Chesapeake, and Virginia Beach, Virginia, and reported they traveled as much as 500-600 miles. In addition, the bird was seen on two Northern Virginia Chapter field trips (6 February

and 22 March), and by other VSO and Northern Virginia Chapter members who told me orally they saw it. Thus, it appears that well over 100 VSO birders alone saw this bird. Also, many Maryland birders, and others from as far away as New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio reportedly came to see it.

My last sighting of the Lewis' Woodpecker was 3 May, while scouting the Lucketts area for the VSO Annual Meeting field trips to be held the following weekend. On Saturday, 7 May, the trip led by Maggie Hawk and Pat Schindler found the woodpecker in the woodlot and cornfield on the west side of route 661. The trip which Carolyn Carter and I led the following day, Sunday, 8 May, did not find the Lewis Woodpecker. Nor did the Northern Virginia Chapter trip on 10 May. Other observers also looked for this bird after 7 May, but it was not reported as having been seen in Lucketts again after that date.

5013 North 25th Road, Arlington, Virginia 22207

KITES AND TAILS

BILL WILLIAMS

(Editor's note: The record of the Fork-tailed Flycatcher was accepted by the Records Committee in January 1989 and became the 413th species on the Vireginia state list. Photographs of the bird are on file in the VSO archives. Final action on the record of the Black-shouldered Kite is pending.)

Harding Polk is an archaeologist by trade. But he is also a keen enough observer of wildlife to know that a bird he had seen 3 June 1988, perched on a wire on the Charles City County farm where he lived, was something out of the ordinary. A mention of his sighting to Brian Taber the following evening initiated a chain of events difficult for even the most rational birder to comprehend.

Brian, Ruth Beck, Jerry Via, Bill Akers and I were scheduled to go to Grandview Beach in Hampton that Sunday morning (5 June) to check on the Least Tern colony there. Brian related Harding's bird report to the others and it was agreed we would go to the farm located off route 5, one mile west of the Chickahominy River bridge at 8 a.m., just in case there really was a rare bird. As we drove down the dirt road, Harding met us on his bicycle, surrounded by a nuisance of deerflies.

To our right was a mixed deciduous forest. To our left was an expanse of fallow field sprinkled with stalks from last year's weeds and covered with knee high greenery. Harding told us where he had seen the bird, and within minutes Brian located it about 100 yards away sitting two feet off the ground on a green stem. We were seeing a new bird for the state.

The following is a detailed description based on field notes taken while the bird was in view:

Bill—black. Eye—black. Legs not seen. Head—black to just below the eye. Breast and belly entirely white. Mantle—gray with a gray collar around the back of the neck. Wing—primaries and secondaries dark brown-black. Tail—black, 1.5-2 times the length of the body; feather shaft visible. The bird looked worn.

A Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savana*)! Subsequently Brian Taber observed yellow feathers on the top of the bird's head.

Here we were seeing one of those unmistakable species that spice birders' dreams. It began to feed, flying low over the field, chasing insects just as kingbirds do, and always landing on a stalk of vegetation, especially old sunflower remnants. Bill Akers began to take pictures while Ruth went to make phone calls from the farm house where her friend, the owner of the property, Norman Hofmeyer, lived.

While she was gone, the bird flew to the trees just beside us and sat quietly near the mid-section of a large oak. Bill was able to take numerous pictures at close range. We apparently got too close in trying to get better looks, and the bird flew out across the field to a huge oak some 200 yards away.

Waiting for others to arrive and keeping an eye on where the bird went, Brian suddenly exclaimed, "What in the world is this?" Our attention was again drawn to the field and to a bird that was somewhat larger than the passing Laughing Gulls (*Larus atricilla*). It flew in low, swooped up a bit, and landed on a fence post 150 yards away. All the while cries of, "It's a kite—a Black-shouldered Kite!" (*Elanus caeruleus*) followed it. Being the skeptic, I guessed a Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) at first, but was quickly convinced otherwise, based on the following field marks seen by everyone, including Tom Armour, Rich Goll, and Cindy Carlson, who had just arrived:

Pale white below. Tail—all white, short and squared. Wings—streamlined and pointed, held in a dihedral in flight. Flight—shallow and gull-like. Mantle—light gray. Underwing white with black "wrist" markings. At rest a black patch at the bend of the wing was very evident. The head was white. At the distance we were viewing, no black around the eye could be seen.

Another Virginia first!

Needless to say, the group was awestruck. By now it was close to 10 a.m. and several Grasshopper Sparrows (*Ammodramus savannarum*) and Blue Grosbeaks (*Guiraca caerulea*) were quite vocal, as was a local pair of Ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus*). Two Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) sat nearby over a borrow pit, and Barn, (*Hirundo rustica*), Bank (*Riparia riparia*), and Northern Rough-winged (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*) Swallows flitted all around us. Having got their

fill of the kite as it sat and preened, part of the group left to search for the Fork-tailed Flycatcher. Jerry and I remained behind to keep an eye on the kite.

As they walked up the dirt road, I noticed a long-tailed bird fly low over the field and land on a sunflower stalk. It had come from near the hedge row of small trees bordering the road and screening the group walking the road from seeing the flycatcher! The cream-colored head and belly, brown-grey wings and mantle, and long, light brownish tail feathers were a give-away—it was a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*). It stayed close to the ground, feeding in flight and landing on low vegetation about one foot off the ground or on barbed wire fencing. Tom Armour was eventually able to photograph it and got to see the bird before it disappeared some thirty minutes later.

The kite was being harassed by swallows and soon it also flew off. As it soared higher and higher, it was last seen diving on a Bald Eagle!

As if all of the foregoing weren't enough, the people who had walked up the road found at least two singing male Dickcissels (*Spiza americana*). Under normal circumstances, these alone would have been enough to bring birders from near and far. Now it seemed almost anticlimatic.

Efforts to relocate the Fork-tailed Flycatcher proved futile that day, though the bird was seen well into July by people from all over the East. The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was not seen again, nor was the Black-shouldered Kite. The Dickcissels remained, a part of a significant influx of this species into Virginia during the summer of 1988, possibly influenced by the extensive drought in the midwest.

A rapidly moving frontal system had moved through the area on the afternoon of 3 June, clearing the skies from several days of rain and clouds. It was noted that both flycatchers stayed close to the ground as they fed. The air temperature was 55-60° Fahrenheit, and there was a moderate westerly breeze.

Though pictures were taken of the Fork-tailed and Scissor-tailed Flycatchers for documentation, no one was able to photograph the Black-shouldered Kite.

For those of us who were present that morning, the events still seem unreal. Considering the timing of the sightings, the species involved, and the very limited geographic space they occupied, one must feel a sense of mystique. In fact several of us never moved and were able to make a little history that morning, all because an archaeologist had been looking up.

108 Deerwood Drive, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

NEWS AND NOTES

YULEE LARNER AND TETA KAIN

MORE NEWS ON NESTING PINE SISKINS: Charles Ziegenfuss reports that from 5 to 8 July 1988, a pair of Pine Siskins (*Carduelis pinus*) was seen along the edge of the road near the drain of Mountain Lake, Giles County, foraging on coltsfoot (*Tussilago farara*). This is approximately the same area where this species was engaged in nesting activities in 1985.

AMERICAN AVOCETS IN AUGUSTA COUNTY: On 7 April 1988, Mozelle Henkel saw four American Avocets (*Recurvirostra americana*) on a small, privately owned farm pond near Lyndhurst in Augusta County. The birds were observed later in the day by Sylvia McCampbell and Ruth and Mark Snyder, and were photographed by Stephen Rottenborn. The birds were not seen again. This represents the first record for Augusta County, and the eighth record (second spring record) for the Mountains and Valleys Region.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL IN WESTMORELAND COUNTY: On 13 March 1988, J. Enoch Johnson found a Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) on Lower Machodoc Creek, the first record for Westmoreland County, Virginia. Field marks which separated the bird from accompanying Herring Gulls (*L. argentatus*) were: 1) smaller size; 2) a more buoyant and slender appearance; 3) yellow legs and feet; 4) a "less robust" appearance of the head and breast; 5) a more slender bill; and 6) a dark "charcoal mantle" that contrasted noticeably with the Herring Gulls' pearly gray backs. It was determined that the bird was in typical adult plumage except for the dark tail band and dark tip on the bill. While observing the bird, Johnson noted aggressive behavior of the Herring Gulls towards the Lesser Black-backed. One encounter left the Lesser with a distinct limp which was observed for two days. In all, the bird was observed five times after the initial sighting, the last being 31 March 1988.

1020 West Beverley Street, Staunton, Virginia 24401 (Y.L.)
Route 5, Box 950, Gloucester, Virginia 23061 (T. K.)



VIRGINIA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS - 1987-88 SEASON

TETA KAIN

Seven hundred five people participated in the 1986-87 Virginia Christmas bird counts and found 200 species, the same number as last year. In all, 564 observers participated in at least one count, 196 in 2 or more counts, 93 in 3 or more, 40 in 4 or more, and 15 in 5 counts.

Manassas-Bull Run, John H. Kerr Reservoir, and Breaks Interstate Park censuses were added this year; however, Gordonsville census was not conducted. This made a total of 38—two more than last year. As an interesting side-note, of the 41 state counts held within the last five years, all but nine have been held 10 years or longer. Some counts stretch back with unbroken records for more than 40 years.

One species is new to the counts this year—the White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*)—found on the Wachapreague count by Charles Vaughn. Documentation of the sighting has been submitted to the Records Committee and the outcome of that review will not be known until mid-1989.

Although the Sugarloaf Mountain, Maryland census is not included in the summaries of this state, it was in the Virginia sector of that count that one of the most unusual birds of the East Coast was found on 2 January. Imagine the astonishment of Valerie Kitchen's party when they discovered a Lewis' Woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*) in a Loudoun County cornfield within the count circle radius! Excellent photographs and documentation by many have already been accepted by the Records Committee and the bird becomes the 412th species on the Virginia state list. [see article on page 33]

Another very unusual find was an Eared Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*) at Lynchburg. This species was first recorded on Virginia counts in 1966 when one was seen on the Back Bay census. Another was seen at Chincoteague in 1969, this year's sighting is a first for the Piedmont region counts. A photograph of the bird appears in vol. 42, no. 4, p. 531 of *American Birds*.

Weather conditions in most localities were not unusual for the time of year with only Warren birders experiencing snowfall on count day. See pages 61-63 for a complete table summary of weather details and other pertinent data. Listed below are the 3-letter abbreviations used in that summary.

AWO = All water open	MWO = Moving water open
CLD = Skies cloudy	PCD = Skies partly cloudy
CLR = Skies clear	PCR = Skies partly clear
FOG = Foggy	RAI = Rain
HVR = Heavy rain	SPF = Still water partly frozen
LGR = Light rain	SPO = Still water partly frozen
LHR = Light to heavy rain	SWF = Still water frozen
LSN = Light snow	VAR = Variable
MPO = Moving water party open	WPF = Water partly frozen
S(1-10) = Snow (number denotes inches on the ground)	

TABLE 6. (following 24 pages). The 1987-88 Christmas counts in Virginia. The bold, underlined figures indicate an unusual species or an unusual number of individuals for that particular count. "CW" indicates that the species was seen during count week, but not on count day.

