

FEATHERS

Published by the Schenectady Bird Club

Vol. 6, No. 1

January, 1944

HERON NEW ON CHRISTMAS COUNT

Thirty Species Identified—Crows and Tree Sparrows Relatively Scarce, Chickadees and Redpolls Numerous—No Ducks and Only One Gull Observed

H. V. D. Allen
Christmas Count Chairman
Schenectady Bird Club

Schenectady, N. Y. (Mohawk River from Lock 8 to Mohawk View, Collins Lake, Woestina Sanctuary and lower Rotterdam Hills, Central Park, Niskayuna, Indian Ladder, Watervliet Reservoir, Fuller and Oxford Road sections of Albany, plus urban and suburban intervening territory; urban and suburban 5%, farm yards 5%, open farm land 40%, light deciduous woods 20%, mixed deciduous and evergreen woods 10%, brush hillsides and ravines 10%, cattail marshes 10%). Dec. 26, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mostly cloudy, partially hazy, followed by freezing rain at dusk; temp. 70° to 30° F. Ground frozen, almost snowless; minimum of open water; wind E, 0 - 5 m.p.h. Twenty-three observers in nine parties, plus urban and suburban records. Total hours, 56½; total miles 134 (68 on foot, 66 by automobiles). Great blue heron, 1; goshawk, 2; red-tailed hawk, 3; sparrow hawk, 8; hawk (sp.?), 2; ruffed grouse, 13; pheasant, 23; herring gull, 1; mourning dove, 1; screech owl, 1; barred owl, 2; kingfisher, 2; hairy woodpecker, 21; downy woodpecker, 65; prairie horned lark, 8; blue jay, 92; crow, 127; black-capped chickadee, 376; white-breasted nuthatch, 79; red-breasted nuthatch, 2; brown creeper, 13; bluebird, 1; golden-crowned kinglet, 31; starling, 969; English sparrow, 443; red-wing, 1; redpoll, 483; goldfinch, 13; slate-colored junco, 13; tree sparrow, 84; song sparrow, 20. Total, 30 identified species, 2898 individuals. (Seen in area Dec. 25: northern shrike, 1). Pauline E. Baker, Guy Bartlett, Frank Freese, Esly Hallenbeck, Barrington S. Havens, Idella M. Heacox, Alice Holmes, Mrs. H. G. Kelley, Marilyn Kelley, Arthur L. Kimball, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Korneke, Viola Mabb, P. Schuyler Miller, Mrs. Chester N. Moore, Stephanie Podrazik, Dr. Minnie B. Scotland, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Scott, Benton R. Seguin, Rudolph A. Stone, Nelle Van Vorst, John L. Voght. H. V. D. Allen, Christmas Count chairman, Schenectady Bird Club.

FEATHERS

SCHENECTADY BIRD CLUB

Annual Membership: Active, \$2; Assoc., \$1

Mrs. Anna Dickerman, Editor
1088 Dean St., Schenectady, N.Y.

As usual, the report of the Schenectady Bird Club Christmas Count was sent to Audubon Magazine in the required form as on page one. The summary as submitted differs in some respects from this one because additional records, received late, have been

incorporated in this tabulation.

First in 15 Years

The high light of the day was a great blue heron, seen flying up the Mohawk River past the mouth of the Binnekil. This species had not appeared in any of our Christmas Counts in the previous 14 years. Up to December 24, however, Mrs. Scott reported one of these birds at Collins Lake.

The weather was mild, with practically no wind. The

Party	Total	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
No. of species	30	8	12	10	26	18	16	11	13
No. individuals	2898	202	90	148	506	921	335	335	361
Great blue heron	1					1			
Goshawk	2				1		1		
Red-tailed hawk	3					2	1		
Sparrow hawk	8		3		3		1	1	
Ruffed grouse	13				3	5	5		
Pheasant	23		3		17	2			1
Herring gull	1				1				
Mourning dove	1				1				
Screech owl	1				1				
Barred owl	2				1				1
Kingfisher	2					2			
Hairy woodpecker	21	1	1	1	7	4	5	1	1
Downy woodpecker	65	2	3		17	9	17	2	15
Prairie horned lark	8				7				1
Blue jay	92	11	8	3	20	6	1	32	11
Crow	127	10	5	2	20	4	15	21	50
Black-capped chickadee	376	22	8	24	92	92	75	34	29
White-breasted nuthatch	79	1	5	4	22	14	20	3	10
Red-breasted nuthatch	2			2					
Brown creeper	13			2	6	4	1		
Bluebird	1				1				
Golden-crowned kinglet	31			5	12		12	2	
Starling	969	135	30	61	61	326	130	138	88
English sparrow	443	20	15	44	75	22	20	99	148
Red-wing	1				1				
Redpoll	483				83	400			
Goldfinch	13				11	2			
Slate-colored junco	13				2		6		5
Tree sparrow	84		6		27	24	25	2	
Song sparrow	20		3		14	2			1

ground was mostly clear of snow. Some observers reported few small birds, but actually we counted more small birds and fewer large ones. This year we included counts at a number of feeding stations within our area. A mile outside the prescribed circle, at the home of James S. Mulvaney in Rexford, a wintering robin was seen and heard singing on December 21 but not after that date.

Starling, Most Numerous

The great horned owl was absent this year, but two barred owls and one screech owl took his place. This year the starling was at the head of the list with 969, as against 679 last year. Redpolls were second in abundance, with 483 against none at all last season. English sparrows were third by reason of urban and feeding-station counts, with 443 against 115 last season. Chickadees, fourth with 376 against 180 in the previous count, had high counts at Indian Ladder, Watervliet Reservoir, and Niskayuna.

Too Little Snow

Snow buntings and Lapland longspurs were missing. It has been suggested that these birds may have been missed since almost total absence of snow made it unnecessary for the birds to concentrate on small, bare areas. This may also explain the relatively low count of tree sparrows. Outside our area, on the Plotterkill flats, the snow bunting and Lapland longspur were sought but not found.

Mergansers Not Found

The 11 species which have been seen in each of the preceding 14 years were all found this year: Pheasant, herring gull, downy woodpecker, blue jay, crow, chickadee, white-breasted nuthatch, starling, English sparrow, goldfinch, and tree sparrow. The American merganser, missing from only one previous count, was absent from this season's list.

Those Participating

Those participating in the 1943 Christmas Count included:

Party 1 -- Campbell, Gordon, Schermerhorn, and River Road sections to Lock 8 and Woestina Sanctuary; 7 hours; 5 miles on foot; Mr. Freese.

Party 2 -- Collins Lake; 3½ party-hours; 6 miles on foot; Mrs. and Miss Kelley, Mr. and Mrs. Korneke, Mr. and Mrs. Scott

Party 3 -- Central Park; 4 hours; 5 miles on foot; Misses Heacox, Mabb, and Podrazik.

Party 4 -- Niskayuna; 16½ party-hours; 26 party-miles on foot and 25 by automobile; Messrs. Bartlett, Havens, Kimball, Seguin, and Stone.

FEATHERS

Party 5 -- Indian Ladder; 12 party-hours; 12 party-miles on foot and 35 by car; Misses Holmes and Van Vorst, Mrs. Moore and Mr. Miller.

Party 6 -- Watervliet Reservoir; 7½ hours; 9 miles on foot; Messrs. Hallenbeck and Voght.

Party 7 -- Fuller and Oxford Roads, Albany; 4 hours; 5 miles on foot and 6 in car; Miss Becker and Dr. Scotland.

Party 8 -- Urban and feeding-station records were supplied by Mrs. Laura Beck, south of Curry Road between Helderberg Avenue and the New York Central branch line; Mrs. R. M. Brockway, Rosa Road; Mrs. M. E. Rexford, Morgan Avenue; Miss Anne O'Connor, Wright Avenue; Mrs. C. C. Bailey, Wendell Avenue; Chester N. Moore, Bedford Road; and Miss Mary E. Christie, Washington Avenue. Miss Christie found the barred owl, Mrs. Beck the pheasant, and Mr. Moore the hairy woodpecker.

NEWS & NOTES IN BRIEF

GROSBEEK RECORDS -- Bulletin No. 3 of S B C will be devoted to a summary of records of the evening grosbeak. WGY Science Forum listeners have been asked to report on such birds they have seen, and numerous reports are being received. It is suggested that all having records -- not only for this season but also for previous years -- forward them to the WGY Science Forum or the SEC records committee (W.R.Steele).

WINTER BLUEBIRD -- The bluebird that showed up on the Christmas Count was not an unexpected find. It was seen regularly each morning along the Troy Road at Stop 12½, from December 22 through the census date.

WINTER ROBINS -- An item in the Gazette shortly before the Christmas Count was expected to add another bird to the total. Records for winter robins were requested, and received. There were reports from Glenville, Rexford, and St. David's Lane for robins a week or so before the count. On that day, however, none was found.

CHRISTMAS OWL -- The screech owl appeared on this year's Christmas Count for the first time since 1938 -- the one of this season was recorded by Benton Seguin with a flashlight, near his home just before he left on his trip.

In this connection it is of interest to note that regularly each winter the screech owl has been expected to be counted in the Niskayuna section, inasmuch as one has lived in a hole in a tree across the road from an SEC member. This season, for instance, the owl was daily seen from December 18 to 24 inclusive, sitting half out of its hole. But on the 25th, 26th and 27th it was absent -- and on the 28th was back again.

EVENING GROSBEEKS -- Our November issue, with its account of early evening grosbeaks, was not off the press before additional reports of flocks of the birds began to be received from all directions.

Mrs. Sherwood L. Mitchell found a flock at her home on Rose Road on November 18, and the birds remained in the vicinity at least three days.

On the same day a flock was seen at Saratoga Springs by Mrs. Harold N. Hackett. Evening grosbeaks also visited her home last February.

FIRST CROSSBILL -- While Schenectady was enjoying, or at least tolerating, its pre-Thanksgiving snow, a red crossbill was recorded in the Central Park area. Mrs. E. E. Talmadge of Parkside Avenue had a good opportunity to watch a full-plumaged male on November 23, in an evergreen close to an upper window in her home. For Schenectady the bird set a new early arrival date.

PINE GROSBEEKS -- On Saturday, November 20, I saw a flock of female pine grosbeaks near Wurtsboro, Sullivan County. Immature males may have been in the flock, but I didn't identify any. Some hunters reported males. The flock numbered between 15 and 20, and were feeding on mountain holly berries. They were using rhododendron for cover, so it was hard to know exactly how many there were.

-- Genevieve E. Scott

TAME GROSBEEKS -- A flock of four pine grosbeaks budding a white pine in a Rosendale Road yard on December 5 were typically tame. They permitted an observer to walk up to them and to stand hardly six feet from them while the birds continued to feed.

BLACKOUT BIRDS -- It was during the blackout of November 22, with everything quiet and dark, that a small flock of golden-eyes went whistling in flight along the wide waters of the Mohawk River below Niskayuna.

MANY GEESE -- About a thousand Canada geese were included in the flock seen by Benjamin D. Foote of Alplaus, in high flight down the Mohawk River at 5:45 p.m. (EWT), just before dark, on November 16. The birds, as so often the case when the flights are large, were not in V formation. Their wing-beat was slow.

EARLY REDPOLLS -- Probably the first local observer to see redpolls this season was Barrington S. Havens, who had a flock of 25 of the birds under surveillance at his Jenny Lake camp on November 14.

Redpolls were to be seen closer to Schenectady on November 24, while the trees were still covered heavily with the pre-Thanksgiving snow. Weed seeds were hardly available to the birds, the snow was so heavy. Along the lower Lisha Kill a mixed flock of about 50 redpolls and a dozen or more goldfinches swooped down to a snow-laden birch, knocked the snow off the twigs with their fluttering, and then fed on the buds.

FEATHERS

WINTER HERONS -- Additional to the great blue heron appearing on this year's Christmas Count -- which bird is probably the one also recorded in December at Collins Lake -- one was seen by P. Schuyler Miller on December 6, along the Normanskill a little above Watervliet Reservoir.

WINTER SONG SPARROWS -- Along the River Road at Niskayuna is a small, brushy marsh that can almost be depended on for winter records of song sparrows -- and it has never failed on Christmas Counts. Usually it is a case of finding a few of the sparrows at scattered points in the marsh; the last count produced eight there, all in a compact group.

DUCKS, WRONG DAY -- For the second time in 15 years the American merganser was missing this time from the Christmas count, despite some open water below both Locks 7 and 8 and at the Binnekill. On New Year's Day, however, there were four mergansers at the Binnekill; and the great blue heron, found there on the Christmas Count, was also seen.

-- Nelle Van Vorst

OWL AT EASE -- A barred owl was found in one of the ravines along the Rosendale (River) Road by Benton Seguin during the Christmas Count. On December 30 a barred owl was again recorded along the road, about a mile nearer the city. At daybreak it was sitting in plain sight in an elm about 100 yards back from the road. At dusk it was even more in plain sight, in a large oak right beside the road and hardly a dozen feet above ground. It permitted an automobile to be stopped right beneath it and, while on the alert, did not fly. It might have been the same owl as the one of the Christmas Count -- it was not seen there on successive days.

-- Guy Bartlett

MORE CROSSBILLS -- Four red crossbills were seen in Central Park on Sunday, December 12, by Nelle Van Vorst and me. At least one of them was a full-plumaged male. -- Alice Holmes.

SISK-POLLS -- Both redpolls and pine siskins were seen, and identified, in Central Park on November 28. -- N. V. V.

MARCH MEETING -- "Fun with the Birds" will be the topic at our March meeting. Mrs. Laura Reynolds of California will be the speaker, and she will have colored motion pictures to illustrate her talk. Mrs. Reynolds, incidentally, is also to appear at a meeting of the Massachusetts Audubon Society in March. The meeting will be held Thursday evening, March 9, in the Nott Terrace High School auditorium. There will be an admission charge.

1943 RECORDS -- Have you been turning in your records of arrival and departure dates? The story for 1943 is being completed, and only if all cooperate will the full story of the past year be complete. It has been asked by the chairman of the records committee, W. Roy Steele, that all lists of 1943 be sent to him promptly.

WHILE WATCHING FOR PLANES

Genevieve E. Scott

"It's an ill wind that blows no good." So runs the old saw. The ill wind that brought the need for Aircraft Warning Posts also brought me the chance to do birding three blessed hours each week, between 6 and 9 in the morning.

The Post where I was stationed is east of the recently straightened section of the Scotia-Thomas Corners Road. In front of the Post, between the new and old roads, is a marshy plot of ground covered with low bushes and rank-growing plants. There are also two large trees in this area. To the west are level fields reaching to the low hills. To the east, as far back as the Boston and Maine freight line, is a barren field filled with low-growing shrubs, weeds and a few small trees. The nearest houses are a good city block away from the tower.

Close to the tower and on a level with it are telephone and electric lines, which gave us a grand opportunity to study birds at eye level. Back of the towers an abandoned, half-dug cellar provided a natural bird bath.

Forty-one Species

In spite of the barren aspect of the immediate area surrounding the Post, and in spite of the unusually hard winter of 1942-1943, we were able to identify 41 species over a period of a year. Many warblers in fall plumage, hawks, and water birds were seen but not identified.

During migration season in the fall of 1942 the outstanding event was the arrival just at daybreak of a great flock of bluebirds. They settled on telephone wires, small bushes and trees in such great numbers that we couldn't possibly count them. They seemed to be playing a game as they swooped and circled, then settled down again. The air was filled with their soft calls. They fed in that area until 8:30 a.m., and then flew west toward Brewster's woods.

Winter Birds

During the winter there were the usual residents in our vicinity, but there were few of them. Downy woodpeckers seemed to be most prevalent. One brown creeper, an occasional hairy woodpecker, and a few nuthatches visited us. Chickadees didn't appear on our list until early spring, and along with them were three sapsuckers. During a heavy snowstorm a male pheasant dodged quickly from cover to cover. Later in the spring many pheasants, both male and female, were in the fields back of the Post.

On March 27, 1942, before daylight we heard killdeer in the fields beyond the B. & M. Railroad. At the same time we

heard what I thought was a woodcock. The nasal call similar to that of the nighthawk was a poser. Along with it we heard a gurgling, chattering flight song. Some day I would like to know what the bird or birds were.

Later in the morning we watched our first sparrow hawk of the season. We were able to observe this beautiful little falcon from all angles and at close range. At least one pair was in that area all summer. That same morning a large flock of gulls flew very low over the tower.

It was thrilling to be able to observe many birds closely over a long period of time. A flock of myrtle warblers spent one morning in early May with us. They seemed to enjoy the bird bath very much.

Nesting Thrashers

The brown thrasher was particularly delightful. He perched on the wires directly in front of us and talked in a low, throaty chuckle. A pair nested nearby and we were able to observe them feeding their stubby-tailed young.

Wood thrushes gathered food along the edge of the old road. Occasionally one perched quite near us.

Kingbirds darted hither and yon, and scolded incessantly. They used the wires near us as a vantage point to watch for insects.

Ant-eaters

The flickers ate ants industriously just below the tower. During each spring they hammered madly at the telephone poles and made such a din that we couldn't have heard a dozen bombers overhead.

The meadowlarks perched on the tip of a small tree nearby, and their golden notes ushered in many a morning.

Other birds listed were: catbird, robin, yellow warbler, redstart, red-wing, Baltimore oriole, bronzed grackle, cowbird, goldfinch, chipping sparrow, field sparrow, song sparrow, mourning dove, kingfisher, crested flycatcher, phoebe, wood pewee, blue jay, crow, starling, red-eyed vireo, magnolia warbler (1), black and white warbler, and English sparrow.

Unseen Towhee

We heard the red-eyed towhee all summer, but were never able to get a glimpse of him. We also heard a cuckoo in the trees along Horstman Creek.

The last day I was on duty, just before the 24-hour observation was suspended, a small flock of bluebirds came into the area very early and stayed to breakfast there. Thus began and ended my birding at an observation post.

FEATHERS

Published by the Schenectady Bird Club

Vol. 6, No. 2

February, 1944

FIFTEEN YEARS OF CHRISTMAS COUNTS

**Sixty-two Species in Total Count, with Nearly
Sixty Thousand Individuals Included --
Only Eleven Kinds On All Lists --
Crow and Starling Total 70%**

Guy Bartlett

Fifty-nine thousand, five hundred and thirty birds, of 62 species, have been counted in a matter of 15 years in Schenectady's annual Christmas Counts. Eighty-four different people have been included among the hikers; and they have gone, in groups, 600 miles on foot and 1477 miles by car, or a matter of 2077 miles. Temperatures have been as low as -22, and as high as 56 degrees. They have encountered all sorts of weather -- clear and windless days, cloudy and windy days, and even snow and rain. Almost without exception their reports have been "minimum of open water, except below dams."

The hikers have seen as many as 37 kinds and as few as 18 in one year; and as many as 9000 or as few as 1029 birds. Only 11 of the species have been seen in each year, and 10 kinds have been recorded one year only.

Crow, 37%

Most abundant of Schenectady's Christmas birds is the crow, which accounted for 37% of the count -- 22,040 individuals. The 1943 count, only 127, was far below the average; the count has been as high as 4200.

The starling, with a count of 19,963, is second high, with 33.5% of the total. Next is the English sparrow with 5,783, or 9.7%; then the tree sparrow with 3,794, or 6.4%; and the chickadee fifth with 2750, or 4.6%. No other species has recorded as many as 1,000 count.

Together the crow and starling account for 70.5% of the records; and they with the English sparrow for 80.2%. Next in abundance has been the goldfinch with 923, redpoll with 800, blue jay with 722, junco with 552, and white-breasted nuthatch with 495. These ten together total 97% of the count.

TABLE I

CHRISTMAS COUNT, 1929-43	1929 (1)	1929 (2)	1930	1931 (1)	1931 (2)	1932 (1)	1932 (2)	1933	1934	1935
Number of species	15	9	28	34	11	29	22	32	31	26
Number of individuals	838	191	3100	7566	202	7700	1300	2010	7390	3070
Horned grebe						1				
Great blue heron										
Mallard				9						
Black duck				23				1	3	
American golden-eye			#	11						1
American merganser	3		7	66		22		45	2	2
Red-breasted merganser				24						
Goshawk			1							
Sharp-shinned hawk			#					1		
Red-tailed hawk				1						2
Red-shouldered hawk		3	1							
Rough-legged hawk			2	1						
Marsh hawk			1	2				1	1	
Sparrow hawk			2	3		6	1	1	2	1
Ruffed grouse			1	13		4	9	8	2	6
European partridge						7				
Ring-necked pheasant		3	8	8		5	1	54	16	7
Herring gull	1	2	2	23		1		10	2	2
Ring-billed gull				3						
Mourning dove									5	1
Screech owl	#		1	1		1		2		
Great horned owl						#	3	2	1	
Snowy owl										
Barred owl			1	1		1	2	1	1	1
Long-eared owl										
Belted kingfisher			1	1		1	2	4	1	
Flicker										
Pileated woodpecker			#	3			1			
Hairy woodpecker				5		6	4	5	3	3
Downy woodpecker	1	1	3	8	2	23	10	19	26	12
Northern horned lark	10								15	
Prairie horned lark			#			20		18	5	32
Blue jay	3		15	5	2	48	10	19	24	12
Crow	375	27	1617	2000	12	4200	400	550	1750	1300
Black-capped chickadee	9	7	85	88	20	163	164	76	188	77
White-breasted nuthatch	#	2	7	5		20	18	25	34	7
Red-breasted nuthatch			4		2			2		
Brown creeper			2	13	3	10	3	2	9	3
Winter wren				3		3		1	1	
Robin						1				
Hermit thrush										
Bluebird										
Golden-crowned kinglet			19	6		6	18	9	27	
Cedar waxwing								3		
Northern shrike			3			1		1	2	1
Starling	268	129	945	3600	53	2200	200	700	3943	933
English sparrow	90	17	135	1400		650	100	180	495	221
Meadowlark							5			
Red-wing				2		1				1
Cowbird				75						
Evening grosbeak	12									
Purple finch	10			6						
Pine grosbeak	5				2					
Redpoll	18				1					110
Pine siskin										
Goldfinch	6		5	9	35	30	55	12	374	14
Slate-colored junco	#		30	23		7	70	29	21	11
Tree sparrow	27		192	121	70	214	56	211	296	296
Swamp sparrow								4		
Song sparrow			7	7		21	1	14	43	11
Lapland longspur									1	
Snow bunting								#	35	

TABLE I

CHRISTMAS COUNT, 1929-43	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	Yrs & Total
Number of species	27	35	34	26	30	33	33	30	62
Number of individuals	2444	2609	4439	3469	3501	3935	2868	2898	59,530
Horned grebe									1- 1
Great blue heron								1	1- 1
Mallard									1- 9
Black duck	12		2	1		1			7- 43
American golden-eye		2	#	6	27	6	4		3- 14
American merganser		3	7						13- 200
Red-breasted merganser									1- 24
Goshawk	1		1	1				2	5- 6
Sharp-shinned hawk				2					2- 3
Red-tailed hawk	1	5		1	1	2	2	3	9- 18
Red-shouldered hawk		2	1		1	1	2		7- 11
Rough-legged hawk		1	1	1	1	9	1		8- 17
Marsh hawk		1	3	1	2	3	1		10- 16
Sparrow hawk	5	8	7	5	5	2	3	8	14- 59
Ruffed grouse	9	13	7	4	5	9	7	13	14- 110
European partridge									1- 7
Ring-necked pheasant	9	15	8	12	6	37	14	23	15- 226
Herring gull	3	2	3	15	23	4	1	1	15- 95
Ring-billed gull					#				1- 3
Mourning dove			1					1	4- 8
Screech owl		1	1	#	#			1	7- 8
Great horned owl	1	1		#		2	1		7- 11
Snowy owl		1							1- 1
Barred owl								2	7- 10
Long-eared owl		6							1- 6
Belted kingfisher	3	1	1					2	9- 17
Flicker						2	1		2- 3
Pileated woodpecker							#		2- 4
Hairy woodpecker	6	9	8	7	12	15	8	21	13- 112
Downy woodpecker	19	34	28	24	36	47	54	65	15- 412
Northern horned lark									2- 25
Prairie horned lark		3	3	#			12	8	8- 101
Blue jay	24	47	24	14	148	110	125	92	15- 722
Crow	882	644	2800	2582	783	1133	858	127	15- 22040
Black-capped chickadee	242	212	249	108	266	240	180	376	15- 2750
White-breasted nuthatch	48	36	47	21	83	42	32	79	15- 496
Red-breasted nuthatch		2	1		12	1	3	2	9- 29
Brown creeper	5	7	#		1	3	7	13	13- 83
Winter wren	2	1	1	#					7- 12
Robin			1		1		1		4- 4
Hermit thrush		1					1		2- 2
Bluebird		4				2		1	3- 7
Golden-crowned kinglet	4	8	14		19	4	16	31	12- 181
Cedar waxwing		5	3		1		1		5- 13
Northern shrike	2				1	2	#		8- 13
Starling	772	839	610	314	1250	559	679	969	15- 19963
English sparrow	193	418	369	145	225	547	155	443	15- 5783
Meadowlark			1		1	2			4- 9
Red-wing				1				1	5- 6
Cowbird	2				2				3- 79
Evening grosbeak									1- 12
Purple finch				2					3- 18
Pine grosbeak			4				1		4- 12
Redpoll						188		483	5- 800
Pine siskin				15	15	6			3- 36
Goldfinch	34	52	10	63	84	94	33	13	15- 923
Slate-colored junco	62	16	30	1	28	69	142	13	14- 552
Tree sparrow	93	197	186	118	446	748	439	84	15- 3794
Swamp sparrow									1- 4
Song sparrow	4	12	5	5	16	15	13	20	14- 194
Lapland longspur							20		2- 21
Snow bunting	2					30	51		4- 118

FEATHERS

SCHENECTADY BIRD CLUB

Annual Membership: Active, \$2; Assoc., \$1

Mrs. Anna Dickerman, Editor
1088 Dean St., Schenectady, N.Y.