	Red-throated Loon	Common Loon	Pied-billed Grebe	Horned Grebe	Eared Grebe	Northern Gannet	White Pelican	Brown Pelican	Great Cormorant
1. Chincoteague	14	210	29	279	...	...	2	...	...
2. Wachapreague	10	37	1	5	...	2	...	...	...
3. Cape Charles	311	166	59	338	...	132	...	19	...
4. Little Creek	24	14	49	6	...	719	...	5	20
5. Back Bay	84	30	2	1	...	130	...	...	...
6. Newport News	...	7	33	22	...	1	...	...	...
7. Mathews	2	101	11	57	...	...	...	...	...
8. Williamsburg	1	1	51	13	...	...	...	...	...
9. Hopewell	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...
10. Brooke	...	1	3	1	...	...	...	...	...
11. Fort Belvoir	...	2	45	18	...	...	...	...	...
12. Manassas-B.R.	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...
13. Nokesville	...	...	CW	...	...	...	...	...	...
14. Charlottesville	...	...	6	3	...	...	...	...	...
15. Warren	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
16. Kerr Reservoir	1	11	8	36	...	...	...	...	...
17. Bannister WMA	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
18. Lynchburg	...	CW	12	1	1	...	...	...	...
19. Danville	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20. Philpott Reserv.	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
21. Calmes Neck	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
22. N. Shen. Valley	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
23. Shen. NP-Luray	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
24. Big Flat Mt.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25. Rockingham Co	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
26. Augusta Co.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
27. Waynesboro	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
28. Lexington	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...
29. Peaks of Otter	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
30. Clifton Forge	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
31. Fincastle	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
32. Roanoke	...	1	13	...	...	...	...	...	...
33. Blacksburg	...	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...
34. Tazewell	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35. Glade Spring	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...
36. Nickelsville	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
37. Breaks I. Park	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
38. Wise County	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total Individuals	447	583	369	784	1	984	2	5	39

Double-Crested Cormorant	cormorant, sp.	American Bittern	Great Blue Heron	Great Egret	Snowy Egret	Little Blue Heron	Tricolored Heron	Green-backed Heron	Black-crowned Night-Heron	Tundra Swan	Mute Swan
3	...	1	112	32	12	1	5	1	12	496	...
2	47	...	...	...	1	...	6	11	...
679	5	9	146	31	14	2	46	...	13	257	1
3050	189	72	...	2	...	...	1	2	...
14	...	1	44	9	...	...	...	...	4	234	...
494	75	65	...	...	...	1	2	...	...
15	34	...	...	...	...	...	...	442	...
207	92	2	...	...	...	1	1	138	1
28	125	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	36	...	...	...	...	...	...	45	...
...	140	1	...	...	...	...	...	5232	2
...	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	CW
...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	16	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...
...	25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	28	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...
...
...	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
...	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	...
...	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	1	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...
...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	26	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
...	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...
...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4494	5	12	1365	212	26	5	52	5	42	6890	5

	Snow (Blue) Goose	Snow Goose	white goose, sp.	Brant	Canada Goose	Wood Duck	Green-winged Teal	G-W Teal (European)	American Black Duck
1. Chincoteague	21	15943	...	10883	2842	8	349	...	3056
2. Wachapreague	2800	352	...	12	...	230
3. Cape Charles	9	943	1	2544	3904	3	82	1	2293
4. Little Creek	1	...	...	1900	39	115	29	...	219
5. Back Bay	7	7270	...	...	220	24	700	...	382
6. Newport News	12	...	2	5	...	14
7. Mathews	...	1	...	318	...	...	...	...	6
8. Williamsburg	1	...	...	...	1902	6	304	...	71
9. Hopewell	120	12	...	...	18608	565	12	...	330
10. Brooke	...	3	...	...	450	...	...	...	130
11. Fort Belvoir	...	110	...	...	2187	15	312	...	1987
12. Manassas-B.R.	591	...	...	...	10
13. Nokesville	962	...	CW	...	82
14. Charlottesville	546	2	...	...	17
15. Warren	394	...	...	...	54
16. Kerr Reservoir	16	5	14	...	29
17. Bannister WMA	19	2	...	...	...
18. Lynchburg	15	5	4	...	31
19. Danville	2	1	...	...	...
20. Philpott Res.	7
21. Calmes Neck	1513	...	7	...	42
22. N. Shen. Valley	256	10	25	...	65
23. Shen. NP-Luray	4	...	...	24
24. Big Flat Mt.
25. Rockingham Co	8	1	...	...	1
26. Augusta Co.	21	2	8	...	10
27. Waynesboro	160	2	...	...	3
28. Lexington
29. Peaks of Otter
30. Clifton Forge
31. Fincastle	17	...	...	...	2
32. Roanoke	2	...	1	...	10
33. Blacksburg	102	4	5	...	12
34. Tazewell	22	...	1	...	4
35. Glade Spring	133	...	...	...	22
36. Nickelsville
37. Breaks I. Park	1
38. Wise County	4	...	...	...	1
Total individuals	159	24282	1	18457	35287	776	1870	1	9145

	Mallard	Northern Pintail	Blue-winged Teal	Northern Shoveler	Gadwall	Eurasian Wigeon	American Wigeon	Canvasback	Redhead	Ring-necked Duck	Great Scaup	Lesser Scaup
711	1142	...	610	934	...	428	1	...	...	1	5	7
110	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
1550	23	...	26	178	...	314	13	2	136	7	18	...
925	7	...	135	192	1	270	39	255	75	4	40	...
328	705	...	56	20	...	79	1	1	...	5	...	...
683	1	...	...	21	...	228	95	30	95	2	6	...
63	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	18	...
782	376	...	15	30	...	48	1342	4	134	...	56	...
4545	112	...	30	4	...	60	14	...	20	...	...	...
185	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
5299	73	27	418	1132	1	3855	11815	152	1825	262	12878	...
257	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28	...	...	...
159	...	...	...	1	...	10	...	...	61	...	...	...
66	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	1	...
176	1	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
1800	1	...	2	47	...	10	...	...	26	...	6	...
44	...	...	...	...	...	...	28	...	...	3	...	...
76	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	44	...	...	...
102	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
122	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
59	...	...	...	...	...	...	17	...	2	...	...	...
888	1	...	...	3	...	14	1	...	...	...	...	...
132	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
...
181	1	...	6	1	...	96	...	...	12	...	...	...
149	...	...	...	1	...	9	...	...	...	...	...	...
336	CW	...	...	CW	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...
10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
44	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
174	1	...	1	5	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
103	...	...	...	11	...	2	...	...	...	...	3	...
84	...	...	2	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
463	3	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	5	...	...	...
...
6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20631	2454	27	1303	2596	2	5425	13367	444	2472	293	13041	...

	scaup, sp.	Common Eider	eider, sp.	Oldsquaw	Black Scoter	Surf Scoter	White-winged Scoter	scoter, sp.	Common Goldeneye
1. Chincoteague	11	1	...	1435	4	156	3	...	111
2. Wachapreague	29	7	300	2	...	17
3. Cape Charles	1	59	294	1279	60	3707	247
4. Little Creek	...	1	...	7	9	2	...	5	47
5. Back Bay	1	8	6	...	17	2
6. Newport News	1	6	8	6	...	75
7. Mathews	152	104	46	7	62	128
8. Williamsburg	39
9. Hopewell	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10. Brooke	18
11. Fort Belvoir	377	...	...	26	...	2	3	6	25
12. Manassas-B.R.
13. Nokesville
14. Charlottesville
15. Warren	16
16. Kerr Reservoir
17. Bannister WMA
18. Lynchburg
19. Danville
20. Philpott Res.
21. Calmes Neck	1	...	...	...	...	...
22. N. Shen. Valley	4
23. Shen. NP-Luray	2
24. Big Flat Mt.
25. Rockingham Co
26. Augusta Co.	1
27. Waynesboro
28. Lexington
29. Peaks of Otter
30. Clifton Forge
31. Fincastle
32. Roanoke
33. Blacksburg
34. Tazewell	1
35. Glade Spring	3
36. Nickelsville
37. Breaks I. Park
38. Wise County
Total Individuals	390	2	1	1711	432	1799	81	3797	736

	Bufflehead	Hooded Merganser	Common Merganser	Red-breasted Merganser	Ruddy Duck	Black Vulture	Turkey Vulture	Osprey	Bald Eagle	Northern Harrier	Sharp-shinned Hawk	Cooper's Hawk
2205	45	1	244	17	9	177	...	2	28	12	4	...
422	59	1	48	2	8	68	...	3	20	3	...	...
1234	101	1	1476	158	20	92	...	4	55	16	6	...
498	473	26	2170	32	...	3	1	1	4	9	2	...
...	...	...	1520	1	...	1	...	...	31	3	1	...
313	94	6	16	16	5	22	...	...	4	6	1	...
1023	7	5	107	...	2	33	...	4	7	5	3	...
86	159	...	17	1304	17	144	...	29	2	3	...	...
28	174	...	...	4	4	58	...	64	13	7	2	...
4	2	6	1	2	5	50	...	4	1	5	...	...
7196	382	428	66	6878	...	11	...	59	3	9	3	...
...	10	...	...	122	...	28	...	...	...	2	1	...
...	20	...	...	CW	59	172	...	...	10	7	5	...
...	16	3	...	5	48	481	...	...	...	7	1	...
...	...	...	...	...	1	24	...	...	1	1	...	...
8	13	3	...	1	CW	CW	...	2	CW	1	1	...
...	8	12	...	...	...	14	...	...	...	1	...	...
...	60	...	...	...	145	321	...	...	...	5	3	...
...	9	...	...	...	6	29	...	...	1	3	3	...
21	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...
2	...	...	...	1	1	9	...	...	1	2	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	101	95	...	1	10	3	5	...
2	1	...	...	...	489	937	...	...	2	12	4	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	1	...	...	...	48	377	...	...	1	2	1	...
...	...	...	...	...	146	179	...	...	6	5	1	...
1	CW	...	...	...	105	95	...	...	5	4	...	...
...	4	...	...	...	33	7	...	...	...	3	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	1	4	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	CW	...	...	...	...	1	...
...	12	...	...	...	36	39	...	...	...	5	2	...
17	55	...	...	...	30	67	...	...	...	3	1	...
26	7	...	...	...	244	59	...	...	2	5	2	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	3	2	...
2	...	...	...	...	31	...	...	...	...	1	4	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	3	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
13088	1714	492	5665	8543	1594	3607	1	173	207	156	63	...