In Table I, pages 10 and 11, are summarized the records for the fifteen years. By way of explanation, the # indicates records for that species on near dates but not on the census count itself. In the final column of page 11 the first figure shows the number of years the bird was recorded, and the second figure the total count.

Table II lists the birds in order of abundance, irrespective of how many years it was missed. It will be noticed in this table that, although recorded in only five of the 15 counts, the redpoll stands high in abundance. The second column of Table II shows the maximum count of the species in any one year.

TABLE II

Crow	22040	4200	Cowbird	79	75	Barred owl	10	2
Starling	19963	3943	Sparrow hawk	59	8	Mallard	9	9
Engl. sparrow	5783	1400	Black duck	43	23	Meadowlark	9	5
Tree sparrow	3794	748	Siskin	36	15	Mourning dove	8	5
Chickadee	2750	376	Red-br.nuth.	29	12	Screech owl	8	2
Goldfinch	923	374	No.h.lark	25	15	Eur.partridge	7	7
Redpoll	800	483	Red-br.merg.	24	24	Bluebird	7	4
Blue jay	722	148	Lapl.longsp.	21	20	Long-ear.owl	6	6
Junco	552	142	Red-tail hk.	18	5	Red-wing	6	2
Wh-br.nuth.	495	83	Purp.finch	18	10	Goshawk	6	2
Downy woodp.	412	65	Rough-leg.hk	17	9	Pileat.woodp.	4	3
Pheasant	226	54	Kingfisher	17	4	Robin	4	1
Am.merganser	200	66	Marsh hawk	16	3	Swamp sparrow	4	4
Song sparrow	194	43	Am.gold-eye	14	11	Sharp-shin.hk	3	2
Gold-cr.king.	181	31	Osprey	13	5	Ring-bill gull	3	3
Snow bunting	118	51	No.shrike	13	3	Flicker	3	2
Hairy woodp.	112	21	Winter wren	12	3	Hermit thrush	2	1
Ruffed grouse	110	13	Eve.grosbk.	12	12	Horned grebe	1	1
Pr.horn lark	101	32	Pine grosb.	12	5	Gr.blue heron	1	1
Herring gull	95	23	Red-shld.hk	11	3	Snowy owl	1	1
Br. creeper	83	13	Gr.horn owl	11	3			

Table III summarizes the 62 species according to the number of years they have been seen. Considering only the most recent five counts, the only ones made officially by S B C, a somewhat different record is obtained. Seventeen species have been seen in each of the five years -- Red-tailed hawk, sparrow hawk, ruffed grouse, pheasant, herring gull, hairy woodpecker, downy woodpecker, blue jay, crow, chickadee, white-breasted nuthatch, starling, English sparrow, goldfinch, junco, tree sparrow, and song sparrow. Seen in four of the five years have been six species -- American merganser, rough-legged hawk, marsh hawk, red-breasted nuthatch, brown creeper, and golden-crowned kinglet. The five-year record includes 49 species; missing from the recent list have been the horned grebe, mallard, American golden-eye #, red-breasted merganser, European partridge, ring-billed gull #, snowy owl, long-eared

TABLE III

<u>15 years</u> (11)	<u>9 years</u> (3)	<u>3 years</u> (5)
Pheasant	Red-tailed hawk	Amer. golden-eye
Herring gull	Kingfisher	Bluebird
Downy woodpecker	Red-br. nuthatch	Cowbird
Blue jay	<u>8 years</u> (3)	Purple finch
Crow	Rough-legged hawk	Pine siskin
Chickadee	Northern shrike	<u>2 years</u> (6)
Wh-br. nuthatch	Prairie h. lark	Sharp-shinned hawk
Starling	<u>7 years</u> (6)	Flicker
Engl. sparrow	Black duck	Pileated woodpkr.
Goldfinch	Red-should. hawk	No. horned lark
Tree sparrow	Screech owl	Hermit thrush
<u>14 years</u> (4)	Great horned owl	Lapland longspur
Sparrow hawk	Barred owl	<u>1 year</u> (10)
Ruffed grouse	Winter wren	Horned grebe
Junco	<u>5 years</u> (4)	Great blue heron
Song sparrow	Goshawk	Mallard
<u>13 years</u> (3)	Cedar waxwing	Red-br. merganser
Amer. merganser	Red-wing	European partridge
Hairy woodpecker	Redpoll	Ring-billed gull
Brown creeper	<u>4 years</u> (5)	Snowy owl
<u>12 years</u> (1)	Mourning dove	Long-eared owl
Gold-cr. kinglet	Robin	Evening grosbeak
<u>10 years</u> (1)	Meadowlark	Swamp sparrow
Marsh hawk	Pine Grosbeak	
	Snow bunting	

owl, pileated woodpecker #, northern horned lark, winter wren #, evening grosbeak, and swamp sparrow. In the case of four of these species (checked #) there have been recent records of the birds on near dates.

Those Participating

In the most recent five years 51 members of S. B. C. and their guests have taken part in the hikes and, in addition, several more have contributed records from their feeding stations and home vicinity. Of the 51, more than half have been on two or more hikes. In the following tabulation the numbers in parentheses show the total number of hikes, including those made before SBC was organized. The list includes:

FIVE YEARS -- Guy Bartlett (15), Frank Freese (7), Esly Hallenbeck (8), Alice Holmes (9), P. Schuyler Miller (9), Rudolph A. Stone (6), Nelle Van Vorst (10). Total, 7.

FOUR YEARS -- George H. Bainbridge (10), Alice Moore (7), Chester N. Moore (10), Stephanie Podrazik, Dr. Minnie B. Scotland, John H. Voght. Total, 6.

THREE YEARS -- Pauline E. Baker, Edna Becker (5), Dorothy W. Caldwell, Edna Dromms, Barrington S. Havens (11), Idella M. Heacox, B. D. Miller (9), Vincent J. Schaefer (7), Benton R. Seguin (8). Total, 9

TWO YEARS -- H. V. D. Allen, Mrs. George H. Bainbridge,

FEATHERS

J. W. Freese (4), Mrs. L. J. Mattimore, Harry Oleson, D. A. Ruddy, Sr. (4). Total, 6

ONE YEAR -- Malcolm Andrews, Helen Cole, Dan Fiscusi, Edna Hallenbeck, Mrs. Hans Huthstainer, Mrs. H. G. Kelley, Marilyn Kelley, John Kelly, Arthur L. Kimball, Paul Korneke, Mrs. Paul Korneke, Viola Mabb, L. J. Mattimore, Carl Remscheid, Mrs. M. E. Rexford, D. A. Ruddy, Jr. (3), E. W. Scott, Mrs. E. W. Scott, Margaret Smith, W. Roy Steele (4), Mrs. W.R. Steele, Robert Underwood (5), Mrs. John H. Voght. Total, 23.

In addition to these 51 participants there were, in the first 10 years, 33 additional hikers. Together the 84 persons have made 265 trips, of which 121 were made in the most recent five years.

Summary of Conditions

1929 (Trip 1) -- Dec. 23; 10 hours; 8 to 16°; slight north wind; cloudy. 6 observers; 10 party-hours; 9 miles on foot, 20 by car. 15 species, 838 individuals, plus 3 species on near dates. (Trip 2) -- Dec. 22; 6 hours; 26 to 30°; slight west wind; snowing part of time. One observer; 4 hours afield; 4 miles on foot. 9 species, 191 individuals. (Composite) -- 7 observers; 14 party-hours; 13 miles on foot, 20 by car. 18 species, 1029 individuals.

1930 -- Dec. 21; 9 hours; 35 to 42°; slight west wind; partly cloudy. 5 observers; 18 party-hours; 17 miles on foot, 60 by car. 28 species, 3100 individuals, plus 5 species on near dates.

1931 (Trip 1) -- Dec. 26; 11 hours; 15 to 20°; very strong northwest wind; clear. 16 observers; 71 party-hours; 30 miles on foot, 160 by car. 34 species, 7566 individuals. (Trip 2) -- Dec. 27; 7½ hours; 12 to 32°; slight northwest wind; clear. One observer; 10 miles on foot. 11 species, 202 individuals. (Composite) -- 17 observers; 81 party-hours; 40 miles on foot, 160 by car. 37 species, 7768 individuals.

1932 (Trip 1) -- Dec. 24; 10 hours; 32 to 45°; no wind; clear. 10 observers, 50 party-hours; 20 miles on foot, 95 by car. 29 species, 7700 individuals, plus 1 species on near date. (Trip 2) -- Dec. 26; 9 hours; 32 to 40°; no wind to strong west wind; partly cloudy. 15 observers; 36 party-hours; 20 miles on foot, 85 by car. 22 species, 1300 individuals. (Composite) -- 22 observers; 86 party-hours; 40 miles on foot, 180 by car. 32 species, 9000 individuals.

1933 -- Dec. 23; 10 hours; 20 to 29°; no wind; cloudy; 14 observers, 50 party-hours; 30 miles on foot, 90 by car. 32 species, 2010 individuals, plus 1 species on near date.

1934 -- Dec. 23; 10 hours; 7 to 18°; no wind; cloudy. 13 observers; 50 party-hours; 40 miles on foot, 85 by car. 31 species, 7390 individuals.

1935 -- Dec. 21; 9 hours; 5 to 10°; very strong west wind; cloudy. 12 observers; 45 party-hours; 35 miles on foot, 70 by car. 26 species, 3070 individuals.

1936 -- Dec. 26; 9 hours; 38 to 56°; slight southwest wind; cloudy. 13 observers; 36 party-hours; 30 miles on foot, 65 by car. 27 species, 2444 individuals.

1937 -- Dec. 26; 10 hours; 30 to 45°; no wind to mild northwest; partly cloudy. 20 observers; 63 party-hours; 46 miles on foot, 90 by car. 35 species, 2609 individuals.

1938 -- Dec. 26; 10 hours; 18 to 30°; no wind; clear. 22 observers; 76 party-hours; 72 miles on foot, 80 by car. 34 species, 4439 individuals.

1939 -- Dec. 23; 8½ hours; 18 to 28°; very strong west wind; clear, then cloudy. 24 observers; 34 party-hours; 33 miles on foot, 86 by car. 26 species, 3469 individuals, plus 5 species on near dates.

1940 -- Dec. 22; 9 hours; 36 to 39°; slight east wind; cloudy, then rain. 29 observers; 51½ party-hours; 48 miles on foot, 172 by car. 30 species, 3501 individuals, plus 4 species on near dates.

1941 -- Dec. 21; 9½ hours; -4 to 13°; mild northwest wind; clear. 25 observers; 47 party-hours; 40 miles on foot, 158 by car. 33 species, 3935 individuals.

1942 -- Dec. 20; 8½ hours; -22 to -20°; no wind to slight northwest; clear. 23 observers; 40 party-hours; 48 miles on foot, 95 by car. 33 species, 2868 individuals.

1943 -- Dec. 26; 10 hours; 10 to 30°; slight east wind; partly cloudy. 23 observers; 54½ party-hours; 68 miles on foot, 66 by car. 30 species, 2898 individuals, plus 1 species on near date.

15-year averages -- 9½ hours per count; 27° (averaging 21° for low of day and 34° for high of day); 18 observers; 51 party-hours; 40 miles on foot, 98 by car. 30 species, 3970 individuals.

Highest count, 37 in 1931; lowest count, 18 in 1929. Highest total, 9000 in 1932; lowest total, 1029 in 1929. Maximum duration, 11 hours; minimum duration, 8½ hours. Maximum temperature, 56° in 1936; minimum temperature, -22° in 1942. Most observers, 29 in 1940; fewest, 14 in 1929. Maximum party-hours, 76 in 1938; minimum, 14 in 1929. Miles on foot from 13 (1929) to 72 (1938); miles by car from 33 (1929) to 172 (1940).

15-year totals -- 62 species, 59,530 counted individuals. 84 different observers; 746 party-hours afield; 600 miles on foot, 1477 miles by car; 2077 total miles.

A YANKEE IN TEXAS

(The following is taken from a letter written to an S B C member by an Army Lieutenant who has been stationed in Mississippi, Oklahoma, Texas, and other camps in the South. It was written late in November.)

.

From Camp Swift, Texas, where I have been stationed, I recently went to Nachitoches, La. (60-some miles southeast of Shreveport) during some time off. I had my bed-roll, went bash fishing, and had a swell time. I never tired of watching the anhingas and pelicans.

There are more waterfowl in Louisiana than I ever knew existed -- geese of all kinds by the hundreds, and all the dabbling ducks by the thousands. I saw only one pair of divers -- canvasbacks -- but there no doubt were more in the huge flocks that I didn't pick out.

Just at dusk when I was plug-casting for large-mouths, the burrowing owls would come out and hover, much like a sparrow hawk, and make a curious crying note.

I spent a lot of time trying to identify different birds, and there are a lot I haven't identified yet. The sparrows are the hardest; the painted bunting and scissor-tailed fly-catcher the easiest. Even chickadees are different down here. In the case of most of the birds it is easy to tell generally what they are; but to be specific is hard, especially with the bird books of the Southern libraries. If I had known French when I was there, I would have been much better off. A Frenchman that I met on the Cane River had a name for them all -- mallards were "canards," coots were "poule d'eau."

My fellow officers used to kid me about taking my glasses and bed roll and going "camping" after being out in the woods and swamps all the time; but I have enjoyed it much more than going into town to a hotel.

Theoretically there are supposed to be gray wolves, bear and puma where we have been, but the only things I have seen were hundreds of armadillos and a few opossums -- although I saw many gray fox, raccoon and mink tracks as well. I imagine that the thousands of maneuvering troops, firing blanks night and day, would drive out much of the life -- but the ducks, doves and quail don't seem to mind. Neither did several varieties of rattlers, but no one was bitten. I saw only one copperhead, two coral snakes, and no cotton-mouths, but they were all fairly common in September when it was warm.

Here at Swift it is still nice and pleasant. The natives say it gets cold here about January, and sometimes snows, so that doesn't sound so bad. By comparison I'm lightly clad, with the window open -- but after being in Texas and Oklahoma in August, I'd still take the cold of the North.

FEATHERS

Published by the Schenectady Bird Club

Vol. 6, No. 3

March, 1944

NEW YEAR'S FLEDGLINGS

Laura S. Beck

Two twiggy birch saplings bridge the space between the glass feeding-box, hooked to a dining-room storm-window, and the shelter of pine branches tied to a back-porch pillar. Up on these natural perching-sites, three bunty, stubby-tailed, short-winged, late-hatched house sparrows stoically face the New Year, and the treacherous weather of the month of January.

Amongst some things jotted down late last Fall:

No sign of bloom ... no tinted leaf ...
Autumnal beauty, quite too brief!

All migrants gone some weeks before ...
Two sparrows bar a cottage door.

Five noisy neighbor-birds stand by
On branch and twig ... I wonder why?

A sudden flurry near at hand! ...
Two pairs of wings on the food-stand!

"My goodness me! ... A fledgling bird!
Bird-babes in down, who ever heard!

A late-Fall hatching! ... Soon comes snow!
Shrewd mother now guards from below."

The babe shows not the slightest fear;
Seems quite to feel her place is here;

On shelf or near glassed-box to pose;
In rare sunshine, to toast her toes.

Later in the day the youngster was huddled on the shelf - a befeathered egg, tiny beak and short tail added for effect - seemingly quite alone, but no; the dun-coated mother peered down from the brown masses of tangled Heavenly Blues' vines and leaves. Her bright eye pierced mine as though to note my reaction towards an extra guest.

In a few days "Tiny" was joined by two slightly bib-flecked young sparrows. These, later, disappeared for brief spaces, but Tiny simply spent her earlier weeks right here, sheltering in pine-crotch and plume nooks, feasting on wild-bird seed and crumbs; trying her wings to and from our own



SCHENECTADY BIRD CLUB

Annual Membership: Active, \$2; Assoc., \$1

Mrs. Anna Dickerman, Editor
1088 Dean St., Schenectady, N.Y.

little natural woodland (the third of our 66 x 172 lot). Perched fearlessly in my window, she obtained her sunshine-vitamins as afforded by the late season.

Bluebirds were our desire when we ordered cottages from Tom's River, but the bluebirds hailed in just one day too late, on last Easter Sunday, along with a flock of juncos and other migrants. I had just yielded, unwillingly, to the persistency of several sparrows with designs on two of the cottages.

Our winter scene is always enlivened by the behaviour of the usual little group of sparrows, Arctic chippies or tree sparrows, chickadees, blue jays, occasional downies - but this trio of late-hatched house sparrows - especially through Tiny. They have so bravely and successfully faced the quite evident discomforts and even hardships of - to them - an untimely late Fall and severe Winter.

SOME NEW HAMPSHIRE MARTINS

Edith B. Clare, Arlington, Mass.

The recent Schenectady Bird Club Bulletin No. 2, summarizing records of the purple martin in the northeast, contained mention of only one colony in New Hampshire. My husband and I own a summer place in Northwood Narrows, N.H., and during the past few years have made a survey, on our own, of the purple martin colonies in that vicinity.

We have two martin houses on our place. One is a 32-apartment house made from a 50-gallon oak barrel. Several years martins have looked it over but have not remained, and we decided it was because the pole was only 12 feet high. We have since learned that martins like a higher elevation.

In the fall of 1940 we erected another house, with 16 apartments, on a 21-foot pole. In the spring of 1942 several martins moved in but, although seven adult birds remained all summer, there were only two nests with young.

In the spring of 1943 a total of 24 adult birds returned to the house. Eight pairs nested this past summer, although the 24 adults remained about the house all summer. Last fall the barrel house was taken down and re-erected on a higher pole. Although the martins did not nest in it this past summer, one pair seemed to be trying to reserve it, and continually worried a pair of bluebirds that nested in it.

Other New Hampshire Colonies

Paul Thorat, Bow Lake, Strafford, has three large martin houses, all quite well filled. One of his houses, erected

early in the spring of 1943, is a model of an airplane, very cleverly done. Martins took it immediately!

On the Rawling estate, Parker Mountain, Mr. Foss has four houses. Ivan Hayes, at Center Strafford, has two well-filled houses. One of them looks like a little church.

Another very large martin colony is at the home of Eugene Call, Short Falls, near the railroad station. This colony, we believe, was the largest of last summer.

Mrs. Kelley in Northwood Center has an occupied martin house. In Barnstead there are three colonies, and in Laconia there are two well-filled houses.

George C. Atwell of Strafford, president of the New Hampshire Audubon Society, has a colony started. The birds returned to him this past summer for the second year.

A KEY TO BIRD SONGS

Barrington S. Havens

One of the difficulties frequently mentioned as besetting the path of the eager student of bird songs and notes is the lack of any comprehensive guide to such notes. There are, of course, reference works which are helpful in such study, but there seem to be objections to them on one ground or another.

For example, one of the more popular methods of representing the songs and other notes of the birds is by drawing a definite comparison with man-made music. For birds undeniably do, on occasion, produce songs which bear a remarkable resemblance to such music. One SBC member tells of the oriole which once nested near his home and which regularly sang the first two measures of "The Spanish Cavalier." And the writer remembers with delight the song sparrow which ceaselessly subscribed to the current vogue in popular music by caroling a very good imitation of "a hey nonny-nonny and a hot-cha-cha."

Grand Opera Attributes

Bird literature abounds with similar examples. F. Schuyler Matthews, whose nature guides are so helpful to the eager student, goes so far as to attribute grand opera and similar classical music to the syrinxes of some of the birds he lists.

It is my belief, however, that such musical representation of bird notes is on the whole misleading, for the reason that most of the resemblances occur in the songs of birds whose singing undergoes wide variation both among individuals and from time to time with the same individual. Furthermore, it is rare that the resemblance is really very close, and of-

FEATHERS

ten one has to use a great deal of imagination to hear what someone else suggests is being sung.

Closely related to this type of musical representation of bird notes are the attempts to write out the bird songs by means of musical notation. Such an attempt would be much more laudable were it not for the fact, so obvious to those who have attempted such a feat on, shall we say, an engineering basis, that the birds do not always sing on the piano keys but as often as not "in the cracks." And the job is further complicated by reason of the lack of musical notation to represent the extensive variations in the nature or quality of bird notes which are found. Music has no way of representing the liquid consonants of the hermit thrush, the plucked strings of the bobolink, or the "scree-e-e-eeey" quality of the brown creeper.

Songs as Words

An approach which comes still closer to an understandable representation of the bird notes is the one which involves translating what the bird sings into human words, syllables, or sentences. This method has been very helpful, especially in getting beginners acquainted with bird notes. Some of its outstandingly successful examples include the various renderings of the white-throated sparrow song and the "witchety-witchety-witchety-witch" used to denote the song of the northern yellowthroat. But this method, while very helpful where it can be used, can only be used in a comparatively small number of cases. Experience has shown that, after a few outstanding examples of its application are grasped, the going gets harder until the pupil reaches the point where he does not recognize the bird as singing what the instructor says he sings, even after a field demonstration.

A really scientific approach to the problem has been made by Aretas A. Saunders, whose two books on bird song go a long way toward solving the problem of accurate representation. But, accurate though they may be, many bird lovers raise the objection that Mr. Saunders' method is too difficult to learn or follow except through long study, and the great majority of students seem to want to learn their bird notes the easy way.

Recorded Music

And, speaking of "the easy way," it seems that the reproduction of bird songs on phonograph records offers a real solution. The recordings made by the late Albert R. Brand and others of Cornell University, with the records made readily available to the public, are doing excellent work. Unfortunately there are technical difficulties to prevent full-quality reproduction of many of the songs on today's phonograph records, but it is probable there will be continued improvements in sound reproducers, and hence better bird-song recordings.

The writer has long believed that some kind of assistance could be provided these distressed song students by means of a

key to bird songs. The preparation of such a key would be attended by a number of difficulties, such as definition of terms and the time and work necessary to produce it, and for this reason, although notes have been kept and added to from time to time, the key is still in its preliminary stages.

The first-mentioned difficulty, the necessity of defining terms, is much more important than at first might be recognized. Guy Bartlett and the writer for years have had a more or less unspoken understanding that "it sounds to me" is understood whenever either of us describes bird notes. For we have found that what one of us describes as a nasal sound doesn't sound that way at all to the other. And, if the reader wishes to get a first-hand experience of this difficulty, let him ask six average bird students what they understand to be meant by the term "warble." So a glossary of such terms is planned, in which each one is not only described but also illustrated by reference to at least one familiar bird song or note to which the term may be applied. For example, if we consider the first two notes of the "cheese, cheese, any more cheese" song of the black-throated green warbler as having a nasal quality, then we can at least understand that term if used in that sense.

Two Broad Classifications

One of the biggest difficulties remaining, outside of the time and labor involved, is arriving at some means of classification. This problem has occupied the writer over a considerable period of time, and at least a starting point has been reached. Whether it is the best method of classification for such a key remains to be seen, but at least it can be used to begin with, and if experience indicates a better method can be adopted, then it can be discarded in favor of the better.

The present plan is to subdivide all bird notes first into two broad classifications: those which involve no change in pitch (or such slight change as to be negligible), and those which definitely change pitch. With this as a starter, we can begin to break down the main classifications, and the major breakdowns are quite similar. The following tabulation gives an idea of the first stages of the key, and as it is developed further, it is planned to publish additional explanatory articles on it in FEATHERS.

KEY TO BIRD SONGS

A - Songs involving no change in pitch (or very slight change)

1. "Chain" songs, in which the bird utters a regular repetition sufficiently close together to be considered uninterrupted, rather than a number of separate songs.
 - a. Rapid chains; for example, chipping sparrow.
 - b. Slow chains; for example, the normal "yanks" of the white-breasted nuthatch.

2. Screams, cries, whistles, squeaks, etc.

- a. Screams: the "thief" note of the bluejay.
- b. Cries: the "peek" of the downy or hairy woodpecker.
- c. Whistles: one of the notes of the cedar waxwing.
- d. Squeaks: the rare notes of the ruby-throated hummingbird.

3. Rhythmic, uneven, groupings (as distinguished from chains).

Examples: great horned and barred owls; flight notes of redpolls and pine siskins.

B - Songs involving a definite change of pitch

1. Chains, as explained in A-1. This group needs further study and breakdown. The simplest example is the "wick-up" chain of the flicker, but some thought needs to be given to the possibility of including such examples as the chickadee sequence, inasmuch as it is preceded by a pitch change, even though the chain itself involves no pitch change. Other possibilities of subdivision suggest themselves.