	Northern Goshawk	Accipiter, sp.	Red-shouldered Hawk	Red-tailed Hawk	Rough-legged Hawk	Buteo, sp	Golden Eagle	American Kestrel	Merlin
1. Chincoteague	4	12	...	...	...	45	2
2. Wachapreague	2	17	...	...	...	62	1
3. Cape Charles	6	42	1	...	...	104	2
4. Little Creek	6	12	...	...	...	23	1
5. Back Bay	2	17	...	...	...	53	...
6. Newport News	2	27	...	...	...	21	1
7. Mathews	7	6	...	2	...	13	...
8. Williamsburg	...	1	2	23	...	...	...	15	...
9. Hopewell	12	49	...	...	...	28	...
10. Brooke	8	16	...	...	...	4	...
11. Fort Belvoir	35	46	...	...	...	4	...
12. Manassas-B.R.	...	1	4	20	1	2	...	22	...
13. Nokesville	2	45	...	...	...	36	...
14. Charlottesville	1	32	...	...	...	12	...
15. Warren	2	11	...	...	...	5	...
16. Kerr Reservoir	11	...	...	...	10	...
17. Bannister WMA	2	3	...	...	...	6	...
18. Lynchburg	32	...	...	...	13	...
19. Danville	18	...	...	...	12	...
20. Philpott Res.	8	...	...	...	2	...
21. Calmes Neck	20	1	...	...	13	...
22. N. Shen. Valley	1	...	...	34	...	...	...	41	1
23. Shen. NP-Luray	2	75	1	...	...	46	...
24. Big Flat Mt.	3	...	...	1	...	...
25. Rockingham Co	17	...	...	...	36	...
26. Augusta Co.	2	52	1	...	...	31	...
27. Waynesboro	1	22	...	...	...	28	...
28. Lexington	1	6	...	...	...	4	...
29. Peaks of Otter	4	...	...	...	...	...
30. Clifton Forge	CW	...	...	...	4	...
31. Fincastle	19	...	...	...	20	...
32. Roanoke	1	16	...	...	...	16	...
33. Blacksburg	1	15	...	...	...	8	...
34. Tazewell	1	10	...	...	2	8	...
35. Glade Spring	12	...	...	...	16	...
36. Nickelsville	1	3	...	...	...	10	...
37. Breaks I. Park	3	4	...	...	...	2	...
38. Wise County	2	...	...	...	...	...
Total Individuals	1	2	110	761	5	4	3	773	8

Peregrine Falcon	Ring-necked Pheasant	Ruffed Grouse	Wild Turkey	Northern Bobwhite	Clapper Rail	King Rail	Virginia Rail	Sora	Common Moorhen	American Coot	Black-bellied Plover
3	102	10	1	4	...	...	...	94
1	49	14	...	1	...	...	2	278
6	4	...	...	98	65	2	13	...	4	11	480
1	23	28	...	1	...	1	624	8
...	65	...	9	2	...	...	1	2
...	51	5	...	...	...	...	25	14
...	1	29	2	...	...	...	...	...	1
...	2	36	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	1	...	8	16	...	...	...	...	...	20	...
...	1	30	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	25	...	1	...	...	...	4878	...
...	42	...	...	...	...	...	62	...
...	19	25	...	...	...	...	...	CW	...
...	...	2	13	30	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	6	27	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	7	56	...	...	7	...	...	1	...
...	1	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	9	17	...	...	...	...	...	5	...
...	2	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	5	...	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	2	12	120	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
...	...	16	CW	54	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	3	...
...	...	1	...	33	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
...	...	8	CW	14	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	5	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	2	19	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	1	...	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	2	4	21	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	3	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	7	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	7	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	4	21	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	3	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11	5	67	152	1020	124	13	28	1	5	5637	877

	<i>Pluvialis</i> , sp.	Semipalmated Plover	Piping Plover	Killdeer	American Oystercatcher	Greater Yellowlegs	Lesser Yellowlegs	Willet	Whimbrel
1. Chincoteague	...	17	2	5	290	26	3	4	...
2. Wachapreague	133	23	8	12	...
3. Cape Charles	<u>1</u>	16	...	68	562	<u>251</u>	5	131	1
4. Little Creek	...	1	...	107	91	3	3	...	...
5. Back Bay	51	...	1	6	...	...
6. Newport News	...	<u>2</u>	...	250	...	2	...	...	...
7. Mathews	68	...	6	...	...	...
8. Williamsburg	48	...	14	3	...	...
9. Hopewell	353	...	...	...	...	...
10. Brooke	11	...	...	...	...	...
11. Fort Belvoir	132	...	...	...	...	...
12. Manassas-B.R.	5	...	...	...	...	...
13. Nokesville	14	...	...	...	...	...
14. Charlottesville	6	...	...	...	...	...
15. Warren	5	...	...	...	...	...
16. Kerr Reservoir	51	...	...	...	...	...
17. Bannister WMA	4	...	...	...	...	...
18. Lynchburg	12	...	...	...	...	...
19. Danville	21	...	...	...	...	...
20. Philpott Res.	19	...	...	...	...	...
21. Calmes Neck	24	...	...	...	...	...
22. N. Shen. Valley	20	...	...	...	...	...
23. Shen. NP-Luray	69	...	...	...	...	...
24. Big Flat Mt.
25. Rockingham Co	14	...	...	...	...	...
26. Augusta Co.	21	...	...	...	...	...
27. Waynesboro	17	...	...	...	...	...
28. Lexington
29. Peaks of Otter
30. Clifton Forge
31. Fincastle	23	...	...	...	...	...
32. Roanoke	22	...	...	...	...	...
33. Blacksburg	3	...	...	...	...	...
34. Tazewell
35. Glade Spring	<u>136</u>	...	...	...	...	...
36. Nickelsville
37. Breaks I. Park
38. Wise County	2	...	...	...	...	...
Total individuals	1	36	2	1581	1076	326	28	147	1

Marbled Godwit	Ruddy Turnstone	Red Knot	Sanderling	Western Sandpiper	Least Sandpiper	Purple Sandpiper	Dunlin	Short-billed Dowitcher	Long-billed Dowitcher	dowitcher, sp.	Common Snipe
...	32	9	516	77	...	...	3872	1	...	28	29
6	11	...	30	30	...	...	4648	68	...	...	...
79	133	2	328	54	2	8	6015	42	1	3	25
...	31	1	367	1	...	18	146	...	...	...	7
...	213	...	...	...	16	1	1	...	16
...	7	...	118	...	...	...	10	...	...	...	2
...	101	3	...	...	35	...	...	...	1
...	7	...	...	...	21	...	...	...	5
...	35
...	3
...	68
...
...	19
...	2
...	8
...	6
...
...	2
...
...	1
...	1
...	9
...	12
...
...	4
...	14
...	6
...	2
...
...
...	4
...	3
...	3
...	2
...	14
...
...
...
85	214	12	1680	166	2	26	14763	112	2	31	303

	American Woodcock	Parasitic Jaeger	jaeger, sp.	Laughing Gull	Bonaparte's Gull	Ring-billed Gull	Herring Gull	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Glaucous Gull
1. Chincoteague	14	...	...	...	3	931	1215	CW	...
2. Wachapreague	5	...	...	...	7	885	1976	...	...
3. Cape Charles	40	...	...	...	39	953	1005	...	...
4. Little Creek	3	...	...	2	287	15000	15900	10	1
5. Back Bay	4	1	5	25	54	2175	603	...	1
6. Newport News	1	...	...	5	75	3507	776	...	...
7. Mathews	1	...	...	1	16	1328	459	...	...
8. Williamsburg	1	...	...	1	68	1209	228	2	...
9. Hopewell	...	...	...	...	...	8620	432	1	...
10. Brooke	...	...	...	8	...	2800	1430	1	...
11. Fort Belvoir	2	...	...	...	73	23088	2270	3	1
12. Manassas-B.R.	...	...	...	...	...	1139	...	...	...
13. Nokesville	CW	...	...	...	...	6692	667	1	...
14. Charlottesville	3	...	...	...	...	23	...	...	...
15. Warren	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
16. Kerr Reservoir	3	...	...	...	41	2200	11	...	...
17. Bannister WMA	2	...	...	...	17	349	...	...	...
18. Lynchburg	3	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...
19. Danville	...	...	...	...	...	437	3	...	...
20. Philpott Res.	...	...	...	...	24	10	3	...	...
21. Calmes Neck	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
22. N. Shen. Valley	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
23. Shen. NP-Luray	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
24. Big Flat Mt.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25. Rockingham Co	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
26. Augusta Co.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
27. Waynesboro	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
28. Lexington	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
29. Peaks of Otter	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
30. Clifton Forge	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
31. Fincastle	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
32. Roanoke	...	...	...	...	...	357	2	...	...
33. Blacksburg	...	...	...	...	...	126	1	...	...
34. Tazewell	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
35. Glade Spring	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
36. Nickelsville	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
37. Breaks I. Park	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
38. Wise County	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total Individuals	82	1	5	42	706	71834	26981	18	3

Great Black-backed Gull	Black-legged Kittiwake	Royal Tern	Forster's Tern	Black Skimmer	Rock Dove	White-winged Dove	Mourning Dove	Common Barn-Owl	Eastern Screech-Owl	Great Horned Owl	Barred Owl
266	3	...	187	...	429	...	23	7	...
89	266	1	280	...	14	7	...
731	...	1	7	...	575	...	609	1	32	27	1
1480	1	...	27	7	1490	...	725	...	3	5	3
238	5	...	7	...	254	...	1	5	2
94	10	...	1344	...	786	...	3	2	...
60	18	...	22	...	371	...	...	1	1
27	132	...	64	...	216	...	6	4	1
103	307	...	717	2	1	7	2
150	120	...	...	1	...
500	55	...	760	...	4	32	8
...	188	...	163	...	6	2	1
100	305	...	511	1	1	24	8
...	159	...	591	...	2	11	2
...	97	...	312	...	2	4	...
...	3	...	33	...	525	2	5	8	7
...	11	...	145	...	...	...	...
...	212	...	335	...	20	6	1
...	403	...	207	...	...	...	3
...	41	...	378	...	1	1	1
...	166	...	293	...	2	5	2
...	1134	...	1376	1	30	8	4
...	613	...	1170	...	11	3	5
...	1	...	...
...	269	...	433	...	...	1	...
...	417	...	493	1	25	4	1
...	306	...	993	...	6	7	1
...	113	...	117	...	12	...	1
...	6	...	...
...	127	...	3	...	1	...	...
...	574	...	120	...	22	6	2
...	1855	...	478	1	28	...	2
...	170	...	435	1	1	4	2
...	86	...	65	...	6	1	2
...	290	...	283	...	13	2	...
...	15	...	346	1	1	...	...
...	13	...	10	5	1
...	116	...	81	...	5	1	2
3838	1	1	205	7	12017	1	15133	11	304	201	66

	Long-eared Owl	Short-eared Owl	owl, sp.	Belted Kingfisher	Red-headed Woodpecker	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Downy Woodpecker	Hairy Woodpecker
1. Chincoteague	...	1	...	31	3	62	15	77	14
2. Wachapreague	...	3	...	21	2	31	8	2	37
3. Cape Charles	...	1	...	21	2	90	14	92	11
4. Little Creek	28	9	89	9	58	5
5. Back Bay	15	...	30	6	25	4
6. Newport News	44	3	83	4	48	1
7. Mathews	28	...	69	5	58	1
8. Williamsburg	26	2	60	8	33	5
9. Hopewell	21	8	84	19	69	6
10. Brooke	15	...	40	13	44	12
11. Fort Belvoir	51	2	180	36	361	63
12. Manassas-B.R.	3	...	33	5	47	11
13. Nokesville	...	2	...	1	...	50	3	54	21
14. Charlottesville	20	1	78	16	89	20
15. Warren	2	...	26	14	53	12
16. Kerr Reservoir	1	12	2	21	11	34	12
17. Bannister WMA	8	8	13	3	15	2
18. Lynchburg	18	3	66	34	99	25
19. Danville	3	1	12	5	21	22
20. Philpott Res.	10	...	17	6	23	6
21. Calmes Neck	5	3	42	8	79	12
22. N. Shen. Valley	18	2	117	21	207	30
23. Shen. NP-Luray	2	1	...	24	...	39	7	91	16
24. Big Flat Mt.	1	...	11	2	28	9
25. Rockingham Co	10	1	4	4	32	4
26. Augusta Co.	12	...	48	4	63	8
27. Waynesboro	22	CW	35	12	69	13
28. Lexington	12	...	7	...	19	2
29. Peaks of Otter	3	6	36	6
30. Clifton Forge	2	...	2	4	10	2
31. Fincastle	21	...	29	11	43	5
32. Roanoke	23	...	22	18	32	5
33. Blacksburg	23	8	23	13	75	12
34. Tazewell	12	1	5	...	27	2
35. Glade Spring	17	...	12	2	40	3
36. Nickelsville	10	...	11	1	25	8
37. Breaks I. Park	9	...	3	1	19	4
38. Wise County	3	...	5	4	39	8
Total Individuals	2	8	1	602	61	1552	352	2236	439