2. Screams, cries, whistles, squeaks, etc.

- a. Screams: certain notes of the crested flycatcher.
- b. Cries: certain notes of the flicker, kingbird.
- c. Whistles: starling.
- d. Squeaks: rusty blackbird.

3. Repeated phrase songs.

- a. Phrases identical: whip-poor-will, least and alder flycatchers (should these be considered as chains?)
- b. Phrases varying: red-eyed vireo, robin, catbird.

4. Single theme songs.

- a. Theme unvarying: long-billed marsh wren, olive-backed thrush, many of the warblers.
- b. Theme varying: wood pewee, parula warbler, yellow warbler, black-throated blue warbler.

In conclusion, the writer wishes again to point out that the key proposed in this article is at present still in rudimentary form. A great deal of work still remains to be done in order to produce anything that will be of much value to the student of bird notes. The species must be classified to fit the key - in some cases for two or more types of notes uttered by a single species - and finer breakdowns of the keying must be worked out to permit further subdivisions of large sub-groups. Finally, a detailed description must be prepared for each species which is likely to be confused with others.

Birds of Eastern New York

In a series of pages, average arrival and departure dates of the birds in Schenectady territory are to be summarized. Of course it will be impossible to tell the whole story about all the birds - or even a major part of the story - all on a single page; but enough can be told to indicate whether a bird is being seen during its average time, or if its record at a given time is unusual.

A survey of the S B C records would show that many more birds have been seen in any one month than will be indicated in the charts. Similarly, the maximum dates shown in the different charts will not necessarily be the maximum dates on record. Likewise, it must be kept in mind, particularly with those pages dealing with summer residents, that many of the birds shown as summering here - particularly the warblers - may be known mostly as summer residents only in restricted localities, and that most records will be of transients.

By way of explaining some of the shorthand abbreviations of the charts, the following are some of the explanations of the symbols:

-  Holboell's grebe - Usually arrives late in March; occasional or uncommon as winter visitor before then.
-  Pied-billed grebe - Usually does not arrive this month, but occasionally does.
-  Rough-legged hawk - Winter visitor all month; previously arrived, and not expected to leave until later.
-  Northern horned lark - Usually departs early in March; occasional or uncommon after that.
-  Prairie horned lark - Common as a transient through the month; some records of winter visitors, and some of summer residents.
-  Slate-colored junco - Arrives as transient in mid-March; recorded earlier in month usually as winter visitor.

NEWS & NOTES IN BRIEF

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS -- A flock of from 20 to 25 white-winged crossbills visited the neighborhood of Avon Road for a week, about November 20 to 27. They stripped the flowering crab apple trees of their fruit, just eating the seeds. They were welcome guests, but their visit was all too short.

-- H. L. Achilles

WINTER FOODS -- Maybe you are having trouble obtaining your usual suet, sunflower seeds, wild seed mixture, or other favorite feeding-station spread. If so, try oatmeal, hominy, grits, peanut butter, nuts, fruits, dry breadcrumbs, lettuce and other greens, as well as excess - and dried-out - doughnuts, waffles, and pancakes.

		BIRDS TO LOOK FOR IN MARCH			
Common Loon	Turkey Vulture	Western Sandpiper	Least Flycatcher	Migrant Shrike	American Redstart
Red-throated Loon	Goshawk III	Sanderling	Wood Pewee	Starling R	English Sparrow R
Holbein's Grebe	Sharp-shinned Hawk	Herring Gull	Olive-sided Flycatcher	White-eyed Vireo	Bobolink
Horned Grebe	Cooper's Hawk	Ring-billed Gull	Northern Horned Lark I	Yellow-throated Vireo	Meadowlark
Pied-billed Grebe	Red-tailed Hawk	Laughing Gull	Prairie Horned Lark T	Blue-headed Vireo	Red-wing
Double-crested Cormorant	Broad-winged Hawk	Bonaparte's Gull	Tree Swallow	Red-eyed Vireo	Orchard Oriole
Great Blue Heron	Rough-legged Hawk W	Common Tern	Bank Swallow	Philadelphia Vireo	Baltimore Oriole
American Egret	Bald Eagle	Least Tern	Rough-winged Swallow	Warbling Vireo	Rusty Blackbird
Little Blue Heron	Marsh Hawk	Caipian Tern	Barn Swallow	Black and White Warbler	Bronzed Grackle
Green Heron	Osprey	Black Tern	Cliff Swallow	Worm-eating Warbler	Cowbird
Black-crowned Night Heron	Duck Hawk	Brünnich's Murre	Purple Martin	Golden-winged Warbler	Scarlet Tanager
American Bittern	Pigeon Hawk	Mourning Dove	Canada Jay	Blue-winged Warbler	Cardinal
Least Bittern	Sparrow Hawk R	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Blue Jay R	Tennessee Warbler	Road-breasted Grosbeak
Whistling Swan	Ruffed Grouse R	Black-billed Cuckoo	Eastern Crow R	Orange-crowned Warbler	Indigo Bunting
Canada Goose	European Partridge	Barn Owl R	Fish Crow	Norville Warbler	Evening Grosbeak W
American Brant	Bob-white	Screech Owl R	Black-capped Chickadee R	Purple Warbler	Purple Finch
Greater Snow Goose	Ring-necked Pheasant R	Great Horned Owl R	Acadian Chickadee	Yellow Warbler	Fine Grosbeak W
Mallard	King Rail	Snowy Owl	White-breasted Nuthatch	Magnolia Warbler	Redpoll
Red-legged Black Duck	Virginia Rail	Barred Owl R	Red-breasted Nuthatch W	Capo May Warbler	Pine Siskin W
Common Black Duck	Sora	Long-eared Owl R	Brown Creeper W	Black-throated Blue Warbler	Eastern Goldfinch W
Gadwall	Florida Gallinule	Short-eared Owl	House Wren	Myrtle Warbler	Red Crossbill W
Baldpate	Coot	Saw-whet Owl	Winter Wren	Black-throated Green Warbler	White-winged Crossbill
Pintail	Semipalmated Plover	Whip-poor-will	Long-billed Marsh Wren	Cerulean Warbler	Red-eyed Towhee
Green-winged Teal	Killdeer	Nighthawk	Short-billed Marsh Wren	Blackburnian Warbler	Savannah Sparrow
Blue-winged Teal	Golden Plover	Chimney Swift	Mockingbird	Chestnut-sided Warbler	Grasshopper Sparrow
Shoveller	Black-bellied Plover	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Catbird	Bay-breasted Warbler	Henslow's Sparrow
Wood Duck	Ruddy Turnstone	Belted Kingfisher	Brown Thrasher	Black-poll Warbler	Vesper Sparrow
Redhead	Wilson's Snipe	Flicker	Robin	Pine Warbler	Lark Sparrow
Ring-necked Duck	Upland Plover	Pileated Woodpecker R	Wood Thrush	Prairie Warbler	Slate-colored Junco
Canvas-back	Spotted Sandpiper	Red-headed Woodpecker	Hermit Thrush	Western Palm Warbler	Tree Sparrow W
Greater Scaup Duck	Solitary Sandpiper	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Olive-backed Thrush	Yellow Palm Warbler	Chipping Sparrow
Lesser Scaup Duck	Greater Yellow-legs	Hairy Woodpecker R	Gray-cheeked Thrush	Oven-bird	Field Sparrow
American Golden-eye	Lesser Yellow-legs	Dowry Woodpecker	Bicknell's Thrush	Northern Water-thrush	White-crowned Sparrow
Barrow's Golden-eye	Woodpecker	Arctic 3-toed Woodpecker	Veery	Louisiana Water-thrush	White-throated Sparrow
Buffle-head	Lesser Yellow-legs	American 3-toed Woodpecker	Bluebird	Connecticut Warbler	Fox Sparrow
Old-squaw	Knot	Kingbird	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Mourning Warbler	Lincoln's Sparrow
King Eider	Purple Sandpiper	Crested Flycatcher	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Northern Yellow-throat	Swamp Sparrow
White-winged Scaup	Pectoral Sandpiper	Phoebe	American Pipit	Yellow-breasted Chat	Song Sparrow
Surf Scoter	White-rumped Sandpiper	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Bohemian Waxwing	Hooded Warbler	Lapland Longspur W
American Scoter	Least Sandpiper	Acadian Flycatcher	Cedar Waxwing	Wilson's Warbler	Snow Bunting
Ruddy Duck	Red-backed Sandpiper	Alder Flycatcher	Northern Shrike III	Canada Warbler	
Hooded Merganser	Dowitcher				
American Merganser	Stilt Sandpiper				
Red-breasted Merganser	Semipalmated Sandpiper				



- Arrival time; early (1 line), mid (2), or late (3) in month
- Departure time; early (1 line), mid (2), late (3) in month
- Occas. or uncommon winter visitor R - Permanent resident
- Occas. or uncommon summer resident S - Summer resident
- Occas. early arrival date W - Winter visitor
- Occas. late departure date T - Transient visitor

FEATHERS

Published by the Schenectady Bird Club

Vol. 6, No. 4

April, 1944

BIRDS OF NEW YORK = 1644

P. Schuyler Miller

New York's Dutch pioneers were more interested in furs and farming than in natural history, but one or two of them did try to satisfy the curiosity of the folks back home - and incidentally do a little real-estate promoting - by writing up the new land across the sea. Two of these early accounts; reprinted in J. F. Jameson's "Narratives of New Netherland", give us a picture of bird life on the lower Hudson as the Dutch saw it 300 years ago.

The longer of the two accounts was written by David Pietersen de Vries, the globe-trotting patroon of Staten Island, whose good sense and decency kept him on good terms with the New Jersey Indians at a time when the Dutch governor, William Kieft, was doing his best to exterminate them. Its original title is as long as itself, but it may be boiled down to something like "Notes of Voyages Performed in the Four Quarters of the Globe". Notes in parentheses, in the following quotations, are my own suggestions.

"By Thousands, and Afford Fine Sport"

"There are great numbers of two kinds of geese, which stay here through the winter, by thousands, and which afford fine sport with the gun," de Vries begins. "One kind is the gray geese (Canada geese), which weigh fifteen or sixteen pounds each; the other they call white-heads (blue geese?), weighing six or seven pounds, very numerous, flying by thousands, and of good flavor. There are large quantities of bernicles (barnacle geese, or brant), which keep along the salt-water shore, and of gulls, small star-birds (?), snipes, curlews, and many other shore-birds, which I cannot give the names of. The geese and bernicles come here in September and leave in April. Many of the savages say that they go to the river of Canada (the St. Lawrence), where they breed their young; for the fishermen who sail to Newfoundland find them there in great numbers in the summer time, when they are fishing there. On the fresh water are many swans. Land birds are also very numerous, such as wild turkeys, which weigh from thirty to thirty-six and forty pounds, and which fly wild, for they can fly one or two thousand paces, and then fall down, tired with flying, when they are taken by the savages with their hands, who also shoot them with bows and arrows. Partridges are numerous, but they are small. There are meadowhens (heath-hens?), as large as a year-old hen, and with feathers like those of a partridge (grouse); and white and gray herons (egrets and great blue herons) in great numbers. Noth-

FEATHERS
SCHENECTADY BIRD CLUB
Annual Membership: Active, \$2; Assoc. \$1
Guy Bartlett, Editor, R.D. 1, Rosendale Road

ing is wanted but good marksmen with powder and shot. Turtle-doves, at the time of year when they migrate, are so numerous, that the light can hardly be discerned where they fly (first New York record of the passenger pigeon). There are white and gray cranes (adult

and immature sandhill cranes?), and a species of black bird, as large as what is called in our country the starling or thrush, and which makes its appearance at harvest, when the corn named maize is ripe. These birds are called maize-thievers (red-wings or possibly grackles), because they fall upon the corn by thousands, and do great damage. I have seen one of our Netherlanders kill, in the commander's orchard at Fort Amsterdam, eighty-four of these birds at one shot. They are of good taste, and similar to the thrushes in Fatherland. I have also seen, at different times, thirty to thirty-four pigeons killed at one shot, but they are not larger than turtle-doves, and their bodies are exactly like those of the turtle-doves in Fatherland, except they have long tails."

Created for Food and Sport

Even to an enlightened individual like de Vries, birds were created for food and sport. Naturally, the birds the Dutch noticed and described first were those similar to the species they knew at home. De Vries' list is supplemented by one supposed to have been the work of Adriaen van der Donck, who later wrote a longer and more detailed description of New Netherland, which I have not seen. This description accompanied a demand by the citizens of New Amsterdam that the States General of Holland oust the trouble-making Director Kieft. It is dated 1650.

"Head Like Cat, Body Like Owl"

"Of birds this country is by no means without its share," this "Representation of New Netherland" reports. "There are great numbers of birds of prey, as eagles of two kinds - the bald-headed, which has the head, tail and principal wing-feathers white, and the common kind (adult and immature bald eagles, or bald and golden eagles?); hawks, buzzards (the Buteos), sparrow-hawks, crows, chicken-hawks, and many others, yet all are birds of prey and capable of being trained and used for hunting, though they differ somewhat in shape from those in the Netherlands. There is also a bird which has its head like a cat, and its body like a large owl, colored white. We know no name for it in the Netherlands, but in France it is called grand duc, and is esteemed very highly. (The translator considers this the great horned owl, since the grand duc is the European Bufo, and is grey, though not white. The snowy owl would fit the literal description, but probably did not range that far south, even then. A barred or barn owl might fit, but a Netherlander should have recognized the barn owl from its European counterpart.)

"The other birds found in this country are turkeys, the

same as in the Netherlands (where they had been brought by the Spaniards from Mexico in the 1500's), but they are wild, and are plentiful and best in winter; several kinds of partridges, some smaller than in the Netherlands, others larger, curlews, wood and water snipes (woodcock and Wilson's snipe), pheasants (grouse or prairie chickens?), heath-hens, cranes, herons, bitterns, multitudes of pigeons resembling ringdoves, but a little smaller; quails, merlins (small falcons - most probably pigeon hawks), thrushes, shore-runners (sandpipers?), but in some respects different from those of the Netherlands. There are other small birds, some of which sing, but the names of most of them are unknown to us, and would take too long to enumerate. Water fowl are found here of different kinds, but all very good and fit to eat; such as the swans, similar to those in Netherlands and full as large; three kinds of geese, gray geese, which are the largest and best, bernicles and white-headed geese, ducks of different kinds, widgeons, divers, coots, cormorants and several others, but not so abundant as the foregoing."

Today We Miss Them

A third, very sketchy account, dating from 1647, adds teal to the varieties of ducks and speaks of "two sorts of partridges" and "four sorts of heath fowls, grouse or pheasants". Since there were no pheasants in America at that time, guesses as to what these six species were, and what de Vries' "star-birds" (apparently shore birds of some sort) may have been, are in order. Significantly, the birds we miss today are those which gunners would exterminate soonest.

WINTER DUCKS

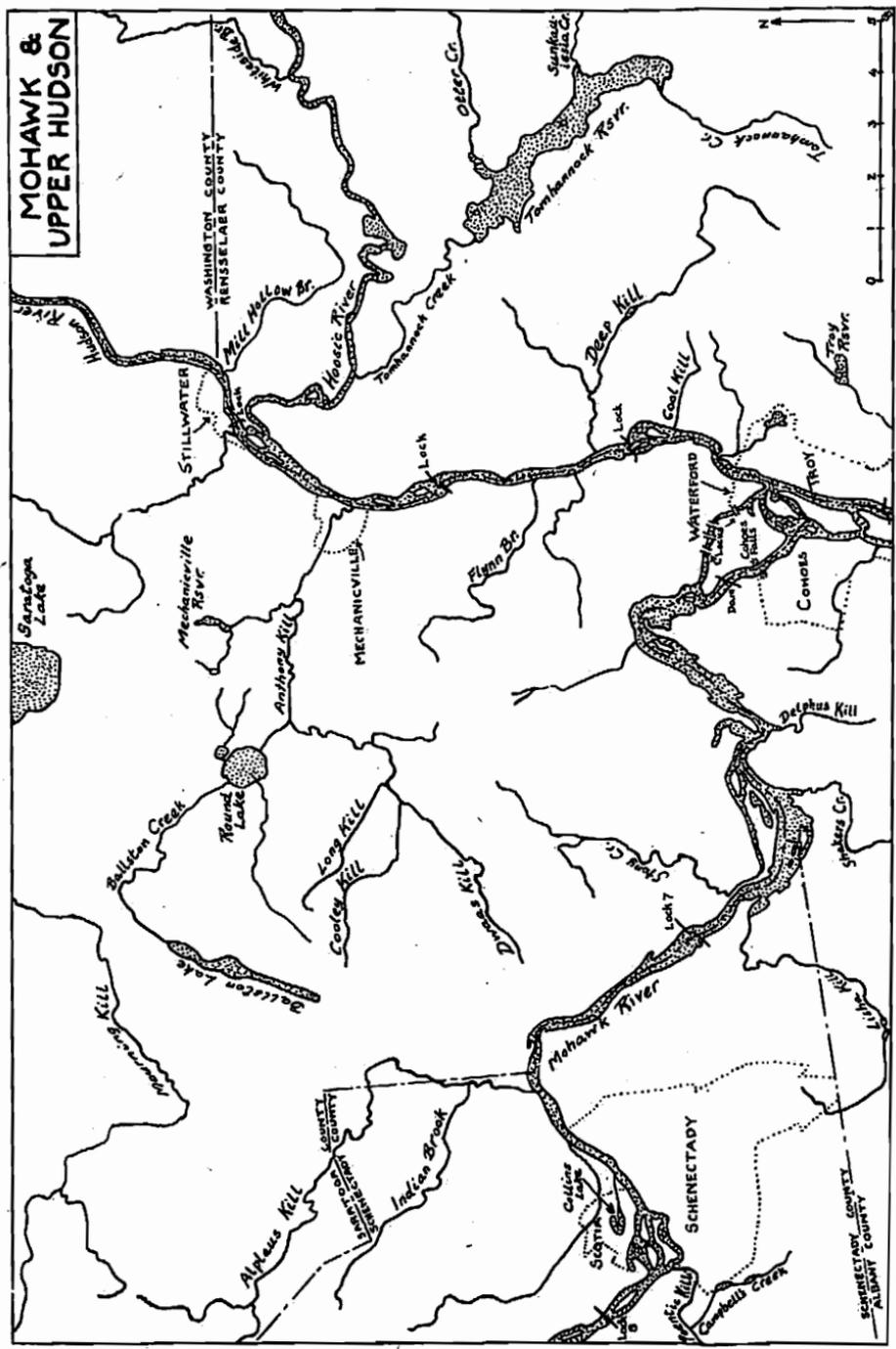
Nelle Van Vorst

Threatening gray clouds and a strong west wind greeted five S B C members on February 6 when they were ready to start for the area along the Hudson River from Cohoes to Stillwater, but such weather did not discourage them. For about ten years some of the Club members have made at least one record of the wintering birds along the Hudson. Last winter, because of the gasoline shortage and the ban on pleasure driving, only in the Stillwater section was such a record made.

This year's trip showed the usual open water, although the river was very low, and there was, shall we say, the usual large raft of ducks. The gull family was represented by only a few adult herring gulls. Many crows were feeding along the shore.

The streamlined American mergansers were often seen flying near the water, while the short and stocky American golden-eyes were flying higher, so that their size and shape were very noticeable. The black ducks sometimes were so near the

MOHAWK & UPPER HUDSON



shore that the variations in the colors of feet and bills of the ducks were observed. Still another comparison that was interesting was that of the scaup and golden-eye feeding in some shallow water. In one large flock, as the ducks were milling around, the distinctive tail pattern of the mallards made their presence known.

A constant watch for the bald eagle almost ended without sight of this majestic bird, but high over the river near Mechanicville a large bird was seen soaring. The flash of his white tail in the sunshine made certain his identity to the watchers.

Mostly because of the high wind, but also because the attention of the watchers was chiefly on and over the water, the records of land birds were few for the trip.

PUNCTUAL PILEATED

Dorothy W. Caldwell, Brookline, Mass.

Too bad that Schenectady does not have a pileated woodpecker like the one in Worcester, Mass. Some of the SBC members who used to go to Mount McGregor in vain hopes of even a fleeting glimpse of the handsome, shy, elusive logcock would certainly appreciate a pileated who has a regular schedule and habitually visits a definite locality at a definite time.

It was reported that some of the Brookline Bird Club folk were going to Worcester to see a pileated woodpecker one Sunday afternoon in February. Afterwards there was this conversation:

"Did they really see it?"

"Certainly. It always comes to the tree around sunset. We are going out next Sunday. Don't you want to come?"

Thereupon five more BBC members, including at least one skeptic, went a week later to a suburban farm on the outskirts of Worcester, entering a snowy open woodlot a little before 5 p.m. Two Forbush Bird Club members had preceded them and pointed out a white birch tree with a round hole some 20 feet above the ground. A little after 5 o'clock the observers were asked to choose trees or stone wall and submerge themselves into the landscape as much as possible, that she always came in noisily, looked about a bit, sometimes indulged in a bedtime snack and then promptly retired - that the whole show was over in a few minutes.

The sun sank lower and after a brief wait, sure enough, the punctual pileated came cack, cack, cacking in, and hitched herself along a branch with flaming crest erect and glowing in the last of the sunset light. All had fine views of her for a few moments before she holed up for the night.

NEWS & NOTES IN BRIEF

TWO RARE VISITORS FOR EASTERN NEW YORK -- On October 18, 1943

I was in company with a photographer, journeying leisurely southward on Route 9J. While out on the highland above the Hudson River at Stuyvesant a flock of grackles flew past at clear range, and among them I discovered and had a very clear passing glimpse of a yellow-headed blackbird. It was my first meeting with this species in the open.

On November 29, 1943 at Stockport, some half mile back from the river, as I was driving along a country road a small flock of juncos and tree sparrows flushed from the border of an apple orchard and perched near at hand in some of the orchard trees. Two larger birds among them attracted my attention. Stopping and gaining a clear view, I found them to be lark buntings. Again, these were new acquaintances, I having never met them before except in museums. However, there could be no mistake about them. Their size, coloring even in winter plumage, as was the case here, cannot be mistaken for any other species, I believe.

Evening grosbeaks arrived in Berkshire County, Mass., on October 26. Both species of crossbills have been recorded this winter. I am fairly confident of a three-toed woodpecker in early December at Becket.

-- S. Waldo Bailey, Warden, Pleasant Valley
Sanctuary, Lenox, Mass.

300 YEARS AGO -- Permission to reprint the Dutch accounts quoted by P. Schuyler Miller in this issue was given by Barnes & Noble, Inc., who have bought the plates and rights of the whole "Original Narratives of Early American History" series from Scribner. The series, incidentally, is now back in print at much lower prices than when first published.

As an added item concerning Mr. Miller's article, he has written: "According to the encyclopedia, the European sparrow hawk is an accipiter. From the context, the 'merlin' may be a translator's error for 'merle' or European blackbird, rather than a falcon."

VALE CREEPERS -- Evidently brown creepers like the Vale Cemetery as a wintering place, for at least one was heard there January 2. This species had been pretty consistently found in that location in previous years. -- B. S. Havens

IN THE VERNACULAR -- If you know of local or otherwise unusual names of birds, FEATHERS would be interested in having them. Over the country, birds pick up a wide variety of common names, some of them very descriptive and others hard to figure out.

W. L. McAtee of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service is completing organization of material collected during more than 30 years for a Dictionary of Vernacular Names of North American Birds, and has appealed to SEC members for help.