	Northern Flicker	Pileated Woodpecker	Eastern Phoebe	Ash-throated Flycatcher	Horned Lark	Tree Swallow	Blue Jay	American Crow	Fish Crow	crow, sp.	Common Raven	Black-capped Chickadee
226	10	5	...	26	...	87	263	6	...	...	...	...
70	4	7	1	3	...	33	188	...	21	...	...	...
331	7	11	...	125	...	121	500	39	...	...	...	...
229	27	2	...	...	...	178	1855	3120	...	...	...	...
119	13	3	...	...	2	63	157	13	9	...	...	...
126	15	3	...	10	...	265	606	18	...	...	...	...
96	9	2	...	...	...	244	765	2	...	...	...	...
147	19	5	...	...	...	53	280	2	...	...	...	...
177	24	7	...	...	...	97	507	10	...	...	...	...
36	20	4	...	...	...	26	380	10	...	...	...	...
211	86	6	...	...	...	175	8326	385	...	...	...	...
32	8	...	...	...	...	155	312	15	...	...	...	...
143	11	...	...	52	...	110	1001	266	...	...	...	...
89	63	4	...	...	...	76	1132	124	...	...	...	...
26	25	3	...	...	...	16	579	...	...	2	...	...
74	13	21	...	...	...	67	304	1	...	...	...	...
16	1	5	...	...	...	51	84	...	...	...	...	...
96	45	18	...	3	...	144	863	...	...	5	...	...
51	4	2	...	...	...	57	227	141	...	...	...	...
26	24	5	...	...	...	78	478	...	...	6	...	...
57	22	1	...	306	...	102	209	1	...	3	...	...
303	44	2	...	119	...	251	1268	...	...	5	15	...
94	30	1	...	51	...	232	2267	...	...	74	6	...
12	21	...	...	...	...	3	17	...	...	10	...	...
13	14	...	...	36	...	174	448	9	...	...	10	...
16	13	...	...	18	...	227	893	119	...	5	1	...
41	28	4	...	56	...	163	7559	1414	...	23	6	...
10	8	1	...	...	...	33	450	1	...	2	20	...
7	16	2	...	...	...	4	134	...	...	7	54	...
4	7	2	...	100	...	40	99	...	...	7	5	...
50	21	7	...	80	...	89	552	...	...	7	11	...
28	29	6	...	7	...	45	453	...	...	10	8	...
26	22	1	...	14	...	176	723	...	...	6	22	...
...	1	1	...	9	...	64	222	...	...	10	2	...
5	6	3	...	...	...	155	392	...	...	...	1	...
25	8	5	...	...	...	195	365	...	...	1	...	...
6	29	2	...	...	...	35	185	...	...	2	...	...
10	16	...	...	1	...	86	718	...	...	7	...	...
3028	763	151	1	1016	2	4170	35761	5696	30	192	161	...

	Carolina Chickadee	chickadee, sp.	Tufted Titmouse	Red-breasted Nuthatch	White-breasted Nuthatch	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Brown Creeper	Carolina Wren	House Wren
1. Chincoteague	261	...	80	3	2	37	23	192	2
2. Wachapreague	118	...	15	...	2	6	2	81	4
3. Cape Charles	312	...	57	16	1	11	24	506	9
4. Little Creek	246	...	158	...	8	51	14	163	...
5. Back Bay	106	...	29	...	4	31	6	99	3
6. Newport News	183	...	138	1	1	...	2	83	...
7. Mathews	145	...	95	4	2	6	4	116	1
8. Williamsburg	133	...	70	2	38	20	5	107	...
9. Hopewell	223	...	67	...	17	...	10	176	...
10. Brooke	150	...	100	...	25	...	7	46	...
11. Fort Belvoir	891	...	663	17	182	...	64	187	...
12. Manassas-B.R.	218	...	127	1	37	...	17	26	...
13. Nokesville	135	...	95	6	35	...	16	28	...
14. Charlottesville	327	...	171	10	60	...	11	129	...
15. Warren	106	...	31	...	19	...	6	88	...
16. Kerr Reservoir	91	...	30	...	6	8	4	95	2
17. Bannister WMA	30	...	58	1	8	2	1	23	...
18. Lynchburg	332	...	237	20	81	...	19	160	1
19. Danville	141	...	99	6	33	4	2	51	...
20. Philpott Res.	108	...	85	2	28	...	5	32	...
21. Calmes Neck	312	...	202	1	69	...	19	52	...
22. N. Shen. Valley	446	...	289	9	129	...	22	65	...
23. Shen. NP-Luray	290	...	224	18	94	...	23	163	...
24. Big Flat Mt.	74	...	29	3	14	...	3	17	...
25. Rockingham Co	52	...	67	5	35	...	4	13	...
26. Augusta Co.	125	...	116	3	48	...	4	38	...
27. Waynesboro	223	...	115	1	62	...	5	56	...
28. Lexington	52	11	54	4	13	...	...	38	...
29. Peaks of Otter	46	...	88	1	45	...	13	25	...
30. Clifton Forge	46	...	86	9	29	...	6	19	...
31. Fincastle	180	...	121	2	29	...	7	63	...
32. Roanoke	220	...	113	7	45	...	14	69	...
33. Blacksburg	199	51	320	8	84	...	...	122	...
34. Tazewell	36	...	67	6	31	...	1	18	...
35. Glade Spring	84	...	76	...	30	...	5	27	1
36. Nickelsville	127	...	91	1	23	...	2	28	...
37. Breaks I. Park	100	...	77	...	39	...	1	53	...
38. Wise County	153	...	95	11	40	...	6	81	...
Total Individuals	7021	62	4635	178	1448	176	377	3335	23

Winter Wren	Sedge Wren	Marsh Wren	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Eastern Bluebird	Hermit Thrush	American Robin	Varied Thrush	Gray Catbird	Northern Mockingbird
20	4	5	265	46	...	239	33	2226	...	19	50
2	...	1	27	20	...	159	24	168	...	6	93
19	19	22	110	60	...	79	113	467	...	34	151
14	1	6	104	60	...	5	17	2612	...	3	105
1	17	39	26	19	...	32	...	202	...	17	41
3	21	12	...	77	...	76	...	1	231
1	...	1	40	45	...	558	21	688	...	3	125
1	67	37	...	189	4	78	...	...	49
5	36	23	1	107	3	45	...	...	74
6	63	3	...	107	3	57	...	...	80
16	294	37	...	59	25	170	...	2	202
2	59	2	...	56	6	78	...	...	80
4	50	1	...	161	3	88	...	...	103
15	100	28	...	171	19	397	...	...	134
5	42	7	...	86	4	17	...	...	79
8	CW	1	79	26	...	83	6	8	...	2	30
...	6	4	...	37	3	1	...	...	28
22	132	84	...	231	16	41	...	...	149
16	28	5	...	85	...	59	...	...	61
7	190	15	...	72	10	...	...	...	13
2	22	5	...	149	5	1	...	...	82
7	42	4	...	465	13	180	...	...	295
7	101	12	...	308	5	141	1	...	219
3	37	2	...	26	8	3	...	...	...
3	11	4	...	58	...	2	...	...	87
1	14	6	...	149	...	27	...	...	135
4	62	27	...	154	6	65	...	1	121
...	70	2	...	52	7	130	...	...	28
3	36	12	...	23	7	...	...	...	6
3	25	7	...	22	4	5	...	...	16
6	135	31	...	235	11	49	...	...	151
8	79	20	...	61	9	7	...	...	98
11	74	11	...	95	...	43	...	2	99
1	14	1	...	15	1	5	...	...	10
3	20	1	...	36	...	...	...	...	43
3	2	...	...	74	2	244	...	...	23
9	33	2	...	24	9	37	...	...	...
3	21	...	...	4	12	33	...	...	6
244	41	75	2537	681	1	4543	409	8450	1	90	3297

	Brown Thrasher	Water Pipit	Cedar Waxwing	Loggerhead Shrike	European Starling	White-eyed Vireo	Solitary Vireo	Orange-crowned Warbler	Yellow-rumped Warbler
1. Chincoteague	15	151	194	...	2859	...	...	1	3518
2. Wachapreague	3	...	86	...	2450	...	...	...	888
3. Cape Charles	15	164	386	1	5646	1	...	1	5773
4. Little Creek	8	57	395	...	4265	...	1	4	434
5. Back Bay	17	43	27	...	680	...	...	1	1380
6. Newport News	6	...	86	...	2451	...	...	...	633
7. Mathews	14	...	270	...	666	CW	...	...	1028
8. Williamsburg	4	...	120	...	526	...	...	...	215
9. Hopewell	1	91	350	1	2265	...	...	...	88
10. Brooke	1	...	38	...	1300	...	...	...	6
11. Fort Belvoir	1	2	175	...	2786	...	...	...	67
12. Manassas-B.R.	...	...	68	...	2158	...	...	...	74
13. Nokesville	...	150	54	...	3026	...	...	...	119
14. Charlottesville	...	...	371	1	686	...	...	...	74
15. Warren	...	...	90	2	551	...	...	...	85
16. Kerr Reservoir	3	...	278	1	92	...	...	...	1
17. Bannister WMA	2	...	35	2	308	...	...	...	...
18. Lynchburg	4	...	281	1	1651	...	1	...	102
19. Danville	1	...	32	2	1352	...	...	...	CW
20. Philipott Res.	...	...	84	...	438	...	...	...	5
21. Calmes Neck	...	...	40	3	3196	...	...	...	1
22. N. Shen. Valley	...	...	384	12	31191	...	...	...	125
23. Shen. NP-Luray	1	27	150	2	11098	...	...	...	107
24. Big Flat Mt.	1	...	...	...	7	...	...	...	...
25. Rockingham Co	...	...	20	3	8118	...	...	...	26
26. Augusta Co.	1	40	42	6	1507707	...	...	...	25
27. Waynesboro	...	...	66	3	10745	...	...	...	14
28. Lexington	...	...	10	...	360	...	...	...	95
29. Peaks of Otter	...	...	8	...	40	...	...	...	...
30. Clifton Forge	...	...	...	...	310	...	...	...	3
31. Fincastle	...	1	26	6	1082	...	...	...	106
32. Roanoke	...	...	15	...	1797	...	...	...	19
33. Blacksburg	...	...	94	...	3824	...	...	...	32
34. Tazewell	...	...	2	3	1048	...	...	...	3
35. Glade Spring	...	...	...	6	4658	...	...	...	2
36. Nickelsville	2	...	182	3	460	...	...	...	53
37. Breaks I. Park	2	...	12	...	60	...	...	...	17
38. Wise County	1	...	...	2	10216	...	...	...	1
Total Individuals	103	726	4471	60	1632073	1	2	7	15119

	Pine Warbler	Prairie Warbler	Palm Warbler	Ovenbird	Common Yellowthroat	Yellow-breasted Chat	Northern Cardinal	Rufous-sided Towhee	American Tree Sparrow	Chipping Sparrow	Field Sparrow	Vesper Sparrow
69	11	...	2	1	223	64	2	17	396	16
18	3	...	1	...	87	5	...	3	81	...
32	80	...	2	1	392	98	...	24	204	8
26	1	...	...	...	1	...	190	57	2	69	65	1
10	3	...	4	...	75	40	...	26	153	...
20	1	...	...	147	60	...	43	168	...
17	3	...	...	...	395	118	...	148	293	...
11	1	...	169	23	1	1	123	1
...	2	...	2	...	429	19	...	...	116	...
...	250	...	1	...	75	...
...	773	10	11	...	115	...
...	202	1	...	...	37	...
...	313	3	5	...	31	...
...	367	5	2	...	98	...
...	312	3	...	...	43	...
4	1	...	375	43	1	3	327	2
...	150	13	...	...	2	...
3	1	...	344	20	...	...	95	...
4	136	3	...	3	39	...
12	165	23	...	...	45	1
...	432	1	13	...	41	...
2	652	9	40	...	100	...
3	494	9	6	2	155	...
...	50	2	...	...	1	...
...	151	3	...	...	3	...
...	231	1	...	...	42	...
...	313	5	...	...	95	...
...	160	76	...	...	11	...
...	45	1	...	...	18	...
...	19	3	...	...	5	...
1	222	11	...	...	30	...
...	226	9	...	...	27	...
...	300	22	...	...	62	...
...	92	2	...	...	42	...
...	188	8	...	2	84	...
2	257	10	...	...	93	...
...	77	43	...	...	27	...
...	118	6	...	...	28	...
234	1	102	1	15	2	9521	829	84	341	3370	29	...