Common Loon		Turkey Vulture	
Red-throated Loon		Oshawk	
Holboell's Grebe	I	Sharp-shinned Hawk	S
Horned Grebe		Cooper's Hawk	S
Pied-billed Grebe	S	Red-tailed Hawk	
Double-crested Cormorant		Red-shouldered Hawk	S
Great Blue Heron		Road-winged Hawk	
American Egret		Rough-legged Hawk	
Little Blue Heron		Bald Eagle	T
Green Heron	S	Marsh Hawk	S
Black-crowned Night Heron	S	Osprey	
American Bittern	S	Duck Hawk	
Least Bittern		Pigeon Hawk	
Whistling Swan		Sparrow Hawk	R
Canada Goose		Ruffed Grouse	R
American Brant	I	European Partridge	
Greater Snow Goose		Bob-white	
Mallard		Ring-necked Pheasant	R
Red-legged Black Duck		King Rail	-
Common Black Duck		Virginia Rail	S
Gadwall		Sora	S
Baldpate		Florida Gallinule	-
Pintail		Coot	I
Green-winged Teal		Semipalmated Plover	
Blue-winged Teal		Killdeer	S
Shoveller		Golden Plover	
Wood Duck	S	Black-bellied Plover	
Redhead		Ruddy Turnstone	
Ring-necked Duck		Woodcock	S
Canvas-back		Wilson's Snipe	T
Greater Scaup Duck	I	Upland Plover	S
Lesser Scaup Duck	I	Spotted Sandpiper	S
American Golden-eye		Solitary Sandpiper	
Barrow's Golden-eye		Greater Yellow-legs	I
Buffle-head		Lesser Yellow-legs	I
Oldsquaw		Knot	
King Eider		Purple Sandpiper	
White-winged Scoter	I	Forster's Sandpiper	
Burf Scoter	+	White-rumped Sandpiper	
American Scoter		Least Sandpiper	
Ruddy Duck		Red-backed Sandpiper	
Hooded Merganser		Dowitcher	
American Merganser	I	Stilt Sandpiper	
Red-breasted Merganser		Semipalmated Sandpiper	

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR IN MAY

Western Sandpiper		Least Flycatcher	-	Migrant Shrike		American Redstart	-
Sanderling	+	Wood Pewee		Starling	R	English Sparrow	R
Herring Gull	I	Olive-sided Flycatcher		White-eyed Vireo		Bobolink	-
Ring-billed Gull		Northern Horned Lark		Yellow-throated Vireo	-	Meadowlark	S
Laughing Gull		Prairie Horned Lark	S	Blue-headed Vireo		Red-wing	S
Bonaparte's Gull	I	Tree Swallow	S	Red-eyed Vireo		Orchard Oriole	
Common Tern	+	Bank Swallow	S	Philadelphia Vireo		Baltimore Oriole	-
Least Tern		Rough-winged Swallow	-	Warbling Vireo	-	Rusty Blackbird	I
Caspian Tern		Barn Swallow	S	Black and White Warbler		Bronzed Grackle	S
Black Tern		Cliff Swallow	-	Worm-eating Warbler		Cowbird	
Brunnich's Murre		Purple Martin		Golden-winged Warbler		Scarlet Tanager	
Mourning Dove	S	Canada Jay		Blue-winged Warbler		Cardinal	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo		Blue Jay	R	Tennessee Warbler		Rose-breasted Grosbeak	-
Black-billed Cuckoo		Eastern Crow	R	Orange-crowned Warbler		Indigo Bunting	
Barn Owl	R	Fish Crow		Nashville Warbler		Evening Grosbeak	
Screech Owl	R	Black-capped Chickadee	R	Purpl. Warbler		Purple Finch	
Great Horned Owl	R	Acadian Chickadee		Yellow Warbler	-	Pine Grosbeak	-
Snowy Owl		White-breasted Nuthatch	R	Magnolia Warbler		Redpoll	
Barred Owl	R	Red-breasted Nuthatch	I	Cape May Warbler		Pine Siskin	I
Long-eared Owl	R	Brown Creeper	I	Black-throated Blue Warbler		Eastern Goldfinch	S
Short-eared Owl		House Wren	-	Myrtle Warbler		Red Crossbill	
Saw-whet Owl		Winter Wren		Black-throated Green Warbler		White-winged Crossbill	-
Whip-poor-will	S	Long-billed Marsh Wren	-	Common Warbler	+	Red-eyed Vireo	-
Nighthawk	-	Short-billed Marsh Wren		Blackburnian Warbler	-	Savannah Sparrow	S
Chimney Swift	S	Mockingbird		Chestnut-sided Warbler	-	Grasshopper Sparrow	-
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	-	Catbird	-	Bay-breasted Warbler		Henslow's Sparrow	-
Belted Kingfisher	S	Brown Thrasher	S	Black-poll Warbler		Vesper Sparrow	S
Flicker	S	Robin	S	Pine Warbler		Lark Sparrow	
Pileated Woodpecker	R	Wood Thrush	-	Prairie Warbler	-	Slate-colored Junco	
Red-headed Woodpecker	S	Hermit Thrush		Western Palm Warbler	I	Tree Sparrow	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		Olive-backed Thrush		Yellow Palm Warbler		Chipping Sparrow	S
Hairy Woodpecker	R	Gray-cheeked Thrush		Oven-bird	-	Field Sparrow	S
Dowry Woodpecker	R	Bicknell's Thrush		Northern Water-thrush		White-crowned Sparrow	
Arctic 3-toed Woodpecker		Veery	S	Louisiana Water-thrush		White-throated Sparrow	
American 3-toed Woodpecker		Bluebird	S	Connecticut Warbler		Fox Sparrow	
Kingbird	-	Golden-crowned Kinglet		Mourning Warbler		Lincoln's Sparrow	
Crested Flycatcher	-	Ruby-crowned Kinglet		Northern Yellow-throat		Swamp Sparrow	S
Phoebe	S	American Pipit	I	Yellow-breasted Chat		Song Sparrow	S
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher		Bohemian Waxwing	-	Hooded Warbler		Lapland Longspur	-
Acadian Flycatcher		Cedar Waxwing	-	Wilson's Warbler		Snow Bunting	-
Alder Flycatcher		Northern Shrike	-	Canada Warbler			

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| - Arrival time; early (1 line), mid (2), or late (3) in month | |
| - Departure time; early (1 line), mid (2), late (3) in month | |
| - Occas. or uncommon winter visitor | R - Permanent resident |
| - Occas. or uncommon summer resident | S - Summer resident |
| - Occasional early arrival date | Y - Winter visitor |
| - Occasional late departure date | T - Transient visitor |

FEATHERS

Published by the Schenectady Bird Club

Vol. 6, No. 5

May, 1944

1943 IN REVIEW

W. R. Steele, Chairman, Records Committee

Overtime work, restrictions on gasoline and travel, and participation in war projects all were reflected in the S B C summary of bird records during 1943. Only 186 species were listed, and details on many of these were meager. Numerous species which might easily have been located were missed, and the apparent arrival or departure dates of some were almost certainly not the true dates. Even so, however, records for 28 species were noteworthy, because of rarity of the species, unusually early arrival or late departure dates, etc. In the following list those species have been underlined. The records have been based upon notes sent in to the Records Committee, items published during the year in FEATHERS, and consultation of the check-lists of various S B C members.

It will be noted that more than ever the arrival dates shown are Saturdays and Sundays -- not because the birds arrived then so much as because trips were made then. Dates not otherwise credited are from the reports of Club trips or from three or more individuals. In the case of observers credited frequently, initials have been used:

HVDA - H. V. D. Allen
MA - Malcolm Andrews
GHB - George H. Bainbridge
GB - Guy Bartlett
EH - Esly Hallenbeck
BSH - Barrington S. Havens

AH - Alice Holmes
CNM - Chester N. Moore
WRS - W. R. Steele
RS - Rudolph A. Stone
VV - Nelle Van Vorst

In the following summary the abbreviations used are those which have been employed in previous summaries. The list of 186 species for 1943 includes:

Horned grebe - Tv in fall, GB
Pied-billed grebe - Few sr; fc tv in fall, GB
Double-crested cormorant - 9.19, Hudson River, several

Great blue heron - Two winter visitors, 1943-44; tv 4.18, CNM; 10.14, HVDA

American egret - Few summer visitors; many, 9.19, Hudson River

Green heron - Summer resident

Black-crowned night heron - Sr, ar 5.2, AH-MA; lv 11.1, GB

American bittern - Sr, 5.2, MA-AH, to 10.12, HVDA-RS

Least bittern - Summer resident

Canada goose - Wv 1942-43, PSMiller; tv 3.14; MA, to 4.2, George Staffa. Two 5.17, VV. Fl 1000 11.16, BDFoote

FEATHERS

Mallard - Wv 1.3, MA; tv & sr
Black duck - Wv, sr, tv arrived 3.21, AH
Baldpate - Common tv in fall
Pintail - Tv ar 3.21; common tv fall
Green-winged teal - Common tv
Blue-winged teal - Tv, spring and fall
Wood duck - Tv & sr
Ring-necked duck - Tv spring and fall
Lesser scaup duck - Wv 1.31, MA; tv ar 3.28, VV; com tv fall
American golden-eye - Wv, tv ar 4.11, MA
Hooded merganser - Tv in spring
American merganser - Wv, tv ar 3.21, AH

Goshawk - Wv 1942-43
Sharp-shinned hawk - Tv & sr
Cooper's hawk - Sr
Red-tailed hawk - Wv; tv ar 3.21, AH
Red-shouldered hawk - Sr ar 3.24, MA
Broad-winged hawk - Tv 3.21, CNM, to 5.2, MA
Rough-legged hawk - Wv 1942-43; to 5.9, CNM
Bald eagle - Recorded June, RS; 9.19, Hudson River; 10.18, RS
Marsh hawk - Sr, ar 4.11
Osprey - Tv 5.2 to 5.17, PSMiller; 9.14, RS-HVDA
Pigeon hawk - Tv 3.8, GHB, to 3.14
Sparrow hawk - Resident

Ruffed grouse - Resident
Ring-necked pheasant - Resident

Virginia rail - Sr
Sora - Tv in fall
Florida gallinule - Sr
Coot - Tv in spring and fall
Semipalmated plover - Tv in autumn
Killdeer - Sr, ar 3.20, VV
Golden plover - 10.15, RS
Black-bellied plover - Two, 10.15, RS
Woodcock - Sr, ar 4.1, BSH
Wilson's snipe - Tv spring & fall
Upland plover - Sr; new site (Howard Cleaves)
Spotted sandpiper - Sr, ar 4.22, BSH
Solitary sandpiper - Tv, spring & fall
Greater yellow-legs - Tv 5.23, VV, and 10.15, RS
Lesser yellow-legs - Tv to 10.18, RS
Knot - 10.18, RS
Pectoral sandpiper - Tv to 10.14, HVDA-RS
White-rumped sandpiper - 10.15, RS
Least sandpiper - Tv in fall
Dowitcher - 10.14, HVDA, to 10.24, GHB
Semipalmated sandpiper - Tv in fall
Great black-backed gull - 3.17, GB, to 3.21, GB
Herring gull - Wv & tv; to 5.9
Ring-billed gull - Fc tv in spring, 3.17, GB, through late
March

Mourning dove - Wv 1943-44; ar 3.28, VV

Yellow-billed cuckoo - Sr, ar 5.22, VV
 Black-billed cuckoo - Sr

Barn owl - One, late Oct, JMHollister
 Screech owl - Resident
 Great horned owl - Resident
 Barred owl - Resident

FEATHERS
 SCHENECTADY BIRD CLUB
 Annual Membership: Active, \$2; Assoc., \$1
 Guy Bartlett, Editor, R.D. 1, Rosendale Road

Whip-poor-will - Few sr
 Nighthawk - Sr, ar 5.17, AH
 Chimney swift - Sr, ar 4.30, GHB
 Ruby-throated hummingbird - Sr, ar 5.14, Mrs. Steele
 Kingfisher - Wv both winters, sr

Flicker - Wv 1942-43; sr ar 3.24, EH
 Pileated woodpecker - Resident
 Red-headed woodpecker - Ar 5.15
 Yellow-bellied sapsucker - Tv, ar 4.4, VV-MA
 Hairy woodpecker - Resident
 Downy woodpecker - Resident

Kingbird - Sr, ar 5.2
 Crested flycatcher - Sr, ar 5.9
 Phoebe - Sr, ar 4.4
 Yellow-bellied flycatcher - Sr, ar 5.9
 Alder flycatcher - Sr, ar 5.27, VV
 Least flycatcher - Sr, ar 4.24, EH
 Wood pewee - Sr, ar 5.17, BSH
 Olive-sided flycatcher - Tv 5.23, WRS

Northern horned lark - Wv 1942-43
 Prairie horned lark - Wv both winters, few sr, common tv

Tree swallow - Sr, ar 4.11
 Bank swallow - Sr, ar 5.2
 Rough-winged swallow - Sr, ar 5.2
 Barn swallow - Sr
 Cliff swallow - Sr, ar 5.2
 Purple martin - Sr at Saratoga, VV

Blue jay - Increasingly common resident
 Crow - Less common resident, particularly in winter
 Black-capped chickadee - Resident
 White-breasted nuthatch - Resident
 Red-breasted nuthatch - Wv both winters
 Brown creeper - Wv both winters; tv 3.21 to 5.2

House wren - Sr, ar 5.5, BSH; two late end dates - 10.21, GHB,
 and 10.31, CNM
 Winter wren - Wv 1942-43; to 5.2, CNM
 Long-billed marsh wren - Sr
 Short-billed marsh wren - Sr, RS
 Catbird - Sr, ar 5.2, WRS
 Brown thrasher - Sr, ar 4.30, BSH-VV

Robin - Wv both winters; sr, ar 3.15, AH-BSH
 Wood thrush - Sr, ar 5.7, BSH-VV

FEATHERS

Hermit thrush - Sr, ar 4.4, WRS
Olive-backed thrush - Tv, ar 5.9, EH
Veery - Sr, ar 5.9, AH-VV
Bluebird - Wv 1943-44; sr, ar 3.21, VV

Golden-crowned kinglet - Wv; to 4.26, WRS
Ruby-crowned kinglet - Tv, 4.11 to 5.2, HVDA
Pipit - Abundant tv in mid-October
Cedar waxwing - Sr
Northern shrike - Wv both winters
Migrant shrike - 4.4, VV
Starling - Resident

Yellow-throated vireo - Sr, ar 5.9
Blue-headed vireo - Tv, ar 4.26, WRS
Red-eyed vireo - Sr, ar 5.16, AH-VV
Warbling vireo - Sr, ar 5.10, WRS

Black and white warbler - Tv, ar 4.30, BSH
Worm-eating warbler - Few sr, VV
Golden-winged warbler - Increasingly common sr, ar 5.16, CNM
Tennessee warbler - Tv, ar 5.18, BSH
Nashville warbler - Tv, ar 5.9
Parula warbler - Tv, ar 5.15, BSH
Yellow warbler - Sr, ar 5.2, MA
Magnolia warbler - Tv, ar 5.9
Cape May warbler - Tv, ar 5.9
Black-throated blue warbler - Sr, ar 5.9
Myrtle warbler - Tv, ar 4.26; to 10.24, GHB
Black-throated green warbler - Sr, ar 5.9
Blackburnian warbler - Sr, ar 5.6, EH
Chestnut-sided warbler - Sr, ar 5.9
Bay-breasted warbler - Tv, ar 5.23, AH-VV
Black-poll warbler - Tv 5.23, AH-VV, to 5.30, WRS; 10.24, WRS
Pine warbler - Sr, ar 4.26, AH-Alice Abel
Prairie warbler - Increasingly common sr; ar 5.16, CNM
Yellow palm warbler - Tv, ar 4.26, AH-Alice Abel
Oven-bird - Sr, ar 5.9
Northern water-thrush - 5.13, BSH
Louisiana water-thrush - Sr
Northern yellow-throat - Sr, ar 5.9
Yellow-breasted chat - Sr
Canada warbler - Sr, ar 5.15, BSH-VV
American redstart - Sr, ar 5.9

English sparrow - Resident
Bobolink - Sr, ar 5.12, BSH
Meadowlark - Sr, ar 3.22, MA
Red-wing - Wv 1943-44; sr, ar 3.14, CNM-MA
Orchard oriole - Female, 5.9, WRS; male, 5.16, WRS; 6.7, VV,
to 9.12, VV
Baltimore oriole - Sr, ar 5.2, Virginia Freligh
Rusty blackbird - Tv, 4.18; 10.14, HVDA-RS
Bronzed grackle - Sr, ar 3.14
Cowbird - Sr, ar 3.21
Scarlet tanager - Sr, ar 5.14, BSH-VV

Rose-breasted grosbeak - Sr, ar 5.9, VV
 Indigo bunting - Sr, ar 5.12, VV
 Evening grosbeak - Two wv 1942-43; com wv 1943-44, ar 10.26, VV
 Purple finch - Sr; tv 3.7, GHB, to 5.9, EH
 Pine grosbeak - 1.16, WRS; not uncommon after 11.20
 Redpoll - Few wv 1942-43; common wv 1943-44; ar 11.24, GB
 Pine siskin - Wv both winters; ar 11.28, VV
 Goldfinch - Resident
 Red crossbill - 11.23; Mrs. E. E. Talmadge; 12.12, AH-VV
 White-winged crossbill - Flock of 25, H. L. Achilles, 11.20 to 11.27
 Towhee - Sr, ar 4.30, VV
 Savannah sparrow - Sr
 Grasshopper sparrow - Sr, ar 5.2, MA
 Henslow's sparrow - More common sr; ar 5.2, MA
 Vesper sparrow - Sr, ar 4.4, WRS
 Slate-colored junco - Wv, few sr; tv ar 3.18
 Tree sparrow - Wv
 Chipping sparrow - Sr, ar 4.14, WRS
 Field sparrow - Sr
 White-crowned sparrow - Tv, 5.2, WRS; 10.12, HVDA-RS
 White-throated sparrow - Tv, ar 4.9, HVDA, to 5.2, CNM; 9.29, EH; few sr
 Fox sparrow - Tv 3.14, MA, to 5.2, EH
 Lincoln's sparrow - Tv 9.2 7, VV
 Swamp sparrow - Sr
 Song sparrow - Resident; sr, ar 3.17, EH
 Lapland longspur - Wv 1942-43
 Snow bunting - 3.7, CNM, GHB, to 3.14, EH

NEWS & NOTES IN BRIEF

LAST YEAR -- As Mr. Steele has pointed out in his report on SBC records for last year, the information is rather incomplete. He has asked that those noticing places where additions should be made send in their records for the master file of the Records Committee.

CLOSE DATES -- At least this spring the redwings arrived in the Vale Cemetery at about the same time as elsewhere. They were reported from the Niskayuna river section March 11, the Schermerhorn Road section March 12, and were found in the cemetery the 15th -- and they may have been there sooner, but nobody was there to check. -- B. S. Havens

BUSY REDPOLLS -- In the Helderbergs Sunday afternoon, March 19, there was a flock of from 150 to 200 common redpolls, too actively feeding for accurate count. The flock quickly and repeatedly wheeled and circulated from ground feeding on weed seeds, to tree feeding on the buds of some old apple trees gone wild, and to grit feeding along the edge of the highway. -- George H. Bainbridge

MEMORIAL DAY -- See this month's supplement for details on the annual Karner's (Prairie Warbler) trip.

FEATHERS

EVENINGS -- During February SBC members made two visits to Mr. and Mrs. Hackett's home at Ballston Lake to see the evening grosbeaks. It snowed hard on our first visit, and the birds were rather slow in coming to the feeding shelf. However, after a time, about 20 came to partake of the variety of food offered by Mrs. Hackett. They were not afraid of us, and we could study them easily.

On our second visit the weather was more favorable. When we arrived only a few birds were in sight. After a while a few more came, and we were able to watch them without disturbing them. We took a short walk and on our return we saw 40 or more grosbeaks in the trees near the house. They were beautiful with the sun bringing out the bright yellow and glossy black of their feathers. They were eating the buds of the tree, and were not in the least afraid of us.

Later in February Mrs. Hackett wrote that at one time she counted 60 grosbeaks in the tree in her yard where they feed.

-- Helen Cole

PINES -- A flock of pine grosbeaks fed off and on in her yard in early March, Mrs. Howard Maxwell of Troy Road reported to J. M. Hollister.

SPRING GEESE -- The first spring record for one member of the Canada goose came during the night of March 26. Actually it was about 4 o'clock in the morning of March 27 when a flock of this species was heard flying overhead in the city, presumably on the way north, with its characteristic honking which sounds so much like the barking of dogs.

Two other flocks of geese were recorded that Sunday. One flock, of about 100 birds in V formation, honked for attention as they flew over Scotia; another flock was sighted at the Niskayuna section of the river, also in flight.

EARLY SEASON -- One SBC member on a trip to the middle west recently found that the season at Dayton, Ohio, is about a month ahead of that in Schenectady. While the ground was still frozen in Schenectady and even snow covered, while water was still ice, the dandelions were blooming, tulips pushing up through thawed ground, streams running, and robins singing and digging up worms on the green lawns in and around Dayton.

The same club member was initiated into the mysteries of the sharp "pip" note of the cardinal a few years ago when one of that species was found wintering in the Schermerhorn Road section. It was his delight, therefore, to identify a cardinal in Dayton by the sound of that note alone, confirming his identification by a visual observation.

ROSENDALE BARRED -- A recent note (p. 6) mentioned that a barred owl stayed all day close beside Rosendale Road, and suggested the owl was probably a wanderer from woods a mile or more away. More recently, however, the owl has been seen in that section twice after dark, each time flying across the road through the headlight beams of an automobile. In one case the bird was in speedy flight, as though in pursuit of prey. No rabbit or other intended victim could be seen, however.

-- G. B.

CURIOSITY OR SCIENCE -- Some of the workmen in the Varnish Department at the G. E. noted that robins nested among the buildings each year. Last year an argument arose over the question of "same bird or new bird," so one of the men caught the robin and tied a string around its leg. The argument is settled, because the bird is back this year with string intact. Moral -- Bird banding answers questions.

-- W. R. Steele

NORTHBOUND -- A flock of about 100 Canada geese, beating their way north against a powerful cross-wind, gave SBC members on the March 26 field trip to Sunnyside Road and Collins Lake their first real evidence that the bird world was not populated exclusively by song sparrows. The geese were heard for some time before they were seen, flying in two groups - about 60 in a big "V", with a long, wavering line of 40 or more trying desperately to catch up. They seemed to have joined forces by the time they passed out of sight, but a little later a flock of about the same size was seen eleven miles away, northwest of Glenville, flying in the same "V" and line formation, with an additional little clump of six geese off to one side. If the two flocks were the same, they may have been heading for the Sacandaga Reservoir where, if the water was high enough, there may have been open water around the edges.

-- P. Schuyler Miller

THREE-TOED -- A new member was added to my list of birds on Sunday, March 12, when a female Arctic three-toed woodpecker was seen between Charlton and the Sacandaga Road. Although these birds are known to breed in the Adirondacks, they are very rare in this vicinity.

-- W. R. S.

CONDOR, SOARER SUPREME -- Particularly in view of the fact that John H. Storer has been one of the speakers on the SBC program, the following item from a recent WGY Science Forum broadcast is of interest:

"Lessons in efficient soaring technique, which may benefit future generations of aviators, were learned from the world's largest flying birds, the nearly extinct California condors, by John H. Storer of Waltham, Mass., one of the most active of American ornithologists, and passed on to his fellow-scientists at a meeting of the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia.

"Two types of wing-tip have been developed by soaring birds, Mr. Storer said. One is pointed, and has reached a highly advanced stage in such birds as the albatross and gull. The other presents a slotted surface to the up-currents, giving highly sensitive control, especially in strong but very localized currents such as are found in the mountains. The condor, probably the world's most highly developed soaring bird, has the largest slots. Mr. Storer showed slow-motion-pictures of California condors taking off and in flight, showing in detail how they use their feather control surfaces. He also stated that he is at present carrying on wind-tunnel experiments with models based on these pictures."

MONTH BY MONTH -- If there seems to be difficulty in using the monthly charts of "Birds to Look For" (page 40), please refer back to the explanation on page 23, March issue.

FEATHERS

Published by the Schenectady Bird Club

Vol. 6, No. 6

June, 1944

FIRST CAROLINA WREN

Barrington S. Havens

There was nothing about the morning of March 27 to indicate that it was in any way unusual -- in any way different from the morning which preceded it and the morning which undoubtedly would follow it, if previous experience were to be looked upon as a precedent. If anything, the morning of March 27 was a little less prepossessing than its fellows of late March; it was cloudy, and the paper forecast rain.

Probably it would make a better story if I were to say that I was undecided about walking through the Vale Cemetery on the morning in question. That would enable me to say that it was but by the merest accident of Fate that I made my great find. But the truth is, there never was any doubt that morning; I had every intention of walking to work through the cemetery, as is my usual custom through spring and early summer.

Non-local Song

The week before I had been in Dayton, Ohio, and vicinity, where cardinals are not the unusual species they are in Schenectady. My mind was still full of the thoughts of cardinals. And so it was not surprising that my first thought was "cardinal" when the stimulus occurred. For suddenly every sense quickened and my pulses throbbed as they had not throbbed to a bird note for a number of years; a new song was ringing out somewhere ahead of me, a vibrant, liquid, vigorous song which announced itself immediately as a brand-new species. "Cardinal!" thought I, and I raced toward the spot.

The singer was quickly located high in a spruce near the upper pond. There was no question about the location of the bird, for he was on that limb to sing, and he made it his business to sing. The fact that I stood below watching was of no importance; at regular intervals his head went back, his bill opened, and his throat throbbed with his song. "Teedle-yer, teedle-yer, teedle-yer, teedle-yer" he sang. Each time it was four phrases, and then a pause, and then his head would go back again and the song would be repeated.

Watchful Waiting

I could see at a glance that this was no cardinal. The bird was too small, and of the wrong shape. It was about the size of one of the juncos which were singing in such profusion on all sides that morning. And it didn't have the lines of a cardinal. Furthermore, it had a comparatively long, slender

FEATHERS

SCHENECTADY BIRD CLUB

Annual Membership: Active, \$2; Assoc., \$1

Guy Bartlett, Editor, R.D. 1, Rosendale Road

bill -- and this was a clue that set my senses racing again, for I had a suspicion now as to the identity of the singer, a suspicion that was soon to be confirmed.

But identification was handicapped.

I had no glasses to bring him close to me, and he was too high in the tree for me to get nearer. So I resigned myself to wait; sooner or later he must fly to some other spot, and with good luck that spot would be one where he could be better observed -- providing I could follow his flight.

Identification Complete

And sure enough, after about five minutes of singing he flew. He flew away from me, toward the pond, and I strained my eyes in following his course. "Don't go too far," I prayed; "just a little ways, so I won't lose you." But he disappeared in the vicinity of the pond, so my only recourse was to hurry in the same direction in the faint hope that he would either sing again or otherwise make himself known.

I didn't find him right away. While I was searching along the bank of the pond (to the frank curiosity of several passers-by), I heard him sing out again, this time in the neighborhood of the little ravine in back of me. I hurried over there, and this time he was singing at a lower elevation, and soon I saw him again. He was down almost to the ground level now, and below me, for he was in the ravine itself. One look was enough; it was a wren. And my earlier suspicion was confirmed -- it was a Carolina wren, a new species for me and for our local territory.

There is only one thing more to be told in my story, and probably that is of little interest to anyone other than myself. Many years ago, shortly after my interest in birds was first stimulated, I had heard a strange song in the cemetery, almost at the exact spot where I had found the wren this morning. The song had always been a mystery to me, for I had not been able to see the singer, and I had no expectation of hearing it again, after years of vain listening. Judging from descriptions I had read in books, I had hoped it might be a Carolina wren, but that seemed too fantastic a supposition, so I long ago had given up the idea. The song, however, lingered in my memory. And this morning, the morning of March 27, I had heard it again. The bird I heard those long years ago in the first days of my bird studies, the song which I had never had the temerity to identify, having neither heard it before nor seen the singer, was that of the Carolina wren.

For three or four days afterward a number of club members tried unsuccessfully to locate the bird again. It was not until the morning of March 31 that the southern visitor was again found, when both Nelle Van Vorst and the writer identified it in practically the same spot where first found.

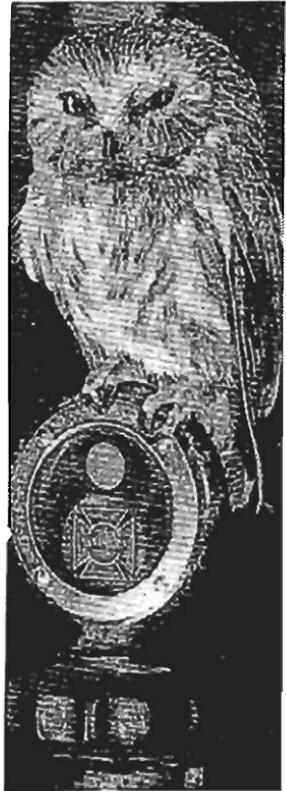
A TAME SAW-WHET

According to the story in the April 1 Union-Star, the owl here pictured saw fit to fly into the bunkroom at Fire Station 10, Woodlawn, and make himself at home there. Without much trouble the photographer was able to pose the bird and obtain its picture.

Probably few of the many who saw the picture paid particular attention to the kind of owl shown. Several SBC members, however, independently noticed the absence of ear tufts and the apparent small size of the bird. Yes -- it was a saw-whet owl, and its behavior in invading the fire station was typical of the tameness of the species.

After the owl was photographed it was released. Out the window it flew, to stop atop a nearby garage roof -- and then to return shortly to the bunk room. Again it was released, this time atop a hill some distance away; and thereafter it was not again seen.

The saw-whet owl is but rarely recorded locally, usually in the spring, but sometimes in winter or summer. It is the smallest of local owls.



(Union-Star Photo)

ROCKING-CHAIR OBSERVATIONS

W. R. Steele

Some of our members may be interested to know of the possibilities in bird observation from the comfort of their favorite rocking chair. During the past few years Mrs. Steele and I have recorded a list of birds seen in or passing over our own yard in the outskirts of Scotia. This is a normal village lot, landscaped with lawn and spirea, hydrangea, roses, lilacs, and other shrubs, and an apple, a cherry and one or two evergreen trees. A feeding station is not maintained, because English sparrows and starlings monopolized those which were tried.

Of the birds listed, most were transients or straggling visitors. At least 18 species, however, bred or summered in the immediate vicinity; they have been underlined in the list. The 80 species include:

Black-crowned night heron, Canada goose; sharp-shinned, red-tailed, red-shouldered, marsh, and sparrow hawks; killdeer, herring gull, mourning dove; screech, great horned and snowy owls.

Whip-poor-will, nighthawk, chimney swift, ruby-throated hummingbird, kingfisher, flicker, yellow-bellied sapsucker; hairy and downy woodpeckers.

Kingbird, crested flycatcher, phoebe, least flycatcher, wood pewee; tree, bank, barn, and cliff swallows; blue jay, crow, black-capped chickadee, white-breasted nuthatch, house and long-billed marsh wrens; catbird, robin; wood and hermit thrushes; veery, bluebird.

Golden- and ruby-crowned kinglets; cedar waxwing, northern shrike, starling; blue-headed, red-eyed, and warbling vireos; black-and-white, Nashville, yellow, magnolia, Cape May, chestnut-sided, bay-breasted warblers; northern yellow-throat, redstart.

English sparrow, red-wing; orchard and Baltimore orioles, bronzed grackle, cowbird, scarlet tanager, rose-breasted grosbeak, evening grosbeak, purple finch, pine grosbeak, redpoll, goldfinch, vesper sparrow, slate-colored junco; and tree, chipping, field, white-throated, and song sparrows.

IS THERE A RED-LEGGED ?

Writing in the Schenectady Union-Star recently, John L. Halpin, former State Conservation Commissioner, answered the question of one of his readers concerning common and red-legged black ducks. "Outdoors with Halpin," the column in question, stated:

"The American Ornithologists Union in its 1931 check list divided the blacks into two sub-species, red-legged and common. The popular conception is that the former is distinguishable by its coral-red feet, yellow bill, heavier feathering and larger size. It is presumed to be more northern as a breeder and later as a fall migrant. The common black duck is designated as the smaller bird with brownish or live feet and greenish bill. It is said to be the more southern breeder and the earlier fall migrant.

"There are many authorities who do not agree with this division into two sub-species. They maintain that the red leg is merely the older, more fully developed bird, and that the differences which exist between the two forms can be accounted for by differences of age, sex and moult.

"Kortright in his latest 'Ducks, Geese and Swans of North America' says that the conclusion that may be drawn from his descriptions of the black ducks are due entirely to age, sex

and moult and that: (1)- The bird generally known as the red-legged black duck, taken by gunners in the late autumn, is a full-plumaged adult male or an old female; (2)- the bird generally known as the common black duck, taken by gunners in early to mid-autumn, is either (a) an adult male emerging from the summer moult, (b) an adult female, or (c) a juvenile.

"Those who maintain that this duck should not be divided into two sub-species give among other reasons that the differences which exist between the two forms are exactly those which distinguish old birds from young and point to the closely related mallard duck as a parallel. Dr. Miles D. Pirnie made an exhaustive study of this species and was unable to find any evidence of two different races of black duck and concluded that the sub-specific characteristics were due to sex, age and moult."

Incidentally, it is understood that the new AOU check list, soon to be issued, no longer carries the two sub-species.

MARTINS IN THE WEST

Following publication of SBC Bulletin 2, on the purple martin, the club received some reprints from M. B. Cater of Tucson, Ariz., of an article by him on "Roosting Habits of Martins at Tucson, Arizona," published in The Condor of January-February, 1944.

In an accompanying letter Mr. Cater explained that the roost referred to possibly contained eastern as well as western martins. Continuing, he said:

"I am somewhat perturbed concerning a few reports passed on to me by people from the south and east to the effect that the martins have disappeared from many sections wheretofore they were plentiful in those sections. I hope it is not true; if so, it can possibly be attributed to the increase of English sparrows, the advent of the starlings, and the lack of interest on the part of the people in erecting suitable nesting houses for the martins.

"The program of the Forest Service a few years ago, of removing so many dead pine trees in our national forest here in the west, has caused a noticeable reduction in the martin population. In most of the west the martins, where found, nest in deserted cavities in dead trees, or, here in the desert, in giant cacti. A very few communities have attracted the martins by erecting houses; Prescott, Ariz., has 30 or 40 pairs nesting in bird houses.

"The English sparrow is the worst enemy to the martins nesting in bird houses out here. As far as we know, the starlings have not yet arrived in Arizona, but we are looking for

them shortly -- not gladly, however.

"Much work can be done relative to the martins. For instance, there is no published material relative to their distribution in the United States, except in a general way. The biggest work could be done in contributing to increasing the martin population in areas now practically depopulated of these fine birds."

DR. WHITNEY'S WALL CHART

On the wall of his study Dr. Willis R. Whitney, Troy Road, has maintained a list of robin arrival dates since 1914. The dates shown are not necessarily those of the first robins of the year, but are of the first he has seen at his place. There are dates for the robin in 15 years, the bluebird for seven years, and the house wren for three. This year he added another bird to the list, with the mourning dove on March 26.

Robin dates have been between March 8 and April 4, with March 21 as the average. Bluebird dates have been from March 10 to 27, with March 19 as the average. The wren has arrived from May 4 to 9. The wall chart shows:

Robin - March 21, 1914; March 17, 1918; March 8, 1921; March 23, 1924; March 30, 1926; March 16, 1929; March 24, 1930; March 27, 1934; March 18, 1935; March 18, 1938; April 4, 1940; March 27, 1941; March 14, 1942; March 19, 1943; March 23, 1944.

Bluebird - March 21, 1914; March 23, 1924; March 10, 1927; March 27, 1934; March 18, 1935; March 18, 1938; March 14, 1942.

House wren - May 9, 1934; May 5, 1940; May 4, 1942.

NEWS & NOTES IN BRIEF

TWICE AN AUTHOR -- J. M. Hollister is the author of two articles in current publications. In "The Florida Naturalist" of January, 1944, he has reported on "A Hummingbird at Rest" which he described in FEATHERS last year. The December, 1943, issue of "The Chicago Naturalist" contains an article by him on "A Red Fox Watches the Clock," illustrated with a black-and-white reproduction from the color photograph Mr. Hollister showed at a recent S B C meeting.

FIRST WARBLER? -- Was this year's date of April 11 for the yellow palm warbler the earliest of all warblers this season? One was seen that day along Rosendale Road, in a section where they are usually seen in early spring. It was, incidentally, a new early date -- a day earlier than the 1919 record of Clarence Houghton. -- G. B.

DR. DAYTON STONER -- Dr. Dayton Stoner, 60, New York State Zoologist since 1932, died suddenly in Albany May 8, following a heart attack. An authority on ornithology and entomology, he had been on the staff of the University of Iowa, his alma mater, 20 years before taking his state position.

Dr. Stoner was a frequent contributor to the columns of FEATHERS, and to major scientific journals. He was personally known to many SBC members.

LOONIER THAN EVER -- The spring congregation of ducks on Saratoga Lake always includes some loons, and this year was no exception. Many more loons were spotted April 16 than usual; some were calling, although perhaps not at their best. The entire length of the lake was watched, and a conservative estimate would be a hundred loons among the many hundred ducks, including American mergansers, golden-eyes, scaup, and ring-necks. -- Nelle Van Vorst

AS THOUGH POURED IN -- On May 11, while enjoying the spring evening on the back porch, I heard a loud twittering and saw a very large flock of birds fairly low. They wheeled about for some time in a great circle about a city block in extent, keeping up their loud twittering and very gradually drawing into a circle of smaller circumference.

After watching at least ten minutes I realized the chimney swifts were converging on the large chimney of St. Luke's Church, and I ran around the corner for a clearer view where there would be no trees intervening. I found some friends in their garden on Division Street were also watching them.

After fully half an hour of circling nearer and nearer, the flock finally approached very close to the edge of the chimney and after many swoops and dips finally began to drop into the chimney like leaves falling from a tree. They simply poured into the chimney.

The birds which had been on the outer edges of the flock gradually gathered in until only two or three were left. After a turn or two these dropped in too, and all was quiet.

-- Viola Mabb

ANOTHER BARN OWL RECORD -- Last year it was a case of a barn owl in a tree along Rugby Road (Nov., 1943, p. 73). This year it was one seen by Chester N. Moore in the "car-barn woods" bordering Central Park, on April 30. The owl was on a limb of an evergreen, and flew from one tree to another several times.

A flock of gray-cheeked thrushes seen there the same day was also of interest since they matched the maximum early arrival date established in 1919.

MAY GROSBEAKS -- Evening grosbeaks were still to be seen in Scotia in May, as was the case a few years ago. April 30 also showed some along McClellan Street.

CARDINALS -- A pair of cardinals was reported by Mrs. Lee Nichols of Dean Street on Saturday, May 6.

MORE OSPREYS -- Reports from various observers indicate ospreys more common than usual this spring.

		TURKEY VULTURE		BIRDS TO LOOK FOR IN JULY			
Common Loon		Turkey Vulture		Western Sandpiper	Least Flycatcher	Migrant Shrike	American Redstart
Red-throated Loon		Goshawk		Sanderling	Wood Pewee	Starling	English Sparrow
Holboell's Grebe		Sharp-shinned Hawk	S	Herring Gull	Olive-sided Flycatcher	White-eyed Vireo	Bobolink
Horned Grebe		Cooper's Hawk	S	Ring-billed Gull	Northern Horned Lark	Yellow-throated Vireo	Meadowlark
Pied-billed Grebe	S	Red-tailed Hawk		Laughing Gull	Prairie Horned Lark	Blue-headed Vireo	Red-wing
Double-crested Cormorant		Red-shouldered Hawk	S	Bonaparte's Gull	Tree Swallow	Red-eyed Vireo	Orchard Oriole
Great Blue Heron		Broad-winged Hawk		Common Tern	Bank Swallow	Philadelphia Vireo	Baltimore Oriole
American Egret		Rough-legged Hawk		Least Tern	Rough-winged Swallow	Warbling Vireo	Rusty Blackbird
Little Blue Heron		Bald Eagle		Caspian Tern	Barn Swallow	Black and White Warbler	Bronzed Grackle
Green Heron	S	Marsh Hawk	S	Black Tern	Cliff Swallow	Worm-eating Warbler	Cowbird
Black-crowned Night Heron	S	Osprey		Brünnich's Murre	Purple Martin	Golden-winged Warbler	Scarlet Tanager
American Bittern	S	Duck Hawk		Mourning Dove	Canada Jay	Blue-winged Warbler	Cardinal
Least Bittern	S	Pigeon Hawk		Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Blue Jay	Tennessee Warbler	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Whistling Swan		Sparrow Hawk	R	Black-billed Cuckoo	Eastern Crow	Orange-crowned Warbler	Indigo Bunting
Canada Goose		Ruffed Grouse	R	Barn Owl	Fish Crow	Nashville Warbler	Evening Grosbeak
American Brant		European Partridge		Screach Owl	Black-capped Chickadee	Parula Warbler	Purple Finch
Greater Snow Goose		Bob-white		Great Horned Owl	Acadian Chickadee	Yellow Warbler	Pine Grosbeak
Mallard		Ring-necked Pheasant	R	Snowy Owl	White-breasted Nuthatch	Magnolia Warbler	Redpoll
Red-legged Black Duck		King Rail	S	Barred Owl	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Cape May Warbler	Pine Siskin
Common Black Duck	S	Virginia Rail	S	Long-eared Owl	Brown Creeper	Black-throated Blue Warbler	Eastern Goldfinch
Gadwall		Sora	S	Short-eared Owl	House Wren	Myrtle Warbler	Red Crossbill
Baldpate		Florida Gallinule	S	Saw-whet Owl	Winter Wren	Black-throated Green Warbler	White-winged Crossbill
Pintail		Coot		Whip-poor-will	Long-billed Marsh Wren	Cerulean Warbler	Red-eyed Towhee
Green-winged Teal		Semipalmated Plover		Nighthawk	Short-billed Marsh Wren	Blackburnian Warbler	Savannah Sparrow
Blue-winged Teal		Killdeer	S	Chimney Swift	Mockingbird	Chestnut-sided Warbler	Grasshopper Sparrow
Shoveller		Golden Plover		Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Catbird	Bay-breasted Warbler	Henlow's Sparrow
Wood Duck	S	Black-bellied Plover		Belted Kingfisher	Brown Thrasher	Black-poll Warbler	Vesper Sparrow
Redhead		Ruddy Turnstone		Flicker	Robin	Pine Warbler	Lark Sparrow
Ring-necked Duck		Woodcock	S	Pileated Woodpecker	Wood Thrush	Prairie Warbler	Slate-colored Junco
Canvas-back		Wilson's Snipe		Red-headed Woodpecker	Hermite Thrush	Western Palm Warbler	Tree Sparrow
Greater Scaup Duck		Upland Plover	S	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Olive-backed Thrush	Yellow Palm Warbler	Chipping Sparrow
Lesser Scaup Duck		Spotted Sandpiper	S	Hairy Woodpecker	Gray-cheeked Thrush	Oven-bird	Field Sparrow
American Golden-eye		Solitary Sandpiper		Downy Woodpecker	Bicknell's Thrush	Northern Water-thrush	White-crowned Sparrow
Barrow's Golden-eye		Greater Yellow-legs		Arctic 3-toed Woodpecker	Veery	Louisiana Water-thrush	White-throated Sparrow
Buffle-head		Lesser Yellow-legs		American 3-toed Woodpecker	Bluebird	Connecticut Warbler	Fox Sparrow
Old-squaw		Knot		Kingbird	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Mourning Warbler	Lincoln's Sparrow
King Eider		Purple Sandpiper		Crested Flycatcher	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Northern Yellow-throat	Swamp Sparrow
White-winged Scoter		Pectoral Sandpiper		Phoebe	American Pipit	Yellow-breasted Chat	Song Sparrow
Surf Scoter		White-rumped Sandpiper		Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Bohemian Waxwing	Hooded Warbler	Lapland Longspur
American Scoter		Least Sandpiper		Acadian Flycatcher	Cedar Waxwing	Wilson's Warbler	Snow Bunting
Ruddy Duck		Red-backed Sandpiper		Alder Flycatcher	Northern Shrike	Canada Warbler	
Hooded Merganser		Dowitcher					
American Merganser		Stilt Sandpiper					
Red-breasted Merganser		Semipalmated Sandpiper					

- Arrival time; early (1 line), mid (2), or late (3) in month
- Departure time; early (1 line), mid (2), late (3) in month
- Occas. or uncommon winter visitor R - Permanent resident
- Occas. or uncommon summer resident S - Summer resident
- Occas. early arrival date W - Winter visitor
- Occas. late departure date T - Transient visitor

FEATHERS

Published by the Schenectady Bird Club

Vol. 6, No. 7

July, 1944

AN EAGLE ATTACKS



(Union-Star Photo)

When publishing the photograph reproduced above, in its issue of June 14, the Schenectady Union-Star wrote:

"BALD AND BOLD -- The immature bald eagle which sunk its talons into the leg of W. R. Briggs of the Town of Niskayuna, while Briggs was working on his farm, became a "dead duck," through the medium of a hammer wielded by Briggs. Holding the eagle, a species about as rare as hen's teeth in this section, is Assistant District Game Protector Chester Griffith, who picked up the carcass and then presented it to the Schenectady Museum on Steuben Street. It is expected that the bird will be mounted. Its attack on Briggs was spectacular and contrary to all the rules of bird etiquette. According to Griffith, Briggs was being assisted by a boy and the eagle swooped out of the sky and attacked the boy first. Briggs came to the rescue; used the hammer, with which he was repairing a shed. The bird thereupon dug its sharp talons into the leg of the man and was killed by repeated blows of the hammer. The bird weighed about 10 pounds. Its wings, spread out, measure about six feet from tip to tip."

FEATHERS

SCHENECTADY BIRD CLUB

Annual Membership: Active, \$2, Assoc., \$1

Guy Bartlett, Editor
1053 Parkwood Blvd

According to John S. Murray, local taxidermist who mounted the eagle for the Schenectady Museum, the bird was in very poor condition. It was so emaciated that the skin adhered to the flesh (usually there is some fat and the meat not dry); and the eagle had suffered wounds in two places from shots. One wing had been hit, and the injury had become gristly. In one leg there was also a wound which was infected.

UNUSUAL SONG OF BLUE-HEADED

Chester N. Moore

The song of the blue-headed vireo with which we are most familiar is described by Peterson as being like that of the red-eyed vireo, but higher, clearer, less monotonous, and not repeated as many times in a minute.

One bright, sunny morning in late April of this year while studying birds at Jenny Lake, near Corinth, I had located one of these vireos singing in the top of a tree, but his song contained so many additional features that I was convinced for a while that some other bird was singing in the same tree. Not until I had watched the vireo's throat through the glasses was I satisfied that he was responsible for the whole song.

Later, in looking through various bird books, I found references to the fact that on special occasions this bird indulges in some more elaborate music.

Bradford Torrey says the solitary's song is matchless for the tenderness of its cadence, while in peculiarly happy moments the bird indulges in a continuous warble that is really enchanting.

Forbush speaks of watching a blue-headed vireo at William Brewster's camp in Concord, Mass., singing beautifully in a subdued tone -- almost a whisper song, the song resembling in some respects the subdued autumnal music of the catbird, interspersed with a very soft chattering like that of the ruby-crowned kinglet.

My impression is that the singing I heard included all these features and other canary-like rolls and trills. The experience was a striking illustration of the value of close observations of the singing bird while studying bird songs.

ALONG THE HUDSON -- Plan now to participate in the S B C trip down the Hudson from Albany, in mid-September. Details are to be announced next month.

JAY, CAPABLE

Adelaide L. Staley

Hurrying toward the bus stop one morning recently, I was surprised to see one of the waiting group pick up her hat and make a bee-line for the corner bake shop, followed by two scolding blue jays and a boy trying to ward them off with a folded newspaper.

With the best of intentions she had protectingly lifted a baby bird from the walk to place it in the grass beneath a nearby tree, whereupon the parent birds both swooped down with such force as to knock off her hat. After she had sought shelter the birds attacked a little dog that was then investigating the efforts of the fledgling to fly. At first the dog dodged their attacks but, evidently realizing they meant business, started on a run down the street with the birds charging after him for a whole block. Seeming assured that he was out of their way, they returned to our corner still noisily scolding until they found their progeny which by then had succeeded in hopping beneath some shrubbery.

By the time the bus arrived, we were all agreed the blue jay is quite capable of looking after its own.

ZEE ZEE ZEE ZEE ZEE! ZEE

Dr. Mirmie B. Scotland

The distinctive ascending song of high-pitched buzzes was detected early on the annual Memorial Day S B C trip (on May 28) to the scrubby pines on the sand plains at Karner. Yes, the prairie warbler had come again from his winter quarters in Florida or perhaps the West Indies. He has never disappointed the club members who have joined in the hunt at Memorial Day time in recent years.

It was in 1937 that the presence of the prairie warbler in this region became known (See FEATHERS, July, 1939, page 7). J. Edgar Bedell was informed by Dr. Homer D. House, botanist at the New York State Museum, who had observed the bird and who had learned that Professor B. S. Bronson, head of the chemistry department at the New York State College for Teachers, had found the warbler at Karner several years earlier. There appears to be no record before 1932, when the prairie warbler was listed as a casual or accidental visitor in the local List of Birds of Eastern New York.

Going back just 100 years to DeKay's New York Fauna, it

is interesting to find "The Prairie Warbler is not uncommon on Long Island, where I have procured many specimens. It appears in the State, from Mexico, about the commencement of May; and in the interior is found in great numbers on the shores of Lake Erie." A lithograph, probably made from a sketch of one of the "procured specimens," is among the plates at the back of the book. Incidentally, this state book with colored plates was the only one in existence for 44 years.

Dr. Elliot Coues knew the prairie warbler when he was beginning his ornithological trips in the 1860's. He wrote "Ten to one we would not see the little creatures at first; but presently, from the very nearest juniper would come the well-known sounds." Dr. Coues' "Key to North American Birds" proved to be an inspiration and guide for most future work, including that of Dr. Frank M. Chapman.

Both Dr. Chapman and Dr. Ralph Hoffman placed the prairie warbler in New York State in their keys. The former, in "Birds of Eastern North America" (1932), claimed that Dutchess County was the northern limit of the bird's travels; while the latter, in "Birds of New England and Eastern New York" (1923), wrote that the prairie warbler was rare in the lower Hudson Valley. Previously, in 1909, Eaton's "Birds of New York" showed it to be a rare transient in Rockland and Westchester Counties, regions about 100 miles from Karner. Wilbur W. Judd suspected the presence of the prairie warbler in Albany County when he included this bird in a hypothetical list in "The Birds of Albany County" (1907).

It would seem from these accounts that the prairie warbler has been a yearly visitor to Long Island and lower Westchester County for a hundred years and more, and that he had stopped in his northern migration several miles south of the Schenectady-Albany territory, except for the occasional individual that flew farther north into the Karner region, until sometime in the 1930's. From records obtained during the last few years S B C is satisfied in thinking of the prairie warbler as an established summer resident in the Karner area.