	Savannah Sparrow	Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow	Sharp-tailed Sparrow	Seaside Sparrow	Fox Sparrow	Song Sparrow	Swamp Sparrow	White-throated Sparrow	White-crowned Sparrow
1. Chincoteague	105	7	4	1	9	765	419	1418	2
2. Wachapreague	31	8	5	2	10	178	49	685	...
3. Cape Charles	300	26	152	49	59	606	309	1368	3
4. Little Creek	55	...	16	5	51	136	21	772	4
5. Back Bay	63	...	7	...	...	176	119	283	...
6. Newport News	6	...	...	1	3	218	13	518	...
7. Mathews	2	...	4	...	...	162	8	774	...
8. Williamsburg	31	...	...	...	1	145	26	405	...
9. Hopewell	54	...	...	...	8	236	18	1175	...
10. Brooke	1	...	...	...	2	67	2	800	4
11. Fort Belvoir	3	...	...	...	...	536	26	890	...
12. Manassas-B.R.	...	...	...	...	...	33	...	123	14
13. Nokesville	1	...	...	...	...	88	14	284	28
14. Charlottesville	...	...	...	...	...	167	4	599	45
15. Warren	1	...	...	...	2	219	4	529	61
16. Kerr Reservoir	110	...	...	...	6	469	507	1010	...
17. Bannister WMA	...	...	...	...	1	76	32	160	1
18. Lynchburg	3	...	...	...	4	229	10	633	2
19. Danville	5	...	...	...	1	75	31	157	CW
20. Philpott Res.	...	...	...	...	9	153	5	300	61
21. Calmes Neck	...	...	...	...	1	134	3	306	17
22. N. Shen. Valley	5	...	...	...	...	145	31	235	158
23. Shen. NP-Luray	2	...	...	...	8	316	10	586	248
24. Big Flat Mt.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	69	...
25. Rockingham Co	...	...	...	...	...	67	3	167	81
26. Augusta Co.	...	...	...	...	...	110	...	180	88
27. Waynesboro	...	...	...	...	...	168	15	286	125
28. Lexington	...	...	...	...	...	53	3	160	19
29. Peaks of Otter	...	...	...	...	...	13	...	62	...
30. Clifton Forge	...	...	...	...	...	20	...	49	...
31. Fincastle	6	...	...	...	...	133	2	225	131
32. Roanoke	...	...	...	...	...	111	...	198	18
33. Blacksburg	...	...	...	...	...	217	10	340	96
34. Tazewell	...	...	...	...	1	71	2	25	29
35. Glade Spring	...	...	...	...	1	90	...	92	77
36. Nickelsville	...	...	...	...	3	95	...	65	34
37. Breaks I. Park	1	...	...	...	...	96	1	57	1
38. Wise County	...	...	...	...	1	149	4	93	...
Total Individuals	785	41	188	58	181	6722	1701	16078	1347

Dark-eyed Junco	Lapland Longspur	Snow Bunting	Red-winged Blackbird	Eastern Meadowlark	Rusty Blackbird	Brewer's Blackbird	Boat-tailed Grackle	Common Grackle	Brown-headed Cowbird	blackbird, sp.	Northern Oriole
430	...	15	2688	327	12	...	1536	313	42	25	...
213	915	272	100	...	354	242	107	...	...
57	10656	210	16	2	608	3118	465	...	1
358	2270	12	204	...	202	5110	822	...	2
261	2570	140	48	4	19	2350	74	...	...
428	1388	117	...	...	79	9586	87	...	...
2128	636	211	...	...	110	1178	66	...	...
406	...	2	1085	103	...	...	...	102	27	...	...
470	9	...	1684	161	1	...	...	23	13	...	...
370	...	1	100	8	...	...	...	10	23	...	...
1274	1007	1	50	...	...	6	253	...	...
497	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
556	1	...	973	74	2	...	...	24	4	...	...
550	163	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
554	70	107	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
865	1250	40	58	...	...	8	25	...	...
190	30	22	...	...	...	5	1	...	...
552	44	34	...	...	...	16	4	...	...
500	25	25	...	...	...	4	...	...	...
841	30	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
157	51	17	...	...	...	44	202	...	...
1129	80	98	21	...	...	8	2878	...	...
1099	18	72	4	...	...	2	5036	...	...
235
254	20	1	...	...	644	411	10000	...
353	4531	14	...	...	...	1221834	4829	...	...
578	19	46	8	...	...	2120	55	...	...
366	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
248	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
114	29	22	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
376	1	38	...	...	...	42	1	...	...
178	9	32	...	...	...	...	12	...	...
405	20	50	3	...	...	92	...	...	...
58	22	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
65	1	33	...	...	...	615	14	...	...
119	31	51	...	...	1210	1	...	...
53	13	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
117	1020	8	10	...	...	4003	11	...	...
17104	10	18	33346	2419	589	6	2908	1252713	15464	10025	3

	Purple Finch	House Finch	Carpodacus, sp.	Red Crossbill	Pine Siskin	American Goldfinch	Evening Grosbeak	House Sparrow
1. Chincoteague	34	177	...	...	60	754	3	219
2. Wachapreague	...	218	30	...	2	137	1	82
3. Cape Charles	52	137	...	...	27	518	64	158
4. Little Creek	18	178	...	...	24	291	17	171
5. Back Bay	3	80	...	...	2	90	...	16
6. Newport News	2	203	...	...	16	156	...	348
7. Mathews	29	554	...	...	16	687	54	139
8. Williamsburg	18	136	...	...	9	289	2	130
9. Hopewell	11	98	...	...	3	265	23	44
10. Brooke	17	150	...	...	...	200	...	60
11. Fort Belvoir	59	<u>541</u>	...	...	46	645	6	<u>1048</u>
12. Manassas-B.R.	20	238	...	...	8	54	10	29
13. Nokesville	9	652	...	...	18	239	26	271
14. Charlottesville	151	330	...	...	331	287	21	12
15. Warren	56	5	...	...	412	214	28	50
16. Kerr Reservoir	11	48	...	...	CW	147	...	61
17. Bannister WMA	55	204	...	...	4	105	28	175
18. Lynchburg	125	314	...	...	<u>205</u>	404	36	186
19. Danville	112	269	...	...	37	112	2	114
20. Philpott Res.	56	5	...	...	<u>121</u>	110	...	22
21. Calmes Neck	19	604	...	...	4	143	...	235
22. N. Shen. Valley	136	2835	...	...	3	598	10	415
23. Shen. NP-Luray	77	772	...	CW	72	412	69	492
24. Big Flat Mt.	26	3	...	...	152	20	1	...
25. Rockingham Co	100	262	...	...	48	89	21	730
26. Augusta Co.	44	927	...	...	...	132	1	386
27. Waynesboro	20	700	...	...	150	364	1	603
28. Lexington	36	227	...	...	30	53	3	6
29. Peaks of Otter	36	4	...	...	153	45	...	2
30. Clifton Forge	6	39	...	...	2	15	62	124
31. Fincastle	63	314	...	...	46	149	4	89
32. Roanoke	44	355	...	...	216	277	15	92
33. Blacksburg	59	<u>460</u>	...	3	<u>240</u>	166	14	230
34. Tazewell	25	67	...	...	220	108	9	283
35. Glade Spring	22	75	...	...	64	128	...	206
36. Nickelsville	171	178	...	...	91	76	5	41
37. Breaks I. Park	2	9	...	<u>6</u>	41	69	...	31
38. Wise County	29	99	...	<u>3</u>	75	108	8	93
Total Individuals	1753	12467	30	12	2948	8656	544	7393

Total species	Total individuals	Date	Time in field (A.M. to P.M.)	Temperatures (° Fahrenheit)	Wind direction	Wind speed (miles/hour)
151	72118	28 Dec	5:00-5:15	37-45	N-NE	2-15
121	21967	19 Dec	6:00-6:00	29-45	SW	10-15
168	70835	27 Dec	5:00-5:30	42-52	NE	5-15
151	73628	31 Dec	6:00-5:30	25-50	SW	0-25
123	25673	28 Dec	5:30-5:30	40-43	NE	7-15
116	28452	19 Dec	6:00-5:00	30-54	W-SW	5-22
109	18165	3 Jan	6:00-5:00	30-36	NE	5-15
114	15067	20 Dec	5:00-4:30	44-56	SE	15-25
98	45137	20 Dec	5:45-5:15	45-55	SE	25
83	10280	18 Dec	7:30-4:15	29-44	NW	0-10
109	118269	3 Jan	5:30-5:15	23-32	NW	0-5
65	7620	2 Jan	5:30-4:45	25-34	S	5-10
82	19441	20 Dec	2:30-5:30	40-59	SE-SW	0-15
79	9806	27 Dec	6:00-6:00	38-45	NW	0-5
69	5808	3 Jan	6:15-5:00	26-31	...	...
98	11891	3 Jan	3:45-5:15	25-30	NW	0-10
69	2717	27 Dec	7:00-5:00	34-41	W	5
87	9661	19 Dec	5:00-5:45	28-60	SW	5-10
69	5318	2 Jan	5:30-6:00	37-43	NE	0-10
66	4384	27 Dec	5:00-5:00	41-50	...	...
79	9659	26 Dec	4:00-7:00	38-45	S-SE	0-10
89	49972	19 Dec	3:00-6:00	28-48	VAR	0-5
87	29611	20 Dec	4:45-6:00	26-64	NW-SW	5-45
40	916	30 Dec	6:15-6:00	18-36	NW	0-8
72	23851	19 Dec	8:00-5:00	30-52	...	...
77	2745275	19 Dec	7:00-5:30	30-52	SW	5-10
77	28985	31 Dec	6:45-4:45	18-50	SE	0-10
58	3026	26 Dec	5:00-5:00	48-58	NE	0-15
43	1284	22 Dec	6:00-4:00	40-50	...	...
52	1553	20 Dec	7:00-5:00	36-50	NW	0-10
72	6021	20 Dec	5:00-5:00	45-69	W	1-4
78	8303	19 Dec	3:00-6:00	30-60	...	...
80	10390	19 Dec	5:00-5:30	33-54	W	15
75	3005	2 Jan	7:00-5:30	6-30	NW	7-10
66	8851	2 Jan	6:00-5:30	30-42	SE	10
59	4913	27 Dec	7:30-5:30	40-55	NW	5-7
56	1371	20 Dec	6:15-5:15	34-53	SE	5-35
64	17804	19 Dec	6:00-5:30	28-42	SW	5
...	3531027	...	...	...	...	...

	Water/snow conditions	Skies (A.M.)	Skies (P.M.)	Number of field observers	Number of field parties (non-owling)	Number of feeder observers
1. Chincoteague	AWO	CLD, LGR	CLD, LGR	36	16-24	...
2. Wachapreague	SPF, MWO	CLR	PCD	19	9-11	1
3. Cape Charles	AWO	CLD	CLD	46	10-25	...
4. Little Creek	SPF, MWO	PCD	PCD	25	12-17	1
5. Back Bay	AWO	CLD, LHR	CLD, LHR	19	12-16	...
6. Newport News	AWO	PCD	CLR, LSN	44	13	...
7. Mathews	AWO	CLD	CLD, LHR	44	10-12	3
8. Williamsburg	AWO	CLD, LGR	CLD	18	10	2
9. Hopewell	AWO	CLD, LGR	PCD	32	13-14	...
10. Brooke	SPF, MWO	PCD	CLR	12	8-9	...
11. Fort Belvoir	WPF	CLD	CLD	76	42	1
12. Manassas-B.R.	SPO, MPO	PCD	PCD	18	7	1
13. Nokesville	AWO	CLD, RAI	CLR	20	11	1
14. Charlottesville	AWO	CLD	CLD	19	14-15	...
15. Warren	SPF, MWO	CLD	CLD, LSN	12	8	1
16. Kerr Reservoir	AWO	CLD, LGR	CLD, HVR	14	9	...
17. Bannister WMA	AWO	CLD, FOG, LGR	CLD, FOG, LGR	5	4	2
18. Lynchburg	AWO	CLR	CLR	38	14-18	7
19. Danville	AWO	CLD	PCR	14	10	4
20. Philpott Res.	AWO	CLD, LGR	CLD, LGR	9	4	...
21. Calmes Neck	AWO	CLD, LGR	CLD	13	7	...
22. N. Shen. Valley	SPF, MWO	CLD	CLD	53	19	...
23. Shen. NP-Luray	AWO	PCD, FOG, LGR	PCD	47	21-26	7
24. Big Flat Mt.	SPO, MWO	CLR	CLR	3	3	...
25. Rockingham Co	SWF, MWO	CLD	CLD	27	14	...
26. Augusta Co.	SPF, MWO	PCD	PCD	26	12	3
27. Waynesboro	AWO	PCD	CLD, LGR	32	15	7
28. Lexington	AWO	CLD, LGR	CLD, LGR	13	7	1
29. Peaks of Otter	AWO	PCD	CLD	12	6	...
30. Clifton Forge	AWO	CLR	PCD	5	4	2
31. Fincastle	SPF, MWO	CLD	CLD	22	11	...
32. Roanoke	AWO	CLD	CLD	26	12	...
33. Blacksburg	WPF	PCD	PCD	39	16	15
34. Tazewell	S(1), AWO	PCR	CLR	9	5	2
35. Glade Spring	AWO	CLD	PCD	21	6	1
36. Nickelsville	AWO	CLD, FOG, LGR	CLD, FOG, LGR	13	6	1
37. Breaks I. Park	AWO	CLR	PCD	9	5	1
38. Wise County	SPF, MWO	PCD	CLD	12	6-8	1
Totals	...	...	...	...	...	...

Hours on foot	Hours by car	Hours by boat/canoe	Hours owling	Hours at feeders	Total hours (excludes owling/feeder hours)	Miles on foot	Miles by car	Miles by boat/canoe	Miles owling	Total miles (excludes owling miles)
148.00	16.00	5.0	3.00	...	169.00	78.00	242.00	16	9.0	336.00
47.00	29.00	1.0	1.00	2.0	77.00	37.00	211.00	10	2.0	258.00
185.00	20.00	7.0	9.00	...	212.00	154.00	284.00	25	34.0	463.00
90.00	24.00	...	3.25	2.0	114.00	61.00	519.00	...	30.0	580.00
59.00	24.00	1.5	3.00	...	84.50	42.00	330.00	10	25.0	382.00
53.00	63.00	...	4.00	...	116.00	54.00	441.00	...	18.0	495.00
36.50	51.00	...	3.50	3.0	87.50	35.50	412.50	...	15.5	438.00
30.50	31.25	...	3.00	2.5	61.50	30.25	233.00	...	5.0	258.00
71.75	34.00	5.0	3.75	...	110.75	66.00	258.00	30	23.3	354.00
43.00	18.00	...	...	...	61.00	47.00	134.00	...	...	181.00
201.50	35.50	3.5	13.00	6.0	240.50	160.00	409.50	50	37.0	619.50
36.00	20.00	...	2.00	4.0	56.00	44.00	268.00	...	13.0	312.00
35.00	45.00	...	8.50	3.0	80.00	35.50	373.00	...	90.0	408.50
94.00	18.00	...	1.00	...	112.00	112.00	168.00	...	8.0	280.00
53.00	8.50	...	1.00	2.0	61.50	62.00	63.00	...	8.0	125.00
35.50	16.50	4.5	7.75	...	56.50	33.00	258.00	25	40.0	316.00
14.00	14.00	...	1.00	9.0	28.00	10.00	120.00	...	3.0	130.00
80.00	44.00	...	8.00	11.0	124.00	67.00	502.00	...	30.0	569.00
36.00	24.00	...	...	6.0	60.00	36.00	302.50	...	...	338.50
4.00	24.50	...	2.00	...	28.50	5.00	182.00	...	15.0	187.00
13.75	52.50	...	2.00	...	66.25	46.25	399.00	...	...	445.25
58.00	105.50	6.0	6.00	...	169.50	65.00	896.00	8	7.0	969.00
93.50	68.75	...	7.50	12.0	162.25	122.00	737.00	...	45.0	859.00
30.00	...	...	1.25	...	30.00	40.00	...	...	2.0	40.00
215.00	48.50	...	1.25	...	263.50	23.25	417.75	...	5.0	441.00
45.50	42.50	...	3.00	7.5	88.00	42.00	534.50	...	22.0	576.50
81.00	39.50	...	6.25	10.0	120.50	76.00	544.50	...	76.0	544.50
20.75	14.50	...	2.00	3.0	35.25	30.50	145.00	...	15.0	175.50
21.00	9.00	...	1.00	...	30.00	13.00	31.00	...	5.0	44.00
13.50	9.00	...	1.00	4.0	22.50	12.00	...	64	10.0	76.00
42.00	23.00	...	10.00	...	65.00	23.00	324.00	...	58.0	347.00
58.00	28.00	4.0	11.00	...	90.00	25.00	442.00	5	91.0	472.00
74.25	33.00	...	2.00	28.0	107.25	84.50	280.00	...	22.0	364.50
19.00	22.00	...	...	8.0	41.00	21.00	269.00	...	...	290.00
20.50	38.50	...	3.00	2.0	59.00	20.50	339.00	...	15.0	359.50
2.00	41.00	...	...	1.0	43.00	5.00	276.50	...	...	281.50
31.75	16.50	...	5.50	6.0	48.25	22.50	247.00	...	14.0	269.50
29.00	23.50	...	2.50	4.0	52.50	29.00	188.00	...	22.5	217.00
...

CHRISTMAS COUNT DESCRIPTIONS

1. CHINCOTEAGUE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. 37°58'N 75°22'W
Center: 2 miles north of center of Chincoteague.
Compiler: F.R. Scott (115 Kennondale Lane, Richmond, VA 23226).
2. WACHAPREAGUE. 37°40'N 75°42'W
Center: intersection rts. 789 and 715.
Compiler: Irvin Ailes (RFD 1, Box 365-22, Chincoteague, VA 23336).
3. CAPE CHARLES. 37°12'N 75°56'W
Center: 1.5 miles southeast of Capeville Post Office.
Compiler: Henry Armistead (523 E. Durham St., Philadelphia, PA 19119).
4. LITTLE CREEK. 36°51'N 76°06'W
Center: 3.8 miles northeast of Kempsville in Virginia Beach.
Compiler: Paul Sykes, Jr. (1080 Forest Rd., Watkinsville, GA 30677).
5. BACK BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. 36°39'N 76°00'W
Center: 1.5 miles east of Back Bay.
Compiler: Paul Sykes, Jr. (1080 Forest Rd., Watkinsville, GA 30677).
6. NEWPORT NEWS. 37°05'N 76°25'W
Center: Northern corner of Magruder & Cmdr. Shepard Blvds.
Compiler: Teta Kain (Rt. 5, Box 950, Gloucester, VA 23061).
7. MATHEWS. 37°25'N 76°18'W
Center: 0.5 mile east of Beaverlett Post Office.
Compiler: Mary Pulley (Redart, VA 23142).
8. WILLIAMSBURG. 37°17'N 76°42'W
Center: Colonial Williamsburg Information Center.
Compiler: Bill Williams (108 Deerwood Dr., Williamsburg, VA 23185).
9. HOPEWELL. 37°23'N 77°17'W
Center: Curles Neck.
Compilers: Larry Robinson (3320 Landria Dr., Richmond VA 23225) and Betsy Roszell (3419 Warner Rd., Richmond VA 23225).
10. BROOKE. 38°22'N 77°20'W
Center: At road 3 miles east southeast of Brooke.
Compiler: David Stewart (10715 Midsummer Dr., Reston, VA 22091).
11. FORT BELVOIR. 38°41'N 77°12'W
Center: Pohick Church.
Compiler: Jackson Abbott (8501 Doter Dr., Alexandria, VA 22308).
12. MANASSAS-BULL RUN. 38°50'N 77°26'W
Center: Centreville.
Compiler: Brian Marshall (9318 Battle Street, Manassas VA 22110).
13. NOKESVILLE. 38°37'N 77°33'W
Center: Fleetwood Dr. (rt. 611) at Cedar Run.
Compiler: Ken Bass (12604 Valley View Dr., Nokesville, VA 22123).

14. CHARLOTTESVILLE. 38°04'N 78°34'W
Center: near Ivy.
Compiler: Charles Stevens (615 Preston Pl., Charlottesville, VA 22903).
15. WARREN. 37°51'N 78°33'W
Center: at Keene.
Compiler: Charles Stevens (615 Preston Pl., Charlottesville, VA 22903).
16. JOHN H. KERR RESERVOIR 36°36'N 78°18'W
Center: East end John H. Kerr Dam.
Compiler: Brian Patteson (PO Box 125, Amherst, VA 24521)
17. BANISTER RIVER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS. 36°43'N 78°48'W
Center: at Banister River WMAs.
Compiler: Jeffrey Blalock (103 Elizabeth Court, South Boston, VA 24592).
18. LYNCHBURG. 37°24'N 79°11'W
Center: Lynchburg College.
Compiler: Myriam Moore (101 Columbia Ave., Lynchburg, VA 24503).
19. DANVILLE. 36°34'N 79°25'W
Center: Ballou Park.
Compiler: Penultima Wiseman (162 Howeland Cir., Danville, VA 24541).
20. PHILPOTT RESERVOIR. 36°53'N 80°03'W
Center: near intersection rts. 605 and 623.
Compiler: Clyde Kessler (106 P. T. Travis Ave., Radford, VA 24141).
21. CALMES NECK. 39°07'N 77°54'W
Center: Castlemans Ferry Bridge, rt. 7 and the Shenandoah River.
Compilers: Gregory Justice (PO Box 226, Millwood, VA 22646) and
Frances Endicott (Rt. 1, Box 448, Bluemont, VA 22012).
22. NORTHERN SHENANDOAH VALLEY. 39°03'N 78°10'W
Center: junction Crooked Run and rt. 606.
Compiler: Rob Simpson (Rt. 1, Box 154-B, Stephens City, VA 22655).
23. SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK — LURAY. 38°35'N 78°28'W
Center: Hershberger Hill.
Compiler: Warren Bielenberg (Rt. 1, Box 271, Luray, VA 22835).
24. BIG FLAT MOUNTAIN. 38°11'N 78°43'W
Center: on Pasture Fence Mountain.
Compiler: Charles Stevens (615 Preston Pl., Charlottesville, VA 22903).
25. ROCKINGHAM COUNTY. 38°26'N 79°02'W
Center: Ottobine.
Compiler: Max Carpenter (Rt. 1, Box 396, Dayton, VA 22821).
26. AUGUSTA COUNTY. 38°12'N 78°59'W
Center: junctions rts. 780 and 781.
Compiler: John Mehner (Mary Baldwin College, Staunton, VA 24401).