Reflecting the spread of the prairie warbler, Wendell Taber has written in the March, 1944, issue of the Bulletin of the Audubon Society of New Hampshire, has written "... Fire, too, alters overnight an area which, if the ground (soil) itself is not too badly scorched, soon grows up to scrub and bushes. All these changes mean a withdrawal of one group of birds and their replacement by other forms. Notable in this connection is the case of the prairie warbler. Formerly unknown or extremely rare in New Hampshire, the species has now pushed its way north in suitable scrubby and bushy habitat to Manchester and beyond." There is no difficulty in describing our own Karner region as scrubby and bushy.

What else was seen on this year's Karner trip? Nine members of SBC checked about 45 species, including the unexpected zigzag flash of a Wilson's snipe.

PEA ISLAND, N.C., IN JUNE

Malcolm Andrews

It was after much hoping and planning that we were at last headed south from Norfolk to visit the Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge along the coast of North Carolina. I was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Reed, of Norfolk, Va.

On the way down, we passed many stands of the beautifully flowering mimosa tree. A few magnolias were seen, although they were greatly outnumbered by the mimosa and chinaberry. The chinaberry, noted for its dense shade, is found in the dooryard of almost every home down that way. Brilliant orange-red trumpeter vines were seen decorating many a fence-row along the road.

We stopped overnight in Manteo, N. C., where the refuge manager, Samuel Walker, resides. Manteo is located on Roanoke Island, about 15 miles south of Kitty Hawk, N. C., made famous by the flights of the Wright brothers.

Engine Trouble

Next morning we were up bright and early. As the 24 miles down to the refuge is made most easily by water, we packed our things aboard one of Mr. Walker's boats and started out. Luck was not with us today, however, as engine trouble forced us to turn back after having gone only a few miles. In those few miles we did, nevertheless, see two surf scoters and an immature great black-backed gull. Seeing the latter so far south was an unexpected pleasure for me.

Back at Manteo Mr. Walker, Mr. Reed and I spent part of the day working to clear up the trouble with the engine. We finally had everything back together again, but since it was late in the day, decided to delay the trip until the next day so we would have more time on the refuge.

Gulls Everywhere

The following morning we again packed all our equipment in Mr. Walker's boat and headed south for the refuge. The water was unusually calm, almost like glass. Laughing gulls were everywhere; resting on the surface, flying overhead, or perched on poles out over the water. Ospreys were much in evidence, hovering over the water and uttering their plaintive notes. Now and then a turkey vulture circled by, high overhead. We had an excellent view of a mature bald eagle perched on a dead limb over the water.

The breeding subspecies of the seaside sparrow, called Macgillivray's seaside sparrow, was flushed every fifty yards or so as we sped along the marshy shore. Several red-breasted mergansers were seen, preening their feathers while resting on

FEATHERS

small stretches of sand. Several species of terns flew over the boat on the way down. The little Least Tern, easily recognized by its size, was seen along with an occasional common tern. One or two royal terns flew by, to add to the variety. Our boat passed within ten yards of a loon, which refused to dive or flush, but merely swam leisurely away.

Oregon Inlet

Our first stop was at Oregon Inlet to take pictures of a small rocky island where laughing gulls were reputed to nest. It was difficult to approach this island, as the water was only a few feet deep over a large area near it. Mr. Walker, familiar with the reefs in the area, guided the boat to within fifty feet of the island and anchored. We had to wade the rest of the way in, as the water was only a foot or so deep.

A whale had recently been washed up against one end of this island, and as can be imagined, the aroma to the windward of said whale was anything but Eau de Cologne! Luckily, however, the breeze was blowing favorably, so we were able to get up on the island in short order.

Nests, and Pictures

Not only were laughing gulls' nests and young there, but also the nests and young of the common tern, snowy egret, and Louisiana heron. The nest and eggs of the boat-tailed grackle were also seen. We identified several Forster's terns from among the cloud of birds that kept circling over the island while we were there. We remained only long enough to obtain pictures of the nests and young, as the hot sun would be too much for the latter, if too long exposed to it. There were other reasons, too! Namely, the presence of the most persistent and hard-biting flies we had seen. Also, the tide was running out at a great rate, and we didn't want our boat left high and dry.

After a short trip down the main island, we followed the channel up toward refuge headquarters. On a small sand bar at the entrance to the inlet leading to headquarters we saw two black skimmers in company with several least and royal terns. This was, indeed, a welcome party! We tied up at the dock, and proceeded to refuge headquarters to enjoy a most enjoyable meal made under the expert guidance of Mrs. Walker. After having such luxuries as iced tea and baked ham out here, we figured we were indeed indebted to the Walkers for such hospitality.

More Herons

After lunch we walked over to the heronry. Here we found black-crowned night herons, snowy egrets, and Louisiana herons nesting. In spite of flies, mosquitoes, and unwilling subjects, we did manage to get some good (we hope) pictures of

the young. Mr. Walker should have the honors, however, as it was he who maneuvered the young out to suitable perches.

"Broken Wing" Tactics

We returned to headquarters, where Mr. Walker took us in his truck to have a look at the big mud flats. Things began to come thick and fast. Several groups of blue-winged teal and young were seen. Mother gadwall and her brood of young were seen well. The mother would put on the usual "broken wing" tactics, while the young scattered for cover. At one place where two black skimmers were seen, a lone black tern flew by, followed by two willets with their striking wing stripes plainly visible. Other shore birds seen on these flats were semipalmated and black-bellied plovers, and greater yellow-legs. Down at New Inlet several Wilson's plovers were seen.

We made the return boat trip to Manteo that evening, after having had a most enjoyable trip, due in no small part to the kindness and hospitality of the Walkers.

Next morning we reluctantly started back to Norfolk. However, the finding of a Florida cormorant while crossing a seven-mile bridge made the perfect ending for a long-to-be-remembered trip.

NEWS & NOTES IN BRIEF

THE OLD HERONRY -- On May 19 the ornithology class at State College took its sixth annual trip to Normandin's (Crescent) on the Mohawk. Having been told the year before by Mr. Normandin himself that "you won't find any birds this year" the group returned to see if the black-crowned night herons had fooled Mr. Normandin and had reestablished themselves at his camp-site.

They hadn't. There were only three herons observed, flying over the back-water south of the former heronry. Apparently the birds have settled on unoccupied land considerably to the west. So, now, campers and black-crowned night herons no longer compete at Normandin's. -- M. B. S.

IDEAL FOR THRUSHES -- A mid-July evening attempt to locate the worm-eating warbler in the Indian Ladder Ravine resulted in a surprise concert of the hermit and olive-backed thrushes, with the wood thrush in the distance, and the oven-bird rendering his evening or flight song. As the party approached the nesting site of the elusive warbler a slight motion in the bushes caused them to stop. In a flash the warbler scuttled along a fallen tree so they had just a glimpse of him. This evening trip is to be repeated next July. -- N. V. -V.

Common Loon	Turkey Vulture
Red-throated Loon	Goshawk
Hobboell's Grebe	Sharp-shinned Hawk S
Horned Grebe	Cooper's Hawk S
Pied-billed Grebe S	Red-tailed Hawk
Double-crested Cormorant	Red-shouldered Hawk S
Great Blue Heron T	Broad-winged Hawk
American Egret S	Rough-legged Hawk
Little Blue Heron	Bald Eagle
Green Heron S	Marsh Hawk S
Black-crowned Night Heron S	Osprey
American Bittern S	Duck Hawk
Least Bittern S	Pigeon Hawk
Whistling Swan	Sparrow Hawk R
Canada Goose	Ruffed Grouse R
American Brant	European Partridge
Greater Snow Goose	Bob-white
Mallard	Ring-necked Pheasant R
Red-legged Black Duck	King Rail S
Common Black Duck S	Virginia Rail S
Gadwall	Sora S
Baldpate	Florida Gallinule S
Pintail	Coot
Green-winged Teal	Semipalmated Plover
Blue-winged Teal	Killdeer S
Shoveller	Golden Plover
Wood Duck S	Black-bellied Plover
Redhead	Ruddy Turnstone
Ring-necked Duck	Woodcock S
Canvas-back	Wilson's Snipe
Greater Scaup Duck	Upland Plover S
Lesser Scaup Duck	Spotted Sandpiper S
American Golden-eye	Solitary Sandpiper T
Barrow's Golden-eye	Greater Yellow-legs
Buffle-head	Lesser Yellow-legs T
Old-equaw	Knot
King Eider	Purple Sandpiper
White-winged Scoter	Pectoral Sandpiper T
Surf Scoter	White-rumped Sandpiper
American Scoter	Least Sandpiper T
Ruddy Duck	Red-backed Sandpiper
Hooded Merganser	Dowitcher
American Merganser	Stilt Sandpiper
Red-breasted Merganser	Semipalmated Sandpiper T

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR IN AUGUST

Western Sandpiper	Least Flycatcher S	Migrant Shrike	American Redstart S
Sanderling T	Wood Pewee S	Starling R	English Sparrow R
Herring Gull	Olive-sided Flycatcher	White-eyed Vireo	Bobolink S
Ring-billed Gull	Northern Horned Lark	Yellow-throated Vireo S	Meadowlark S
Laughing Gull	Prairie Horned Lark S	Blue-headed Vireo	Red-wing S
Bonaparte's Gull	Tree Swallow	Red-eyed Vireo S	Orchard Oriole
Common Tern	Bank Swallow S	Philadelphia Vireo	Baltimore Oriole S
Least Tern	Rough-winged Swallow	Warbling Vireo S	Rusty Blackbird
Caspian Tern	Barn Swallow S	Black and White Warbler	Bronzed Grackle S
Black Tern	Cliff Swallow S	Worm-eating Warbler	Cowbird S
Brünnich's Murre	Purple Martin	Golden-winged Warbler S	Scarlet Tanager S
Mourning Dove S	Canada Jay	Blue-winged Warbler	Cardinal
Yellow-billed Cuckoo S	Blue Jay R	Tennessee Warbler	Rose-breasted Grosbeak S
Black-billed Cuckoo S	Eastern Crow R	Orange-crowned Warbler	Indigo Bunting S
Barn Owl R	Fish Crow	Nashville Warbler	Eyening Grosbeak
Screech Owl R	Black-capped Chickadee	Parula Warbler	Purple Finch
Great Horned Owl R	Acadian Chickadee	Yellow Warbler S	Pine Grosbeak
Snowy Owl	White-breasted Nuthatch	Magnolia Warbler	Redpoll
Barred Owl R	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Cape May Warbler	Pine Siskin
Long-eared Owl R	Brown Creeper	Black-throated Blue Warbler S	Eastern Goldfinch S
Short-eared Owl	House Wren S	Myrtle Warbler	Red Crossbill
Saw-whet Owl	Winter Wren	Black-throated Green Warbler	White-winged Crossbill
Whip-poor-will	Long-billed Marsh Wren S	Cerulean Warbler	Red-eyed Towhee S
Nighthawk S	Short-billed Marsh Wren S	Blackburnian Warbler	Savannah Sparrow S
Chimney Swift	Mockingbird	Chestnut-sided Warbler S	Grasshopper Sparrow
Ruby-throated Hummingbird S	Catbird S	Bay-breasted Warbler	Henslow's Sparrow
Belted Kingfisher S	Brown Thrasher S	Black-poll Warbler	Vesper Sparrow S
Flicker S	Robin S	Pine Warbler	Lark Sparrow
Pileated Woodpecker R	Wood Thrush S	Prairie Warbler S	Slate-colored Junco S
Red-bellied Woodpecker S	Hermit Thrush S	Western Palm Warbler	Tree Sparrow
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Olive-backed Thrush	Yellow Palm Warbler	Chipping Sparrow S
Hairy Woodpecker R	Gray-cheeked Thrush	Oven-bird S	Field Sparrow S
Downy Woodpecker R	Bicknell's Thrush	Northern Water-thrush	White-crowned Sparrow
Arctic 3-toed Woodpecker	Veery S	Louisiana Water-thrush S	White-throated Sparrow S
American 3-toed Woodpecker	Bluebird S	Connecticut Warbler	Fox Sparrow
Kingbird S	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Mourning Warbler	Lincoln's Sparrow
Crested Flycatcher S	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Northern Yellow-throat S	Swamp Sparrow S
Phoebe S	American Pipit	Yellow-breasted Chat	Song Sparrow S
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Bohemian Waxwing	Hooded Warbler	Leopard Kingbird
Acadian Flycatcher	Cedar Waxwing S	Wilson's Warbler	Snow Bunting
Alder Flycatcher S	Northern Shrike	Canada Warbler	



- Arrival time; early (1 line), mid (2) or late (3) in month
- Departure time; early (1 line), mid (2) late (3) in month
- Occas. or uncommon winter visitor R - Permanent resident
- Occas. or uncommon summer resident S - Summer resident
- Occas. early arrival date W - Winter visitor
- Occas. late departure date T - Transient visitor

FEATHERS

Published by the Schenectady Bird Club

Vol. 6, No. 8

August, 1944

WHILE TAKING PICTURES

J. M. Hollister

The unexpected can always be expected, if such is possible, when one indulges in nature photography as his hobby. And particularly in the case of bird photography is this true. Here, for example, are a few notes concerning my experiences in photographing a few species:

Anhinga or Snake-Bird

The snake-bird, as it is commonly called in Florida, likes the water as well as the land. Although the body is small, the neck and tail are extremely long. From tip to tip is often 36 inches. When it swims under water, the long neck extends above the surface in a curved position, giving the appearance of a snake -- thus the name.

To approach the bird is difficult as swamps are its home, where frogs and lizards are plentiful for food. When I discovered one feeding in a ditch by the roadside, where the water was only two or three feet deep and covered by lily-pads, I knew that now was my chance for a picture. My first effort was only a case of hide-and-seek. I soon discovered that something was the matter with one wing, as the anhinga always made a dive instead of a flight. I also discovered that the direction taken, whether up or down the ditch, was indicated by the way the head pointed when it hit the water. It also had a favorite stub on which it rested when spreading and drying its wings.

To get a snap of the head and neck out of water was not easy. I finally got one by approaching the bird from directly across the ditch, and noting the direction taken when the dive was made. Then I ran about 50 yards in that direction in high gear, sat down, and quickly adjusted the camera on an open-water space among the lily pads. It was not long before the neck and head were seen approaching. My pictures represented the best part of six days of effort and 180 miles by automobile. The sequel was that the bird was caught by an alligator the following week, I was told by the Audubon Society's warden who lived nearby.

Burrowing Owl

When I was in Florida I was anxious to get a picture of the burrowing owls. These are the only birds with which I am familiar that nest and live the entire year in the ground. They have unusually large feet and strong legs, and dig a hole

Guy Bartlett, Editor
1053 Parkwood Blvd.

from 6 to 12 feet, depending on the nature of the soil.

In this particular case I had previously located the burrow, and as the day was pleasant I felt sure of getting a picture. Fortunately I took a lunch along, little expecting to eat it under the conditions which developed.

On my arrival, there sat the owl at the entrance of the burrow. The day before I had built a blind of pampas grass taken up in large clumps, so that with my 20-foot wire release and a telephoto lens I was confident of getting something good. All I had to do was to set the camera and crawl into the blind. I did so at 9 A.M., expecting every minute to see my subject reappear. As a matter of fact, I was there until 5 P.M., and never saw the owl again. I charged that trip up to a good sun bath.

Slate-colored Junco

In taking pictures of birds it is common practice to focus the camera on a feeding station or nest and wait for the subject to appear. But to catch a bird without these focal points is another matter. My experience with a slate-colored junco is a case in point. A nest was found on the ground with young birds. A friend took pictures. Before I approached the nest for taking a snap, the mother bird had visited the young. Much to my surprise, the nest was empty. Nothing in sight, due to the thick grass. Evidently a warning had been given in some way, and the youngsters had "skipped."

I believe that birds are creatures of habit, the same as humans. I know that in walking to the office many of us follow the same path daily. I had noticed that the mother bird on the last lap of approach to the young stopped at one of two points. So I focused the camera on the top of a fence post while nothing was in sight. With the 20-foot wire release, I waited only 10 minutes before I obtained the picture.

The same method was used in obtaining a picture of a wood thrush, only in this case she was collecting food from my back porch to take to her young in the next block.

Brown Thrasher

The brown thrasher has a speckled breast and is often called a thrush - red thrush and fox thrush. As a matter of fact it is not a thrush at all. It is much larger than the thrushes and robins, being about 11 inches long. I had read of its fighting ability, and some ornithologists state that it got its name from giving intruders at its nest a good thrashing. My first experience was a wait of a couple of hours, after arranging the surroundings without having the birds return.

The next experience, however, with a pair found nesting in a small orange tree was entirely different. While tying back the branches to obtain an unobstructed view, I evidently was considered an intruder, for when I left I had six welts on the back of my hand; each one covered with blood. I am convinced that the bird is properly named.

Florida Jay

The Florida jay differs from the northern blue jay by having no head crest, and in being more sociable with man. They are easily taught to feed from the hand. Nearly everyone interested in birds tries it.

I was no exception. I thought it a bright idea to have a picture of one feeding on the top of my head. The picture was taken alright. Whether the jay intended to give me a stroke of affection or missed the mark in grabbing the food, I do not know. But at any rate I had a hole in my scalp which required several days to heal.

(On various occasions Mr. Hollister has shown some of his large collection of Kodachrome slides of birds and other nature subjects at SBC meetings. The above notes refer to a few of those pictures.)

DRAT THAT FLICKER!

Barrington S. Havens

As this is being written, it is the time when the flicker comes into his own. Not that the flicker really ever has to take a back seat for anybody, but if ever there were a time when the flicker might be said to come into his own it is this time - about the first of May.

Now as a bird personality, there's one thing that can be said about the flicker: you may like him or not, but you can't ignore him. If you have any desirable (to a flicker) trees in your yard or otherwise on your property, some flicker or other is rather more than likely to take a little time off to do some fancy wood chiseling, and you'll wake up some fine morning to find your lawn covered with nice clean chips.

Or if you are anywhere near where flickers are and your sight is unimpaired, you're hardly likely to overlook this species. Its very size alone will see to that, not to mention the conspicuous markings.

But it's through your ears in particular that the flicker will impress his personality on you, nine times out of ten. Through long experience with the human race - probably dating

FEATHERS

back to the late Mesozoic - he has learned to calculate with great nicety the exact hour when a human being is tearing off his most precious beauty sleep, and that's the time when the flicker picks out a perch and, after a few preliminary clearings of the throat to warm up his syrinx, throws his head back and delights the cool, early-morning air with a brisk "wick-wick" salute.

Pardon me - did I say salute? Rather I should have said a series. For the flicker doesn't do it by halves, not he! Once he gets in the groove, he's likely to keep it up for an hour or two.

Truly Versatile

But we still haven't reached the limit of the flicker's versatility. So far, we've spoken of nothing that isn't common to any song bird, or at least to any woodpecker. These are the things a self-respecting bird does by instinct, either to charm his ladylove or to make a home for his brood. If we let it go at that, we could say of the flicker that these things are interesting, perhaps, but still hardly worth an article in FEATHERS.

But, like the character in Charles Lamb's "Essay on Roast Pig," there came a time in the race history of the flicker when some accident brought a flicker and a tin roof together at the right time. There was the flicker, there was the tin roof, and the flicker felt an urge to tap out his initials, or whatever it is in the flicker wireless code which is equivalent to a heart with an arrow through it. And that started a new chapter in flickerology. Since then things have evolved in such a way that nowadays any flicker worthy of the name hasn't lived until he's gone to town on a good, resounding metal surface.

Colapitian Virtuosity

My earliest experience with this type of Colapitian virtuosity was some five or ten years ago in Central Park, early in the morning. Making my way over the trails in the fashion usual to that period of bird study, I paused to listen to a new woodpecker tattoo. It was the father of all tattoos - loud, challenging, and metallic. Making my way carefully in the direction of the source, so as not to frighten the artist, I finally discovered a flicker in an attitude of inspired concentration before a rather large, empty oil drum. As I watched, his head went down and the tattoo came up, in belligerent, overwhelming waves of sound. Then the bird paused, lifted his head, and looked around as if to see if any bird or person was admiring his artistry. After a brief wait, he went to work on the drum again.

Since then I have seen - and heard of - this performance a number of times. The latest example was twofold, and it oc-

curred this morning as I was on my way down to work through Vale Cemetery. One virtuoso was "sending" on a tin roof; the other, on a metal water bucket.

You may roll your eyes in ecstatic appreciation of the winnowing of the snipe, the mournful quavering of the upland plover, the song and dance of the woodcock, or the twilight song of the wood pewee, but if you haven't heard a good husky flicker, full of beans, performing on a tin roof, you haven't heard anything.

(Note: This article would have been longer and funnier if it hadn't been for the constant distraction of a flicker drumming on a sheet-metal chimney just outside my window.)

BABES IN THE WOODS

Mrs. Bertram Wellman

In May a friend offered to show Dorothy Caldwell and me some baby horned owls which had but recently left the nest. We walked quietly through a woods until we reached an open, parklike grove of tall pines. At first we were only aware of seeing three untidy bunches of tawny straw caught near the top of one of the pines.

A second look turned them into three owls, which were meeting our gaze with stupid, staring eyes, their only movement being an occasional blink. A light breeze stirred soft bits of down which were breaking loose from their feathers. There was only a slight suggestion of ears as yet. They might be only babies, but they seemed enormous.

They must have flown two or three rods across from their home tree to their present roost. The location of the nest was revealed by the litter of bones of mice, squirrels and rabbits on the ground beneath the tree. The grove had a skunk odor which Forbush associates with the great horned owl.

Three owls in one tree! But there was to be further excitement, for suddenly the dead limb broke on which one was sitting. He spread his wings but did not manage to fly. He caught at a lower limb but slipped through. We found the frightened bird on the ground at some distance from the tree.

He tried to back away from us but was prevented from going far by a pile of brush. He snapped his beak repeatedly with a clack like the shutting of a dry, wooden box, and rolled his nictitating membranes over his large, yellow eyes with an action so swift that we found it difficult to follow. We could hear him breathe heavily and could see his red tongue. He drew himself up as if to spring, and swayed from side to side on his padded feet. His sharp-pointed and snapping beak

and his large claws seemed truly formidable. With some hesitation Miss Caldwell threw a hat over his head and placed him on a woodpile where we hoped that he would be safe.

To the above Miss Caldwell added a note: Dr. Arthur A. Allen's article in the June National Geographic has a colored photograph of a young barred owl on the ground, in exactly the pose that our grounded owl assumed. Also, William Brewster in his "Concord River", pp. 129-135, describes most interestingly a somewhat similar experience with grounded young great horned owls. Apparently it is not unusual for the young birds to fall to the ground and survive, even though their wing feathers are not fully developed enough for them to manage the flight back up to their nest, which in the case of our young bird must have been at least 60 feet up and perhaps nearly 100. The pines were mammoth old ones, possible contemporaries of our fine old pines that still survive at Mount McGregor.

NEWS & NOTES IN BRIEF

G-E WREN -- It seemed as though everybody must have heard it, even if they didn't see it. There the house wren was, at least on June 26 and 27, right in the trees at the main entrance to G-E, and loudly proclaiming its presence.

CORINTH SWALLOWS -- Tree swallows nest in bird boxes in the hills back of Corinth. Josef Ulrich, a resident there, has had them in his bird boxes for a number of years. His home is beside a pond, which may have something to do with the fact that the birds prefer his boxes. -- B. S. H.

SEVEN VULTURES AT STOCKPORT -- Word has been received from S. Waldo Bailey, warden of Pleasant Valley Sanctuary, Lenox, Mass., that in late April he saw seven turkey vultures at Stockport, N.Y., along the Hudson River below Albany.

WORM-EATERS -- Last month (p. 55) mention was made of a mid-July record of the worm-eating warbler in the Indian Ladder Ravine. This somewhat rare warbler has been recorded for many years there. On a visit there in late May many more than usual were heard, and some seen. -- N. V. V.

HOW MUCH DOES A SPARROW WEIGH? -- We quote from an item by Eugene P. Odum in The Oriole (Georgia Ornithological Society) of March-June:

"How much does a sparrow weigh? A simple question, but hard to answer briefly since bird weight is a complicated subject. In the first place it would depend on species, the sex, the time of day, the age, the time of year, and geographical locality. An average-sized sparrow, such as an English or white-throated sparrow weighs about an ounce (26-

30 grams). A bird's weight fluctuates a great deal more than that of man. There is usually a pronounced daily rhythm (maybe 10% lighter in morning than in evening), a seasonal rhythm (heavier in winter), and in many species a sex difference (pronounced in hawks) or a geographical difference (northern individuals often heavier than southern ones)."

REPRINTED -- "Hunting Birds with a Microphone" by Dr. A. A. Allen, published originally in FEATHERS, June-July, 1941, is one of the articles in the April issue of The Chicago Naturalist, published by The Chicago Academy of Sciences, with credit to SBC.

LOCAL AUTHORS -- The March, 1944, issue of the Bulletin to the Schools, University of the State of New York, contains two articles of particular local interest. The issue, the annual arbor day and bird day number, has an article by SBC member Malcolm W. Rix (p. 243) describing his technique of "Bird Modeling." Photographs of his models of the passenger pigeon and common tern are included. The late Dayton Stoner as state zoologist authored the illustrated article on "Facts about Flickers."