27. WAYNESBORO. 37°59'N 78°57'W
Center: Sherando at intersection of rts. 610 and 664.
Compiler: Allen Hale (Rt. 1, Box 242, Shipman, VA 22971).
28. LEXINGTON. 37°51'N 79°29'W
Center: Big Spring Pond.
Compilers: Peter Bergstrom (15 Sellers Ave., Lexington, VA 24450) and Bob Paxton (460 Riverside Dr., #72, New York, NY 10027).
29. PEAKS OF OTTER. 37°27'N 79°36'W
Center: Peaks of Otter Visitor Center.
Compiler: Barry Kinzie (PO Box 446, Troutville, VA 24175).
30. CLIFTON FORGE. 37°49'N 79°46'W
Center: junction rts. 42 and 60.
Compiler: Allen Lehew (POD 602, 76 Allegheny, Clifton Forge, VA 24422).
31. FINCASTLE. 37°31'N 79°52'W
Center: north of Fincastle near intersection of rts. 220 and 679.
Compiler: Barry Kinzie (PO Box 446, Troutville, VA 24175).
32. ROANOKE. 37°18'N 79°56'W
Center: Oakland Blvd. and Williamson Rd.
Compiler: Barry Kinzie (PO Box 446, Troutville, VA 24175).
33. BLACKSBURG. 37°14'N 80°25'W
Center: intersection rts. 685 and 657.
Compiler: Clyde Kessler (106 P. T. Travis Ave., Radford, VA 24141).
34. TAZEWEEL. 37°08'N 81°30'W
Center: Fourway.
Compiler: Sarah Cromer (Box 765, N. Tazewell, VA 24630).
35. GLADE SPRING. 36°47'N 81°47'W
Center: junction rts. 750 and 609.
Compiler: Steven L. Hopp (Box 11, Emory VA 24327)
36. NICKELSVILLE. 36°45'N 82°25'W
Center: Nickelsville.
Compiler: Robert Baker (119 Brown Road, Simpsonville, SC 29681)
37. BREAKS INTERSTATE PARK 37°15'N 82°13'W
Center: 4.5 miles n.e. of Haysi.
Compiler: Kenneth Markley (PO Box 222, Breaks, VA 24607)
38. WISE COUNTY 36°57'N 82°39'W
Center: at Dorchester.
Compiler: Richard Peake (Clinch Valley College, College Ave., Wise, VA 24293).

IN MEMORIAM: JACKSON MILES ABBOTT

Jackson Miles Abbott of Alexandria, a long-time VSO member, died on 3 May 1988 in Fairfax Hospital. Born in Pennsylvania, he attended Swarthmore College, then enlisted in the U. S. Army and was stationed at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. In 1941, while stationed there, he inaugurated the Fort Belvoir Christmas Bird Count which has continued ever since. After service in the European theater during World War II, Jack returned to the Washington area and eventually became a civilian employee of the Corps of Engineers, stationed at Fort Belvoir and residing in Alexandria. He became a recognized expert on camouflage and mine warfare before he retired from federal employment in 1978.

During his years of residence in Alexandria, Jack became one of the outstanding field ornithologists in the Washington, D. C. area. He turned up numerous unusual bird records, many of them along the Potomac River near his home. He was best known for his leadership of the Bald Eagle study in the upper Chesapeake Bay area. Jack twice served on the Board of Directors of the VSO, and was a charter member of the Northern Virginia VSO Chapter, leading numerous field trips for the Chapter and for the Audubon Naturalist Society of the District of Columbia. He was a regular participant in Christmas bird counts in the Washington area and nearby regions. As an ardent conservationist, he worked to preserve threatened natural areas in northern Virginia. Several years before his death, Jack was the subject of a feature article in the Washington Post which focused on his many contributions to ornithology.

Jack was a gifted bird painter, having inherited his talent from his father, Jacob Bates Abbott, a well-known wildlife artist of his day. In 1957 Jack won the national Federal Duck Stamp design contest with a painting of two Common Eiders.

In a well-deserved tribute to Jack, the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers has established the Jackson Miles Abbott Wetland Refuge, a 250-acre tract along Dogue Creek, on the grounds of Fort Belvoir. This is being developed with educational facilities.

The VSO extends heartfelt sympathy to Jack's wife, Frances (Smoky), and his four children, two of whom, David and Robert, are continuing in his footsteps as field ornithologists.

Robert J. Watson



THE 1988 VSO ANNUAL MEETING

JOHN DILLARD

The 54th annual meeting of the Virginia Society of Ornithology was opened by President Bill Williams at the Holiday Inn in McLean (Tyson's Corner), Virginia at 7:30 p.m., 6 June 1988.

Bob Watson welcomed all attendees on behalf of the Northern Virginia Chapter of the VSO, a charter member of the local chapters program. This annual meeting was dedicated to the memory of Jackson M. Abbott, a member of the VSO Board of Directors, recipient of the VSO conservation and service awards, wildlife artist, and charter member of the Northern Virginia Chapter.

Mitchell Byrd, nominating committee chairman, presented the following slate of officers and directors:

President: Bill Williams, Williamsburg

Vice-President: John Bazuin, Annandale

Secretary: John Dillard, Richmond

Treasurer: Thelma Dalmas, Lynchburg

Raven Editor: Teta Kain, Gloucester

Raven Editor Emeritus: F. R. Scott, Richmond

Newsletter Editor: Allen Hale, Shipman

Board of Directors (three-year terms ending July 1991)

Peter Bergstrom, Lexington

YuLee Lerner, Staunton

Joyce Livermore, Virginia Beach

Board of Directors (two-year term ending July 1990 to replace Teta Kain)

Karen Terwilliger, Parksley

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

Erika Wilson introduced Claudia Wilds, author of *Finding Birds in the National Capital Area*, field identification editor of the magazine, *Birding*, regional editor of Christmas bird counts, and VSO records committee member. Ms Wilds presented a workshop to assist members in clearly describing birds submitted as records so that other birders can understand what has been seen.

After a summary of Saturday and Sunday field trip options by Erika Wilson, the Friday night meeting was adjourned.

1. *Pesticide Poisoning in Wild Birds*. Stuart Porter, VMD, of the Wildlife Center of Virginia, said birds, especially raptors, are particularly vulnerable to the increasingly toxic pesticides. Several classes of commonly used poisons were discussed along and case histories of the victims seen at the Wildlife Center were presented.

2. *Least Tern Population Trends in Virginia*. Ruth Beck of the College of William and Mary, in collaboration with Bill Akers, Jerry Via, and Bill Williams, explored small colonies of Least Terns (*Sterna antillarum*) that exist on Virginia's Eastern Shore, Grandview Beach, and Craney Island. Survey data and its implications were reviewed. Management strategies to protect nesting habitat were recommended.

3. *Breeding Biology and Ecology of the Piping Plover in an Undisturbed Habitat*. Robert Cross of the College of William and Mary found that nest locations of Piping Plovers (*Charadrius melodus*) are concentrated where the combination of tidal mud flats provide food and Least Terns provide anti-predator benefits. Reproductive success was estimated at 1.1-2.2 chicks fledged per nesting pair.

4. *Current Status of the Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas Project*. Sue Ridd, director of the Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas Project, explained the project was initiated in 1984 and is now about two-thirds complete. Field coverage of the Atlas was discussed, including unusual findings and range extensions.

5. *Chesapeake Bay Ospreys—Are There Too Many?* Mitchell Byrd, College of William and Mary reviewed the history of the Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) population in Virginia, in which there were 500 pairs in 1975 as compared to 1500 at the present time. Reproduction was at .7 young per pair in 1971, rose to 1.3 in 1981 after the DDT ban in 1972, and is now at 1.0. Food stress appears to be the current problem, with depletion of menhaden (*Brevoortia tyrannus*) being significant. The Osprey population appears to have reached the capacity of the Bay under current conditions.

The papers session was concluded at 5 p.m.

A social hour at 6 p.m. preceded the Saturday evening banquet. President Bill Williams presided over the event. At the conclusion of the meal, the president recognized officers and committee chairmen of the VSO.

Taylor Seay, conservation committee chairman, presented the 1988 conservation award to Ed Risley of the Northern Virginia Chapter. Among other activities, Ed has been active in committees to preserve Assateague, Dyke Marsh, Mason Neck, and Huntley Meadows.

The J. J. Murray Award (Charles Zeigenfus, Chairman) was presented to Bob Cross of the College of William and Mary for his work in population studies of the Piping Plover.

The J. J. Murray Award (Charles Zeigenfus, Chairman) was presented to Bob Cross of the College of William and Mary for his work in population studies of the Piping Plover.

Jim Nix, membership chairman, recognized the following people who have been members for 50 years:

Dr. E. P. Edwards
Mrs. Colgate Darden
Miss Kitty Friel Sanders

As introduction to the presentation of the James W. Eike award, past recipients were named:

Jim Eike	Mitchell Byrd
Grace Wiltshire	Myriam Moore
Charles Hacker	Ruth Beck
F. R. Scott	YuLee Larner
Teta Kain	Bob Watson
Bill Opengari	Dorothy Mitchell
Thelma Dalmas	Enoch Johnson
Jackson Abbott	John Dalmas

Jim Nix, assisted by Claire Eike, presented 1988 Eike awards to the following members:

Jerry Via
John Mehner
Dick Peake
Walter Smith

After presenting the door prizes, Valerie Kitchens introduced the local annual meeting committee. Erika Wilson reported that 144 species were recorded on Saturday field trips with 28 different warblers being seen. Maximum counts were noted at Lucketts with 81 species, and Riverbend with 80.

Kenn Kaufman, editor of regional reports for American Birds and field identification consultant for *Birding*, was introduced as the featured speaker. His talk on bird migration was both entertaining and instructive.

Teta Kain introduced a resolution thanking Valerie Kitchens, the Northern Virginia Chapter, and all others who contributed to the highly successful 54th annual meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10 p.m.

7803 Brentford Drive, Richmond, Virginia 23225

LOCAL CHAPTERS OF THE VSO

This list of local chapters, compiled by the VSO Membership Committee (Jim Nix, Chairman) has been revised to May 1988. The number in parentheses after the chapter name is the approximate total number of members in that chapter.