Dr. Stoner was also the author of "The 1941-1942 Snowy Owl Incursion in New York State," in Bird-Banding, October, 1943. The report includes various references to local records of the owl. Dr. Stoner's snowy owl reports are also incorporated in "Food of the Snowy Owl," by Alfred O. Gross in The Auk of January, 1944.

SNOW GEESE? -- Various SBC members unsuccessfully tried to see "two white geese" that were reported on Mariaville Lake April 22 and 23 along with two Canada geese.

SUMMER GEESE -- On Sunday, June 11, eleven Canada geese were observed in a field between Schermerhorn and Rice Roads. They were first noticed at about 1 P.M., and remained there apparently feeding on young corn until about 3 o'clock.

During this time a truck approached to within 100 feet before they took flight. They didn't seem greatly disturbed and they landed again about 300 yards away, and walked back to the original feeding spot. The second time a truck approached they took to flight and disappeared from view before they seemed to have set a definite course.

Identification as Canada geese was quite definite, both by marking and their enormous size. -- L. H. Shaw

G-E FLICKER -- On the morning of June 11 a flicker was heard and observed on top of Building 6. -- B. S. H.

NOT RIGHT -- The Schenectady newspapers of May 23 carried items to the effect that a young saw-whet owl had fallen from a Ferry Street tree to the top of an automobile. The bird was turned over to the Schenectady Museum for feeding and liberation. The bird in question was, however, of a much more common species -- it was a young screech owl.

FROM THE SCHOOLS

During May, when bird migration was at its height, pupils in several of the city schools were asked, as part of their classroom work, to write a letter about some of their bird observations. Most of the letters were addressed to Miss Van Vorst as head of the Schenectady Bird Club; some were written to Miss Eva I. Bateman of the Schenectady Museum.

Drawings accompanied some of the letters; some were written as poems. Among the letters were the several that follow, arranged alphabetically:

My Favorite — The Robin

Bernice Abramson
Grade 4, Edison

I would like to tell you about my favorite bird, the robin. I like him because he sings so sweetly and I also like his orange red breast. Miss Bateman was here from the museum and she brought some stuffed birds. She had a robin. She said robins' breasts are orange. Robins lay blue-green eggs and the mother sits on them for two weeks. When they are hatched their father must go and find many worms for the baby birds. After a while they fly out of their nest and look for food. They take care of themselves. Baby robins eat many worms. They keep their mother and father very busy. In the fall they go south. We are glad to see them again in the spring.

.

How the Bluebirds Fooled Me

Thomas Brown
Grade 5, Lincoln

A few days after you (Miss Bateman) gave a lecture on birds, two very beautiful birds sat on a tree in our backyard. After looking at them I thought they were going to build a nest in a wren house my father built, but they found out that they could not get in so I ran in and told my father. He made a bird-house to fit them. The two birds were bluebirds. The next day I looked out to see whether they liked their house, but they were not in the house. Guess where they were! They had built their nest in a hole in top of the clothes-pole. Was I fooled, and I thought I had a very interesting experience.

.

Heard, But Not Seen

Betty Dickheuer
Grade 4, Brandywine Ave.

I am nine years old and in the fourth grade. I was one of the first to join the Audubon Club for I like to study birds. I went on a bird hunt just last night with Mrs. Veeder and some of the class. We saw quite a few birds. The first one we saw was a robin chasing a blue jay. The blue jay tried to get the robin's nest. Isn't he a robber!

The blue jay is Adele Milbank's bird. Oh! You don't know, do you? Each one in the class chose a bird and we are studying all about that one bird. Then when we finish studying about the bird we will take another, and so on.

I suppose you are waiting to hear more about the birds I've seen. Well, after that we saw the most beautiful red-winged blackbirds. After we walked a way a boy spied a veery. Oh! It was the first I had ever seen and I only got a glimpse of him but I hope I see one again. What made me so-o-o-o mad was that I heard the mourning dove nearly all the way and didn't even get a glimpse of him. What made me more mad was that when the others went the next morning they saw two mourning doves.

.

A Robin Nest

Mary Lou Grzelecki
Grade 3, Yates

Last year my brother and I saw a robin making a nest. So the next morning we put some string on the fence so that the bird could finish his nest. After the nest was finished we would bring bread to it every morning. Every year that robin comes to get more bread.

.

An Oriole at Work

Roger Harvey
Grade 6, Horace Mann

Last year there was a Baltimore oriole's nest in the tree near where I lived. The nest was long and hung down. I watched the birds while they were making it. The male oriole (I knew he was a male because of his color) got the grass and he had some feathers too. After a while he found some worms and gave some to his mate and he had some.

I had to go to school then so I couldn't watch them any more. When I came home from school the birds weren't working on their nest but they were singing. The next day they finished the nest and they were singing again. I think they must have been happy.

.

Waiting for the Hummingbird

Nancy Jean Havens
Grade 4, Brandywine Ave.

I enjoy being in our Junior Audubon Club. We go on bird hikes a lot. Yesterday we went for a hike and saw many birds. We have three little groups and each person picks out a bird

they like to study. I picked the hummingbird. We look up all the information we can about our bird and write it down. Each group entertains the other groups with bird quizzes and bird plays.

So far this year I have seen the blue jay, robin, wood thrush, downy woodpecker, red-winged blackbird, starling, red-start, English sparrow, song sparrow, and vesper sparrow. I have heard the chipping sparrow, and the mourning dove. I hope I will see my hummingbird when it comes back. I expect him back soon.

.

A Class Hike

Marylin Madison
Grade 4, Brandywine Ave.

We have a Junior Audubon Club in our room. The class elected me secretary. Mrs. Veeder has taken the class on several bird trips. They went over in the cemetery the other afternoon.

The first thing they saw was a robin chasing a blue jay. She finally got him to leave. Then the robin went to her nest which was right near. I suppose the jay was trying to get her eggs.

Down by the pond they saw redwinged blackbirds, a thrush or veery, a downy woodpecker, a flicker, a flock of vesper sparrows, besides the common grackle which many children didn't know.

They also saw a little gray bird. It was bigger than a sparrow. It was gray all over and shaped like the dipper. But Mrs. Veeder knew it wasn't the dipper. It bobbed its tail up and down. What do you think it could have been?

The next morning at 7 A.M. they went to McClellan Street Woods. On the way they saw a robin gathering up a long piece of cloth. He looped it up with his bill before he flew away with it. It flew to his nest which was on the porch of a boy in our room.

At the park they saw a pair of mourning doves, and nut-hatches and lots of jays. They heard many calls. Mrs. Veeder would identify them.

We enjoy our meetings of the Club, and perhaps you could visit us some time.

.

Watching a Robin

John Pierce
Grade 6, Euclid

Sunday I was working out in the garden and I happened to look over in the next-door yard where they have a big cherry tree.

What do you think? I saw a big robin sitting there on a branch. He was looking all around him. He flew away. In about five minutes he was back again with something that looked like cord or string. He put this on the branch and flew away. He came back and brought some twigs or sticks. He did this for a few days.

Yesterday I went out to the yard and to my amazement the

FEATHERS

nest was all built.

I am going to watch the nest and see if I can see any blue eggs in it.

.

Rescued

Susan Seib
Grade 8, Sunny View

Around Sunny View there are three very interesting robin's nests, but the one we think is the most unusual is the nest under the porte-cochere over the entrance at Sunny View. When the robin built its nest something blew it down. Mr. Hutton, our janitor, found the nest on the ground and looked up and saw the robin sitting on the board with one egg under her and another egg across from her. Mr. Hutton put the eggs in the nest while Mrs. Robin was away. Then Mr. Hutton looked at it again and found the robin on the opposite side. Finally she went back to her nest and we are waiting for the eggs to hatch.

(The above letter was written May 24. Both eggs hatched, and the two young robins lived to fly away at the proper time.)

NEWS & NOTES IN BRIEF

BUTTERFLIED -- What is a youngster expected to do if just as he starts to get out of the school bus a black duck hurries across the road in front of the bus, followed by several half-grown young, and headed in the direction of a nearby stream? And particularly if he happens to have a butterfly net with him? He did, just as might be expected. After a minute or so, however, he liberated the young duck and it was apparent from the exchange of calls that it managed to rejoin its family in the marsh, none the worse for its experience. -- G. B.

PLANE-BIRDS -- A group of people watching U. S. Army bombers passing over Scotia on July 30 noted a much smaller plane flying very high and called it to my attention. I knew it was a bird of some kind, and at first thought an eagle, but more observation and closer view with glasses proved it to be a turkey vulture. It is believed the bird was carried north from its normal habitat by the severe storm which struck this vicinity the preceding day. -- W. R. Steele

. . . . Not to be outdone by Scotia, Woodlawn a little later reported its own plane-bird. The Gazette, August 9, said:

"What appeared to be a plane flying high over Woodlawn about 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon startled several area residents when it suddenly flapped its wings, circled for about 25 minutes and swooped off toward the north.

"The large bird, reported to be dark brown with white-tipped wings, appeared not long after several planes had flown over at what seemed to be about the same altitude, and onlookers at first believed it to be another machine."

APPRECIATION -- I have just returned from vacation at Jenny Lake where the blue-headed vireo, in appreciation (?) of my note about his song (p. 50), built his nest about ten feet from our cabin. We enjoyed the whole process of nest-building, incubating the eggs, feeding the young, and the departure of the young from the nest. Roy Steele wanted badly to take pictures of the young sitting on the branch just beyond the nest but there just wasn't enough light in the early morning, and they didn't hang around many minutes.

-- Chester N. Moore

A TRAGIC ELECTRONIC KISS -- This one was gleaned from the pages of Electronic Markets, July issue:

"Two doves feeling the urge for romance decided the time was ripe to coo their song of love. The lady dove, in total disregard for such mundane things, perched herself upon a 'pot head' atop a transformer. With her mind on the more important business of the moment, that of being coy, she even neglected to investigate power potentials. We don't mean here, but that of the 'pot head' -- a mere 11,000 volts. The male strutting its stuff on an adjacent wire, reached over to peck his lady friend, perhaps to let her know he was still boss of the situation. A blinding flash -- and two doves, never realizing love could be so consuming, are no more. The shock was even too much for Station KOY, Phoenix, Ariz., which, because of the 'hot romance' was off the air for twenty minutes."

WATER CHESTNUT -- We quote Jack Halpin in his column, "Outdoors With Halpin", in the Union-Star of August 10:

"It is entirely probable that the campaign of this column and paper to rid Collins Lake and the Mohawk of the pestiferous water chestnut may bear fruit. We talked to Bill Hotaling, president of the County Conservation Council, the other day and Bill, who had just returned from his vacation, said he thought we were moving along the right track. The matter probably will be brought up at the next meeting of the council, which is scheduled for the Guan-Ho-Ha clubhouse on September 11.

"The first steps in making up the state budget are taken during September and if a committee from the council can persuade Assembly Speaker Oswald D. Heck to do some talking for them it may be possible to get an appropriation to start work next year. This is not any selfish, one-county proposition. The water chestnut is now in the Mohawk and Hudson in quantities sufficiently large to warrant the state's stepping in -- and the Federal government, too."

EGRETS, AND OTHERS -- At least two American egrets had arrived at the Niskayuna section of the Mohawk by July 16, a half dozen SBC members found when they followed the river that day. Only one great blue heron was seen, and just a few black-crowned night herons. Green herons were common, and there were two American bitterns, one of them not as disguised as usual while it stood in characteristic pose in the cat-tails. It was apparent that breeding ducks are

FEATHERS

SCHENECTADY BIRD CLUB
Annual Membership: Active, \$2; Assoc., \$1

Guy Bartlett, Editor
1053 Parkwood Boulevard

increasingly common in the Crescent Lake section. There were numerous groups of black ducks, and one mallard was identified. Also seen with young were a king rail and Florida gallinules. It required time to flush the king rail into sight; two of its chicks popped into view afterwards. The rail, incidentally, was along a new section of the main shore. One pied-billed grebe fed in the dense water-chestnut growth.

Only one bird of prey - a lone sparrow hawk - was seen. Included among shore birds were four killdeer, three sanderlings, and one least sandpiper.

Birds expected and looked for, but not found, were the golden-winged warbler and Henslow's sparrow. Sixty-seven species were listed. -- G. B.

LITTLE BLUE -- An immature little blue heron was the high light of the trip by four SBC members along the river August 13. White-plumaged, bluish-billed, and yellow-legged -- conveniently associated in plain view with a slightly smaller green heron. Across the river a half dozen or so of the much larger, white-plumaged, yellow-billed, black-legged American egrets; and numerous, still larger great blue herons all around.

The sora, king and Virginia rails were all recorded. Two large flocks of bobolinks were seen in "rice-bird" plumage. Shore-bird records were meager, and so were the songs and notes of all birds.

Swallows were increasingly numerous in flocks along the wires and over the rank, dense, heavy-enough-to-support-green-heron growth of water chestnut; the swallows mostly barns and trees.

Pheasants were victims of some disease. One practically dead young pheasant was found; another was hardly able to stagger off into the brush. As was the case on the trip of July 16, a male indigo bunting was expected on, and found on, the top of a specified telephone pole.

WATERVLIET EGRETS -- Three American egrets were at Watervliet Reservoir Sunday afternoon, August 13. As found to be the case along the river in the morning, the shore-bird season had hardly started, although the reservoir was fast becoming ideal, so far as mud flats were concerned, for such visitors. In another week the shore birds were at the reservoir, with a black-bellied plover as the most interesting of those observed on Sunday, August 20. Among others there then were ring-necked plovers and lesser yellow-legs. The expanse of drying-out mud flats that day left no doubt but what there would be plenty of opportunity this fall to attract shore birds in numbers. -- N. V. V.

EVENING VOICES -- During late August it was apparent to many SBC members that warblers were in migration. Even though they may not have been seen, they could be heard overhead during the night.

PLAN NOW FOR FEEDERS -- Admittedly, there's no great rush if you intend to feed the birds this winter, but on the other hand there certainly is, no objection to making a start now on getting your feeding shelf, suet holders and other paraphernalia assembled, and starting to collect sunflower and other seeds, as well as various non-perishable foods.

It is a question as to whether or not there will be any flocks of evening grosbeaks to feed this winter -- one winter's experience is not of help in guessing what will happen the next season. On the other hand, redpolls or purple finches may unexpectedly be common, and willing to winter at well-stocked feeders.

A simple window shelf, a board attached to a tree or to a post, a chunk of suet nailed against the bark of a tree in your yard, or any of the more ornamental feeders -- they are all good attractions for the wintering birds.

NIGHT SINGER -- Birds that sing during the night really are not uncommon. For several years there has been such a night-singing field sparrow along Rosendale Road, usually to be heard in early summer at about 11 o'clock at night, and continuing intermittently for an hour or so. It usually has preceded the robin in the morning, being one of the first to awaken in its particular neighborhood. The Henslow's sparrow is another more or less regular night singer.

FIVE MINUTES -- FIVE GULLS

Dorothy W. Caldwell

Our genial SBC chairman, Nelle Van Vorst, was delighted to find five species of gulls in five minutes at Newburyport harbor, Mass., early in August. The gulls were the great black-backed, herring, ring-billed, Bonaparte's, and the little gull, the latter a visitor from Europe for the summer.

The Merrimac Basin can do even better than this for the visitor in the colder months. Last March an enthusiastic young field ornithologist triumphantly reported seven species of gulls in the last half hour of a Brookline Bird Club trip to Newburyport, some of the experts having helped him identify the glaucous, Iceland, great black-backed, herring, ring-billed, Bonaparte's, and the black-headed gull, another Old World species.

The Kumlien's gull, that rather rare hybrid between the Iceland and the Thayer's, was also seen at Newburyport in the winter, making nine species of gulls recorded in the area for 1944. Just why the laughing gull is omitted from the list, we do not understand. It nests off the Maine coast and is abundant in summer along the Massachusetts coast from Nahant south, but it apparently has some reason for generally avoiding Newburyport and the rest of Massachusetts' North Shore.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR IN OCTOBER

Common Loon	—	Turkey Vulture	—	Western Sandpiper	—	Least Flycatcher	—	Migrant Shrike	T	American Redstart	—
Red-throated Loon	T	Osprey	—	Sanderling	—	Wood Pewee	—	Starling	R	English Sparrow	R
Hajboell's Grebe	—	Sharp-shinned Hawk	—	Herring Gull	T	Olive-sided Flycatcher	—	White-eyed Vireo	—	Bobolink	—
Horned Grebe	—	Cooper's Hawk	—	Ring-billed Gull	—	Northern Horned Lark	—	Yellow-throated Vireo	—	Meadowlark	—
Pied-billed Grebe	T	Red-tailed Hawk	—	Laughing Gull	—	Prairie Horned Lark	T	Blue-headed Vireo	—	Red-wing	—
Double-crested Cormorant	—	Red-shouldered Hawk	—	Bonaparte's Gull	T	Tree Swallow	—	Red-eyed Vireo	—	Orchard Oriole	—
Great Blue Heron	T	Broad-winged Hawk	—	Common Tern	—	Bank Swallow	—	Philadelphia Vireo	—	Baltimore Oriole	—
American Egret	—	Rough-legged Hawk	—	Least Tern	—	Rough-winged Swallow	—	Warbling Vireo	—	Rusty Blackbird	—
Little Blue Heron	—	Bald Eagle	—	Caspian Tern	—	Barn Swallow	—	Black and White Warbler	—	Bronzed Grackle	—
Green Heron	—	Marsh Hawk	—	Black Tern	—	Cliff Swallow	—	Worm-eating Warbler	—	Cowbird	—
Black-crowned Night Heron	—	Duck Hawk	—	Brünnich's Murre	—	Purple Martin	—	Golden-winged Warbler	—	Scarlet Tanager	—
American Bittern	—	Pigeon Hawk	—	Mourning Dove	—	Canada Jay	—	Blue-winged Warbler	—	Cardinal	—
Least Bittern	—	Sparrow Hawk	R	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	—	Blue Jay	R	Tennessee Warbler	—	Hopewell Grosbeak	—
Whistling Swan	—	Ruffed Grouse	R	Black-billed Cuckoo	—	Eastern Crow	R	Orange-crowned Warbler	—	Indigo Bunting	—
Canada Goose	—	European Partridge	—	Barn Owl	R	Fish Crow	—	Nashville Warbler	—	Evening Grosbeak	—
American Brant	—	Bob-white	—	Screach Owl	R	Black-capped Chickadee	R	Parula Warbler	—	Purple Finch	T
Greater Snow Goose	—	Ring-necked Pheasant	R	Great Horned Owl	R	Acadian Chickadee	—	Yellow Warbler	—	Pine Grosbeak	—
Mallard	—	King Rail	—	Snowy Owl	—	White-breasted Nuthatch	R	Magnolia Warbler	—	Redpoll	—
Red-legged Black Duck	—	Virginia Rail	—	Barred Owl	R	Red-breasted Nuthatch	—	Cape May Warbler	—	Pine Siskin	—
Common Black Duck	T	Sora	—	Long-eared Owl	R	Brown Creeper	T	Black-throated Blue Warbler	—	Eastern Goldfinch	S
Gadwall	—	Florida Gallinule	—	Short-eared Owl	—	House Wren	—	Myrtle Warbler	—	Red Crossbill	—
Baldpate	T	Coot	T	Saw-whet Owl	—	Winter Wren	T	Black-throated Green Warbler	—	White-winged Crossbill	—
Pintail	—	Semipalmated Plover	—	Whip-poor-will	—	Long-billed Marsh Wren	—	Cerulean Warbler	—	Red-eyed Towhee	—
Green-winged Teal	T	Killdeer	—	Nighthawk	—	Short-billed Marsh Wren	—	Blackburnian Warbler	—	Savannah Sparrow	—
Blue-winged Teal	—	Golden Plover	—	Chimney Swift	—	Mockingbird	—	Chestnut-sided Warbler	—	Grasshopper Sparrow	—
Shoveller	—	Black-bellied Plover	T	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	—	Catbird	—	Bay-breasted Warbler	—	Henslow's Sparrow	—
Wood Duck	—	Ruddy Turnstone	—	Belted Kingfisher	S	Brown Thrasher	—	Black-poll Warbler	—	Veep Sparrow	—
Redhead	—	Woodcock	—	Flicker	—	Robin	S	Pine Warbler	—	Lark Sparrow	—
Ring-necked Duck	—	Wilson's Snipe	T	Pileated Woodpecker	R	Wood Thrush	—	Prairie Warbler	—	Slate-colored Junco	T
Canvas-back	—	Upland Plover	—	Red-headed Woodpecker	—	Hermit Thrush	—	Western Palm Warbler	—	Tree Sparrow	—
Greater Scaup Duck	—	Spotted Sandpiper	—	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	—	Olive-backed Thrush	—	Yellow Palm Warbler	—	Chipping Sparrow	—
Lesser Scaup Duck	—	Solitary Sandpiper	—	Hairy Woodpecker	R	Gray-cheeked Thrush	—	Oven-bird	—	Field Sparrow	—
American Golden-eye	—	Greater Yellow-legs	—	Downy Woodpecker	R	Bicknell's Thrush	—	Northern Water-thrush	—	White-crowned Sparrow	—
Barrow's Golden-eye	—	Lesser Yellow-legs	—	Arctic 3-toed Woodpecker	—	Veery	—	Louisiana Water-thrush	—	White-throated Sparrow	—
Buffle-head	—	Knot	—	American 3-toed Woodpecker	—	Bluebird	S	Connecticut Warbler	—	Fox Sparrow	—
Oldsquaw	—	Purple Sandpiper	—	Kingbird	—	Golden-crowned Kinglet	—	Mourning Warbler	—	Lincoln's Sparrow	—
King Eider	—	Pectoral Sandpiper	—	Crested Flycatcher	—	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	—	Northern Yellow-throat Chat	—	Swamp Sparrow	—
White-winged Scoter	—	White-rumped Sandpiper	—	Phoebe	—	American Pipit	—	Yellow-breasted Chat	—	Song Sparrow	S
Surf Scoter	+	Least Sandpiper	—	Hopded Merganser	—	Bohemian Waxwing	—	Wilson's Warbler	—	Lapland Longspur	—
American Scoter	—	Reg-backed Sandpiper	T	American Merganser	—	Cedar Waxwing	—	Canada Warbler	—	Snow Bunting	—
Ruddy Duck	—	Dowitcher	—	Red-breasted Merganser	—	Northern Shrike	—				

- Arrival time; early (1 line), mid (2), or late (3) in month
- Departure time; early (1 line), mid (2), late (3) in month
- Occas. or uncommon winter visitor R - Permanent resident
- Occas. or uncommon summer resident S - Summer resident
- Occas. early arrival date W - Winter visitor
- Occas. late departure date T - Transient visitor

Published by the Schenectady Bird Club

AFTER THE HURRICANE

Nelle Van Vorst

The old adage "Time and tide wait for no man" certainly holds true when one attempts to study shore birds. Usually when it is half way between tides the Merrimac Basin teems with shore birds if migration is under way. If, however, you are not there then, you will have to wait since it will be several hours before the tides are right again. This condition we encounter many times.

One Month's Difference

A few days spent in Newburyport, Mass., in August and a few more just one month later gave us a fine opportunity to see what happens within a few weeks. In August myriads of shore birds -- semipalmated plover, semipalmated sandpipers and sanderlings feeding with the larger dowitchers, yellow-legs and black-bellied plover -- covered the mud flats. Among this vast number of sandpipers, a few westerns and a few white-rumps could be identified. Out in the salt marshes, around the small pools, the larger pectoral sandpipers and the least sandpipers usually could be found. The air was filled with small mixed flocks, wheeling and banking over the constantly changing salt marshes which were dotted with dainty sea lavender. Large flocks of dowitchers and black-bellied plovers, or beetle-heads as some folk prefer to call them, in varied plumages from the striking breeding colors to the rather dull gray of fall, always attracted much attention since the golden plover sometimes chances to stop and feed with them.

The Hurricane

In September we were lucky to be at the shore during the hurricane. We did not know what to expect. Before the storm hit, we spent a short time along the basin. There we found very few birds except several members of the gull family, including the little gull. The large flocks of shore birds had gone, so just a few stragglers dotted the mud flats. Out in the channel the ducks were beginning to gather.

Early in the day following the hurricane we walked to the Artichoke Reservoir, several miles outside of Newburyport. On our way we passed through a sage farm and tarried some time to learn more about this new-to-us type of farming. Along one inlet of the reservoir a young little blue heron was standing in a typical book-plate pose near a great blue. Due to the

FEATHERS

SCHENECTADY BIRD CLUB
Annual Membership: Active, \$2, Assoc., \$1

Guy Bartlett, Editor
1053 Parkwood Boulevard

extremely high level of the reservoir, many of the usual feathered residents were missing.

A yellow-legs coaxed us into a field which we found to be a very suitable place for lunch. Just as we were making ready our picnic meal a large white bird appeared, winging its way against the deep clear blue of the almost cloudless sky. With the pure white plumage of the little blue heron still in mind, we of course thought it was a heron, but before we could speak we saw it was one of the larger terns. The bright vermilion red bill and the short forked tail betrayed his identity -- a Caspian tern. He fished directly in front of us, so we had many close-up views. When we left, an hour or so later, he was still resting after his hearty meal of several fish. He is an unusual visitor for that section.