1. Augusta Bird Club (110), Staunton-Waynesboro
2. Bristol Bird Club (40), Bristol
3. Cape Henry Audubon Society (450), Norfolk
4. Charlottesville-Albemarle Bird Club (21), Charlottesville
5. Clinch Mountain Bird Club (12), Nickelsville
6. Clinch Valley Bird Club (25), Tazewell
7. Cumberland Nature Club (8), Wise
8. Eastern Shore Bird Club (38), Accomac
9. Fairfax Audubon Society (1800), Vienna
10. Foothills Bird Club (25) (Martinsville)
11. Hampton Roads Bird Club (150), Newport News-Hampton
12. Lynchburg Bird Club (300), Lynchburg
13. Marion Bird Club ((25), Marion
14. Monticello Bird Club (80), Charlottesville
15. Montpelier Bird Club (25), Gordonsville-Orange
16. New River Valley Bird Club (30), Blacksburg
17. Northern Neck of Virginia Audubon Society (350)
Kilmarnock-White Stone
18. Northern Shenandoah Valley Audubon Society (325), Middletown
19. Northern Virginia Chapter (500), Arlington-Fairfax
20. Richmond Audubon Society (920), Richmond
21. Roanoke Valley Bird Club (140), Roanoke-Salem
22. Rockbridge Bird Club (10), Lexington
23. Rockingham Bird Club (100), Harrisonburg
24. Virginia Beach Audubon Society (300), Virginia Beach
25. Margaret H. Watson Bird Club (20), Darlington Heights
26. Westmoreland Bird Club (60), Montross
27. Williamsburg Bird Club (125), Williamsburg

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES OF THE VSO, 1988-89

President: Bill Williams, 108 Deerwood Drive, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

Vice President: John Bazuin, Jr., 7495 Little River Turnpike, Apartment 201
Annandale, Virginia 22003

Secretary: John Dillard, 7803 Brentford Drive, Richmond, Virginia 23225

Treasurer: Thelma Dalmas, 520 Rainbow Forest Drive, Lynchburg, Virginia 24502

Raven Editor: Teta Kain, Route 5, Box 950, Gloucester, Virginia 23061

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

Newsletter Editor: Allen Hale, Route 1, Box 242, Shipman, Virginia 22971

Immediate Past President: Jerry W. Via, Department of Biology, Virginia Polytechnic
Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia 24061

Elected Members of the Board of Directors:*Class of 1989*

Bettye Fields, 39 Culpeper Avenue, Newport News, Virginia 23606

Taylor Seay, Route 1, Box 1506, Kilmarnock, Virginia 22482

Charles Ziegenfuss, 332 Franklin Street, Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801

Class of 1990

Mitchell Byrd, 115 Copse Way, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

John Fulton, Post Office Box 3, Boydton, Virginia 23917

Karen Terwilliger, Route 1, Box 275, Parksley, Virginia 23454

Class of 1991

Peter Bergstrom, Department of Biology, Washington and Lee University,
Lexington, Virginia 24450

YuLee Larner, 1020 West Beverley Street, Staunton, Virginia 24401

Joyce Livermore, 916 Glenfield Court, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23454

Committees:

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

Circulation: John Dillard, 7803 Brentford Drive, Richmond, Virginia 23225

Conservation: Taylor Seay, Route 1, Box 1506, Kilmarnock, Virginia 22482

Education: Josephine Wood, 318 Jefferson Drive, Lynchburg, Virginia 24503

Field Trips: Peggy Spiegel, 303 Market Street, Roanoke, Virginia 24011

Kiptopeke Review: Bill Williams, 108 Deerwood Drive, Williamsburg,
Virginia 23185

Membership: Jim Nix, Route 2, Box 341A, Crozet, Virginia 22932

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

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

Newsletter Assistant Editor: John Dalmas, 520 Rainbow Forest Drive,
Lynchburg, Virginia 24502

Public Information: Paul Saunier, 1400 Rugby Road, Charlottesville, Virginia
22903

Records: John Dalmas, 520 Rainbow Forest Drive, Lynchburg, Virginia 24502

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

Site Guide: Richard H. Peake, Jr., Box 103, Clinch Valley College, Wise,
Virginia, 24293

1988 VIRGINIA BREEDING BIRD ATLAS PROJECT RESULTS

SUE RIDD

The bulk of 1988 Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas Project data has been entered in Biota of Virginia (BOVA) computer bank and the result is at least 207 new topographical quadrangles were covered last year. In light of this progress, the Atlas Project is within striking distance of achieving total coverage of all priority blocks.

The number of Atlasers increased significantly in 1988, rising from 247 to 412. The *Virginia Wildlife* article about the project, which appeared in the June 1988 issue, produced approximately three to five new volunteers per region. Also, a number of research wildlife biologists in the Game Department have taken a more active interest in the Atlas and contributed their share of data.

Within the Atlas volunteer force, there is a hard core of approximately 45 individuals who are not only driving considerable distances to complete their respective regions, but who are using one or two weeks vacation time in order to achieve their personal goals. A few Atlasers have completed their own regions and have begun atlasing in other less populated areas.

Another reason for increased coverage is that Atlas miniforays are gaining in popularity. Last year, the number of Atlasers on Region 2's miniforay doubled and the quadrangle coverage tripled compared to the 1987 miniforay.

Miniforays also tend to increase the awareness of each Atlaser and promote a competitive, but friendly, spirit within the miniforay group. As a result of this *esprit de corps*, at least seven new site locations were discovered for the state-endangered Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*). When other Atlasers returned to the same site to see the shrike (or another rare species), often second or third rare species were observed. This chain of events occurred in at least three of last year's miniforays.

Seven of the twelve regions still need to conduct miniforays in 1989 and money has been allocated for their needs. A small amount of compensation for the regional coordinators has been budgeted for their long hours of planning, organizing, and directing their volunteers.

The operating budget has not changed much from that of last year's budget. It includes purchasing "Advanced Revelations" computer software that the Atlas database will convert to this year. It also includes an increase of the hourly self-employment dispersal rate from \$8.63 to \$8.87/hour, reflecting the 1987-88 cost of living increase. Travel and office supplies have decreased compared to last year's budget. The final total is the same as last year's grant of \$31,000.

P.O. Box 6837, Richmond, Virginia 23230-0837

1988 BANDING RESULTS AT KIPTOPEKE BEACH

WALTER P. SMITH

Kiptopeke Beach banding station opened on 3 September 1988 for the 26th consecutive year and ran continuously through 29 October for a total of 57 days. The station was closed only one day during that period because of unsuitable weather.

The banding station is located at the southern tip of the Eastern Shore peninsula, overlooking Chesapeake Bay. It is operated by the Research Committee of the Virginia Society of Ornithology. Twenty-five mist nets were used for the passerine banding portion of the station; 10 nets were used for the raptor banding portion. Procedures for the station did not differ from those of past years operations.

A total of 6493 birds were banded of 99 species in 9338 net hours. There were 11 returns of birds banded in previous years, one of which a Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*) which Don Schwab had banded in 1985. It is amazing to think this tiny bird could have safely negotiated a trip all the way to lower Florida and back again for three consecutive years.

There were 307 repeats of birds banded at the station during 1988 and five foreign recoveries of birds banded elsewhere. With weather being the most important factor in our banding success, we were fortunate to have seven minor and two major cold fronts pass through the area during the period. This was a distinct improvement over the last several years.

As in previous seasons, the most commonly banded bird was Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*) (2379), followed by American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) (529), Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) (347), Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens*) (260), and Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) (251).

Certainly our most unusual banding was that of a young Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) which was our first ever and species number 150 for the station. Having listened to thousands of them "bink-bink-bink" over the area each year, we had just about given up hope of having one descend into our nets! Other unusual species were: Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) (1), Louisiana Waterthrush (*Seiurus motacilla*) (1), Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) (1), Hairy Woodpecker (*Picoides villosus*) (1), and American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*) (1).

Notable numbers, compared to those of the last five years, were: American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) (9), Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*) (25), Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) (85), Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*) (110), Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*) (225), American Goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*) (18), Rufous-sided Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) (57), and Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*) (3).

Species notable for their absence this year were: White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*), Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*), Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila caerulea*), Mourning Warbler (*Oporornis philadelphia*), and Great-crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*).

Licensed banders who alternated in charge of the station were: Don Schwab, F. R. Scott, Jane Church, John Buckalew, Karen Terwilliger, Charlie Hacker, John Dillard, and Walter Smith. Charlie Hacker and Kevin Ballard banded raptors at two separate locations in the area. As in the past, the banders 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 Mr. John Maddox. It should be noted, however, that he plans to develop a campground on the property. Should he be successful in obtaining necessary environmental and other clearances for this type of development, we would have no alternative but to look for another banding location. There have been many individuals and groups working hard all year to find a solution to this problem, not just to provide continuity to our banding operation, but to maintain this beautiful, isolated, unique area as an important resting and feeding stop for migratory songbirds on their southward journey each fall.

3009 Chesapeake Avenue, Hampton, Virginia 23661



THE 1987 VIRGINIA HAWKWATCH

TETA KAIN

In this year's report only stations reporting 50 or more man-hours are included in Table 7 on page 76 . When compared with the 1986 data of these same five stations, there are mixed results of both individual species counts and overall totals.

In 1986 a total of 1586.6 man-hours and 74,237 individual raptors were recorded for these five stations, compared with 1555.1 man-hours and 68,522 individual raptors for 1987; however the total number of days the stations were manned was seven more (267) than in 1986.

Species showing an increase in numbers in 1987 were Black Vulture (+ 151), Turkey Vulture (+ 127), Cooper's Hawk (+ 203), Northern Goshawk (+ 1), Broad-winged Hawk (+ 1137), and Golden Eagle (+ 1). All others showed decreases that varied from -5 (Bald Eagle) to -5829 (Sharp-shinned Hawk).

Sharp-shinned Hawk numbers dropped almost in half, with much of this decline attributed to Kiptopeke's decrease in numbers. Data from that station shows a steady decrease over the last five years. In 1984, a total of 19,823 Sharp-shinned Hawks were seen during 380 man-hours; 12,337 were recorded there in 1985 during 397 hours; 8215 were recorded during 382 hours in 1986; and 1987 totals were 4343 Sharpies during 404 hours. No other hawkwatching station has noted a similar long-term drop in numbers of this species.

Broad-winged Hawk numbers at Rockfish Gap were down by almost 11,000 this year compared to last year's total of 27,755. The best day for this species at that station was 22 September when 4294 were spotted. Last year's one-day high of 11,783 occurred on 16 September. Short Hill more than tripled its total of this species from 556 to 1963. Mendota almost doubled its final figures with an increase from 12,288 in 1986 to 23,184 in 1987.

Route 5, Box 950, Gloucester, Virginia 23061

TABLE 7. (following page). Totals of all hawkwatching activities at all sites in Virginia logging 50 or more man-hours during 1987. Numbers for total hours manned have been rounded off to the nearest whole number.

	Rockfish Gap	Kiptopeke Beach	Harvey's Knob	Short Hill Mountain	Mendota Fire Tower	Totals
1. Black Vulture	24	64	49	...	235	372
2. Turkey Vulture	102	909	94	...	94	1199
3. Osprey	203	809	110	46	65	1233
4. Bald Eagle	29	15	3	11	5	63
5. Northern Harrier	80	323	40	85	11	539
6. Sharp-shinned Hawk	1269	4343	649	865	512	7638
7. Cooper's Hawk	87	288	69	82	243	769
8. Northern Goshawk	4	2	...	2	2	10
9. Red-shouldered Hawk	29	5	40	48	...	122
10. Broad-winged Hawk	17119	758	6906	1963	23184	49930
11. Red-tailed Hawk	759	149	393	1102	81	2484
12. Rough-legged Hawk	...	1	...	...	3	4
13. Golden Eagle	3	1	8	8	...	20
14. American Kestrel	159	2765	78	74	95	3171
15. Merlin	8	403	3	...	5	419
16. Peregrine Falcon	4	158	7	3	4	176
17. Unidentified	39	76	126	58	74	373
Total all stations	19918	11069	8575	4347	24613	68522
Total hours manned	318	404	367	325	141	1555
Total days manned	65	50	71	62	19	267

VIRGINIA HAWK LOOKOUT LOCATIONS WITH 50 OR MORE MAN-HOURS IN 1987

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

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

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.

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

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