After lunch we went to the outer shore of Plum Island to enjoy the ocean in its boisterous mood. On the way to the island the marshes, now yellow with seaside goldenrod, seemed almost devoid of birds because of the extremely high tide.

The next day the Brookline Bird Club had an all-day trip, so we joined them to explore the salt marshes and the shores of Plum Island. The water was still very high. A few minutes were used trying to find the buff-breasted sandpipers which had been there during the last week of August, but we were not successful. Throughout the marsh area a few stragglers, all that remained of the large flocks of August, were seen on the higher ground.

As we were standing on the outer shore, we had a glimpse of another Caspian tern while we were watching some white-winged scoters.

Godwits and Curlews

We were feeling somewhat discouraged as the day was passing fast and we had found very few shore birds, so we decided to try our luck with land birds. Back from the shore a road bordered with clumps of beach plum bushes offered favorable warbler territory. We found a few, but soon our attention was diverted by some larger birds which flew over and settled down to feed in the wet sand. To our surprise we found two marbled godwits and one Hudsonian curlew. The light was just right to enjoy this opportunity to watch the godwits probe their extremely long, pink bills into the sand for food. The curlew was more restless, and scuttled in and out of the dry grass seeking his food. Soon two more curlews joined him.

Skimmers

A report from the Point of Pines, near the mouth of the Saugus River just south of Lynn, made us restless, so we decided to leave this fascinating territory and try our luck at

the Point of Pines. Just as the slanting rays of the late afternoon sun shone across the bay, we arrived there. At once we heard a different call and saw the striking black skimmers feeding along the edge of the water. Their brilliant bills make them one of our most attractive shore birds. Most of them were in full plumage, but some were still mottled with brown. Among the hundreds of gulls there were perhaps eight or ten western willets, feeding undisturbed by the presence of the clam-diggers.

Now we were content to call it a perfect day.

Later reports stated that the Caspian terns were sighted at several places and that a flock of about a hundred skimmers stayed on Plum Island about a week. It is very unusual for Massachusetts to have black skimmers.

DOWN THE HUDSON

H. V. D. Allen

The annual SBC trip down the Hudson River to Kingston -- to see the egrets and anything else that might come our way -- was made on Sunday, September 17. It was a glorious day for the trip -- warm, sunny and clear--except for a little haze in the neighborhood of the Catskills. There was so little wind that one could sit on the upper forward deck of the steamer in entire comfort.

As a matter of interest, the Club has been fortunate in having good weather on these trips for the past four years and the list of birds seen is substantially the same. This year the start of the gulls was some distance south of Albany, but we could see innumerable kingfishers along the west bank. And then we got a hawk and a great blue heron, and another, and another, and finally ten and a flock of fifty black ducks, an osprey, and then an egret over on the east side. The herring gulls showed up, both the pearl-gray adult and the brown-streaked immature. By the time we got to Hudson and Athens the big birds, both blue and white, were coming along so fast it was almost impossible to keep count. Two more ospreys, and twenty-seven egrets, a great blue heron, and we were approaching Catskill Landing.

This year there were not many land birds around Catskill, but below we got a flock of a hundred blue-winged teal, with the blue patches on the upper side of the wing and the very rapid wing beat so noticeably faster than the black duck. Just at this point a double-crested cormorant appeared, and a green heron was located on the west bank. The cormorants seem to enjoy the extreme top of the channel markers, often surrounded by a dozen herring gulls. Two pintails, another cormorant, and another flock of a hundred blue-winged teal at

FEATHERS

Marker 35, and we were at Kingston Point. Additional ducks reported were the mallard, baldpate and white-winged scoter. Lunch was enlivened by hummingbirds near the edge of the water in the park. A red-eyed vireo was singing in the trees, and a goldfinch and song sparrow showed up. In connection with lunch it might be mentioned that on the steamer landing one could obtain soft drinks and very good hot dogs.

On the way back the count was much the same, but interest centered on the east bank, possibly on account of the direction of the sun. As we reached the neighborhood of the marshes we began to find the egrets roosting in the trees, and in one case could count as many as 35 or 40. We had a fine view of an immature bald eagle flying down the river.

Our observations ended with two terns sitting side by side on the east bank. It was possible to distinguish only the white breasts and black caps.

The total count showed 32 varieties, including several hawks, two eagles, four ospreys, and perhaps four cormorants as against twelve last year, perhaps twenty great blue herons and not as numerous as last year, and almost 100 American egrets. Our party consisted of about 24 members and 12 guests. There was also a group of six Girl Scout Junior Bird Club members from Scotia and three or four boys, perhaps 45 in all in the party. Scotia did very well. Several of our Schenectady members were absent; Albany was represented, but not Troy.

This river trip has an interest that never fails. Almost anything may be seen, and it is hoped that we can get as large a crowd together next year and, if possible, even more non-members; they evidently enjoy the trip as well as the rest of us do.

NEWS & NOTES IN BRIEF

G-E JAY -- There was no chance to be in doubt as to whether or not a blue jay had descended on General Electric during the morning of September 20. The lone bird screamed loudly and repeatedly as it perched in the top of a tree about even with the third-floor windows of Building 23, dropping down frequently to feed in some berry-laden bushes beside the building. Occupants of Building 2 were just as aware of the birds as were those of Building 23.

G-E OSPREY -- On Saturday noon, September 30, there was an osprey in flight over the G-E plant. -- W. R. Steele

WARM STARLINGS -- Exhaust stacks atop G-E buildings, particularly as the weather has cooled off, have become increasingly popular roosting sites for starlings. Maybe they have found the stacks a source of all-night warmth.

A PRELIMINARY KEY TO BIRD SONGS AND CALLS

Barrington S. Havens

The first step in evolving a key to bird songs and calls was presented by the author in the March issue, pages 19-22. At that time it was only too well realized that the material published was merely preliminary; it was, so to speak, an advance formula prepared to fit facts many of which had yet to be gathered.

There is still a great deal of work to be done before the key begins to assume a shape where it will be of very much value to the bird student. The various classifications must be still further broken down, where possible, into smaller groups having similar characteristics, and eventually it is hoped that each species will be listed by itself with some notes about its song which would serve to distinguish it from other songs.

Meanwhile, however, it has been suggested that the following material may be of some value to those interested in bird notes, and so it is submitted with that idea in mind.

The list, by the way, is by no means complete. Additions and criticisms of the arrangement are solicited. Just because a bird is not included does not necessarily mean it was overlooked; it may have been left out because the compiler was not sufficiently familiar with its notes.

A. Songs involving very little or no change in pitch.

1. Multiple-note songs.

a. Evenly spaced "chains" of repetitions of notes.

(1) Rapidly uttered.

(a) More or less musical: Pheasant, killdeer, woodcock, spotted sandpiper, screech owl, flicker, red-headed woodpecker, downy woodpecker, kingbird, crested flycatcher, bank swallow, barn swallow, winter wren, robin, wood thrush, olive-backed thrush, cedar waxwing, worm-eating warbler, pine warbler, grasshopper sparrow, junco, chipping sparrow, swamp sparrow, snow bunting, chimney swift.

(b) Harsh or rattly: Kingfisher, flicker, hairy woodpecker, crested flycatcher, crow, house wren, wood thrush, veery, ruby-crowned kinglet, northern yellowthroat, yellow-breasted chat, meadowlark, redwing, cowbird.

FEATHERS

(c) Taps: All woodpeckers.

(2) Slowly uttered: Mourning dove, Cooper hawk, cuckoos, pileated woodpecker, crested flycatcher, crow, nuthatches, robin, golden-crowned kinglet, blue-headed vireo, blackpoll warbler, redwing, spotted sandpiper, black-capped chickadee, Acadian chickadee.

b. Rythmic, uneven groupings: Great horned owl, barred owl, crested flycatcher, redpoll, pine siskin, grouse.

2. Single notes.

a. Screams, cries, etc.: Hairy woodpecker, downy woodpecker, kingbird, blue jay, starling.

b. Squeaks: Ruby-throated hummingbird, black-capped chickadee, starling, cowbird.

c. Whistles: Olive-backed thrush, cedar waxwing, starling, yellow-breasted chat, redwing.

d. Pips, chips, ticks, etc.: Phoebe, winter wren, ruby-crowned kinglet, myrtle warbler, yellow palm warbler, northern water-thrush, Louisiana water-thrush, northern yellowthroat, redwing, rose-breasted grosbeak, song sparrow, cardinal.

e. Cheeps, weets, seeps, etc.: Spotted sandpiper, English sparrow, tree sparrow, fox sparrow, song sparrow, black-capped chickadee.

f. Peents, bzzts, etc.: Woodcock, nighthawk, bank swallow, bobolink, meadowlark, junco.

g. Quawks, honks, caws, etc.: Black-crowned night heron, Canada goose, pheasant, crow, yellow-breasted chat.

h. Cacks: Starling, yellow-breasted chat, redwing, rusty blackbird, grackle.

i. Clucks, purps, etc.: Robin, yellow-breasted chat.

B. Songs involving a definite change in pitch.

1. Songs made up of screams, cries, whistles, etc.

a. Screams: Kingbird, crested flycatcher, blue jay, crow, robin.

b. Cries: Green heron, killdeer, woodcock, spotted sandpiper, flicker, sapsucker, crested flycatcher, brown creeper, catbird, robin, hermit thrush, veery, red-eyed vireo, English sparrow, grackle, goldfinch, towhee.

c. Whistles: Broad-winged hawk, woodcock, catbird, cedar waxwing, starling, Baltimore oriole.

d. Squeaks: Catbird, rusty blackbird, grackle, ruby-throated hummingbird.

2. Songs in which the notes form phrases.

a. Songs having but one phrase.

(1) With the phrase usually always the same: Loon, upland plover, yellow-billed cuckoo, screech owl, yellow-bellied flycatcher, olive-sided flycatcher, prairie horned lark, blue jay, black-capped chickadee, brown creeper, house wren, winter wren, long-billed marsh wren, olive-backed thrush, veery, warbling vireo, black and white warbler, golden-winged warbler, Cape May warbler, Nashville warbler, parula warbler, magnolia warbler, black-throated blue warbler, black-throated green warbler, prairie warbler, meadowlark, redwing, scarlet tanager, indigo bunting, purple finch, redpoll, pine siskin, towhee, savannah sparrow, Henslow's sparrow, vesper sparrow, field sparrow, white-throated sparrow, hermit thrush.

(2) With the phrases varying regularly or occasionally: Phoebe, wood pewee, black-capped chickadee, Acadian chickadee, bluebird, golden-crowned kinglet, ruby-crowned kinglet, starling, yellow warbler, myrtle warbler, Blackburnian warbler, chestnut-sided warbler, oven bird, northern water-thrush, Louisiana water-thrush, Canada warbler, redstart, bobolink, Baltimore oriole, cowbird, scarlet tanager, purple finch, tree sparrow, white-crowned sparrow, fox sparrow, song sparrow, black-throated green warbler, black-throated blue warbler, parula warbler.

b. Songs having many phrases more or less strung together:

(1) With the same phrase over and over: Bittern, sparrow hawk, spotted sandpiper, yellow-legs, laughing gull, mourning dove, cuckoo, whip-poor-will, chimney swift, flicker, crested flycatcher, crow, red-breasted nuthatch, oven bird, English sparrow, junco, red-shouldered hawk, bob-white, killdeer, alder flycatcher, least flycatcher, mourning warbler, Wilson's warbler, Tennessee warbler, northern yellowthroat, scarlet tanager, goldfinch.

(2) With different phrases: Catbird, brown thrasher, robin, wood thrush, hermit thrush, shrike, yellow-throated vireo, blue-headed vireo, red-eyed vireo, yellow-breasted chat, orchard oriole, scarlet tanager, rose-breasted grosbeak, purple finch, goldfinch.

Common Loon	T	Turkey Vulture	
Red-throated Loon		Oshawk	W
Holbein's Grebe		Sharp-shinned Hawk	W
Horned Grebe		Cooper's Hawk	W
Pied-billed Grebe		Red-tailed Hawk	I
Double-crested Cormorant		Red-shouldered Hawk	W
Great Blue Heron		Broad-winged Hawk	W
American Egret		Rough-legged Hawk	W
Little Blue Heron		Bald Eagle	W
Green Heron		Marsh Hawk	W
Black-crowned Night Heron		Osprey	W
American Bittern		Duck Hawk	W
Least Bittern		Pigeon Hawk	
Whistling Swan		Sparrow Hawk	R
Canada Goose		Ruffed Grouse	R
American Brant		European Partridge	W
Greater Snow Goose		Bob-white	W
Mallard		Ring-necked Pheasant	R
Red-legged Black Duck		King Rail	W
Common Black Duck		Virginia Rail	W
Gadwall		Sora	W
Baldpate		Florida Gallinule	W
Pintail		Coot	I
Green-winged Teal		Semipalmated Plover	W
Blue-winged Teal		Killdeer	W
Shoveller		Golden Plover	W
Wood Duck		Black-bellied Plover	I
Redhead		Ruddy Turnstone	W
Ring-necked Duck		Woodcock	W
Canvas-back		Wilson's Snipe	I
Greater Scaup Duck	T	Upland Plover	W
Lesser Scaup Duck	T	Spotted Sandpiper	W
American Golden-eye		Solitary Sandpiper	W
Barrow's Golden-eye		Greater Yellow-legs	W
Buffle-head		Lesser Yellow-legs	W
Old-squaw		Knot	W
King Eider		Purple Sandpiper	W
White-winged Scoter		Pectoral Sandpiper	W
Surf Scoter		White-rumped Sandpiper	I
American Scoter		Least Sandpiper	W
Ruddy Duck		Red-backed Sandpiper	I
Hooded Merganser		Dowitcher	W
American Merganser		Stilt Sandpiper	W
Red-breasted Merganser		Semipalmated Sandpiper	W

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR IN NOVEMBER

Western Sandpiper		Least Flycatcher		Migrant Shrike	I	American Redstart	
Sanderling		Wood Pewee		Starling	R	English Sparrow	R
Herring Gull	T	Olive-sided Flycatcher		White-eyed Vireo		Bobolink	
Ring-billed Gull		Northern Hoopoe Lark		Yellow-throated Vireo		Meadowlark	
Laughing Gull		Prairie Horned Lark		Blue-headed Vireo		Red-wing	
Bonaparte's Gull		Tree Swallow		Red-eyed Vireo		Orchard Oriole	
Common Tern		Bank Swallow		Philadelphia Vireo		Baltimore Oriole	
Least Tern		Rough-winged Swallow		Warbling Vireo		Rusty Blackbird	
Caspian Tern		Barn Swallow		Black and White Warbler		Bronzed Grackle	
Black Tern		Cliff Swallow		Worm-eating Warbler		Cowbird	
Brünnich's Murre		Purple Martin		Golden-winged Warbler		Scarlet Tanager	
Mourning Dove		Canada Jay		Blue-winged Warbler		Cardinal	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo		Blue Jay	R	Tennessee Warbler		Hone-breasted Grosbeak	
Black-billed Cuckoo		Eastern Crow	R	Orange-crowned Warbler		Indigo Bunting	
Barn Owl	R	Fish Crow		Nashville Warbler		Eyebing Grosbeak	
Screech Owl	R	Black-capped Chickadee	R	Parula Warbler		Purple Finch	
Great Horned Owl	R	Acadus Chickadee		Yellow Warbler		Pine Grosbeak	
Snowy Owl		White-breasted Nuthatch	R	Magnolia Warbler		Redpoll	
Barred Owl	R	Red-breasted Nuthatch	W	Cape May Warbler		Pine Siskin	
Long-eared Owl	R	Brown Creeper		Black-throated Blue Warbler		Eastern Goldfinch	W
Short-eared Owl		House Wren		Myrtle Warbler		Red Crossbill	
Saw-whet Owl		Winter Wren	I	Black-throated Green Warbler		White-winged Crossbill	
Whip-poor-will		Long-billed Marsh Wren		Cerulean Warbler		Red-eyed Towhee	
Nighthawk		Short-billed Marsh Wren		Blackburnian Warbler		Savannah Sparrow	
Chimney Swift		Mockingbird		Chipping-sided Warbler		Grasshopper Sparrow	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird		Catbird		Bay-breasted Warbler		Heron's Sparrow	
Belted Kingfisher	I	Brown Thrasher		Black-poll Warbler		Vesper Sparrow	
Flicker		Robin		Pine Warbler		Lark Sparrow	
Fleeced Woodpecker	R	Wood Thrush		Prairie Warbler		Slate-colored Junco	
Red-headed Woodpecker		Hermit Thrush	I	Western Palm Warbler		Tree Sparrow	W
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		Olive-backed Thrush		Yellow Palm Warbler		Chipping Sparrow	
Hairy Woodpecker	R	Gray-cheeked Thrush		Oven-bird		Field Sparrow	
Downy Woodpecker	R	Bicknell's Thrush		Northern Water-thrush		White-crowned Sparrow	
Acrid 3-toed Woodpecker		Veery		Louisiana Water-thrush		White-throated Sparrow	
American 3-toed Woodpecker		Bluebird	I	Connecticut Warbler		Fox Sparrow	
Kingbird		Golden-crowned Kinglet		Mourning Warbler		Lincoln's Sparrow	
Crested Flycatcher		Ruby-crowned Kinglet		Northern Yellow-throat		Swamp Sparrow	
Phoebe		American Pipit		Yellow-breasted Chat		Song Sparrow	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher		Bohemian Waxwing		Hooded Warbler		Lapland Longspur	
Acadian Flycatcher		Cedar Waxwing		Wilson's Warbler		Snow Bunting	
Alder Flycatcher		Northern Shrike		Canada Warbler			



- Arrival time; early (1 line), mid (2), or late (3) in month
- Departure time; early (1 line), mid (2), late (3) in month
- Occas. or uncommon winter visitor R - Permanent resident
- Occas. or uncommon summer resident S - Summer resident
- Occas. early arrival date W - Winter visitor
- Occas. late departure date T - Transient visitor

Published by the Schenectady Bird Club

LOUDONVILLE RECORDS

Mabel W. French, Loudonville

On July 31, while sitting in the garden between 7:30 and 8:30 in the evening, I noticed an unusual number of robins flying over. On the evenings of August 1 to 4 I counted them carefully as follows: Aug. 1, 75; Aug. 2, 62; Aug. 3, 165; Aug. 4, 129. I was too busy to count on the 5th, and on the 6th I went away for two weeks. I noticed nothing unusual in that line when I returned.

The robins flew from a southeasterly direction, appearing from over the trees at the end of a little swampy gully diagonally in back of the house and flew across a field against a background of clear, open sky line at the back of our lot, disappearing to the northwest behind tall trees in that direction. They generally appeared in small groups, seldom more than a dozen together, and often as individuals. They could have been heading for a robin roost.

We spent two weeks in August at East Marion, L. I., next to the last village at the east tip of the north fork. On the morning of August 19, a clear day with cool, northwesterly winds after two weeks of sweltering heat, I was observing a group of migrating warblers in a wooded ravine. Among them I was thrilled to meet for the first time the Lawrence warbler.

I watched the bird as long as I wished through binoculars at a distance of sometimes as close as twenty feet, and in beautiful light. I noted it at every angle, for the bird appeared and reappeared repeatedly during the morning as the group of warblers moved about the woods. Among the commoner warblers with it was a blue-winged.

Later in the day I saw a prairie warbler. The latter, by the way, is as common in my old Long Island home during May, August and September migrations as it is rare up here. Twenty years or so ago I had some July dates for it, and suspected it of nesting there.

The Lawrence warbler is a hybrid of the blue-winged and golden-winged warblers, the blue-winged being more southerly in distribution.

At Loudonville on July 2, near the edge of woods where I have seen the bird every May since 1938 and last saw it on July 3, 1943, I saw a golden-winged warbler carrying food.

NEWS & NOTES IN BRIEF

CARDINAL AT FEEDER -- The feeding station of Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Zoellner in Scotia had an auspicious start this fall. One of its first visitors was a female cardinal, recorded October 29.

DEATH DIVE -- Nobody saw the accident, but in late September an osprey crashed into wires along the road, broke its wings and was killed in Niskayuna. Nearby was a small pond, an abandoned cellar excavation; and it has been suggested that the accident happened when the fish hawk started to dive into the pond.

Also for the record is the fact that about two years ago an immature eagle (bald) was shot in that vicinity. .. G. B.

OSPREY'S PREY -- The osprey very likely will consume its prey while standing on the shore or while perched in a convenient tree near the stream or pond where it fishes, but that is not necessarily so. For instance, an osprey was recently seen in low, slow flight, carrying a ten-inch carp, belly down, in its talons. The bird circled a heavy hilltop woods and then dropped from sight into them. It was 15 minutes or more before the bird was seen again, headed back toward the river, a matter of a half mile or so away.

LATE CAPE MAY -- A Cape May warbler was distinctly identified by Roy Steele at Mariaville on September 24, ten days beyond the previous local end date, according to the records. The warbler was one of a flock of fifty or so, and Mr. Steele felt that at least several others of the flock were also Cape Mays.

That the maximum autumn dates for many species, particularly among the warblers, are meager is easily apparent; more intense checking on autumn migrants should do much to bring the picture up to date.

URBAN PRAIRIES -- One or more prairie warblers were among migrants along Parkwood Boulevard October 3 and 4. On the first morning one was seen at work in a cut-leaf maple. A half block away on the following morning one was seen in a fence-line wild grape.

As in the case of the just-mentioned Cape May warbler, end dates for the prairie are practically non-existent.

WHAT NEXT? -- An examination of bird records for a quarter of a century ago and of today will show that many species have changed considerably in relative abundance. Too many that were relatively common locally back then are not to be found today, or maybe only rarely. On the other hand, other species have extended their ranges to include Schenectady. The cardinal, mockingbird, turkey vulture and prairie warbler, among other species, give indications of becoming regular species here.

What about species not yet recorded locally? One guess

is that it is only a matter of time before we may expect an occasional record of the red-bellied woodpecker in the vicinity of Schenectady. Rochester and Buffalo record them more or less regularly -- but those cities also have other species which seldom or never are to be found here.

SWAN SAVER -- Perhaps whistling swans will become more common. In the past there have been repeated accounts of swans dropping to their death over Niagara Falls, sometimes by the hundreds. The birds float down the river and, not appreciating what is ahead, fail to rise before they are helpless in the swift current above the falls.

Now, it is understood, a weir has been constructed across the river, making it possible for the birds to escape.

CHICKADEE PUDDING -- A request has been made for a recipe for "chickadee pudding." Here is one that has been used with success in various feeders:

Chop or grind some suet (or use mutton or chicken fat if suet is difficult to obtain -- but do not use pork fat). Melt it down and add quantities of oatmeal, ground raw peanuts, cornmeal, and sunflower seeds, and perhaps a small amount of bran. These should be added, and thoroughly mixed, as long as the fat will take them up. The amounts may vary considerably, depending on the availability of the different ingredients. Pour the mixture into a container (half of a grapefruit shell does well; and so does a half cocoanut shell). Place the container on the feeding shelf or sill, or hang it from a branch. In general, a metal container is not recommended.

The pudding can also be inserted in feeding sticks, or in holes drilled in dead branches.

OHIO EGRETS -- There are indications that the American egret is extending its breeding range into Ohio. A few nests have been discovered there in and since 1939.

ELWOOD, AUTHOR -- Walter Elwood of Amsterdam is again an author, this time of "Let's Build Good Citizens!" in the September-October issue of Audubon Magazine. Ten pages long and abundantly illustrated, the article is "A nature-educator's plea for teaching social aspects of conservation."

JACK MINER -- Jack Miner, 79, famous for his sanctuary and banding work, died at his home in Kingsville, Ont., November 3. Thousands of geese flocked to his sanctuary yearly, and birds bearing his bands were recovered from widespread areas.

HUNTING -- It was noticed during the hunting season that most sports columnists referred to poor game bags. Many of them noticed depleted stocks of woodcock and snipe; and even more reflected a decreased pheasant population. Several theories were advanced for the pheasant shortage.

Locally it seemed that a disease had something to do with the lower count of pheasants. There were numerous reports here in the summer of disease-infested flocks.

FEATHERS

SCHENECTADY BIRD CLUB
Annual Membership: Active, \$2; Assoc., \$1

Guy Bartlett, Editor
1053 Parkwood Blvd.

SNOWIES, 1942-1943 -- In The Auk of October the late Dr. Dayton Stoner of Albany has a note regarding snowy owls in New York State during the 1942-1943 winter. Previously he had reported 419 records (291 collected, 128 sight) from 56 counties during the heavy invasion of 1941-1942, between September 28 and April 5. Records of the New York State Museum for 1942-1943 showed only 38 records (25 collected, 13 sight) in 20 counties, between October 18 and March 13. Five of the records were for Saratoga County, ahead of all others.

In both seasons the height of migration, Dr. Stoner reported, was in late November, and in both years the birds were more common along the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers, Long Island Sound, and in the Great Lakes, Oneida Lake and Finger Lakes areas.

AROUND PITTSFIELD -- An Acadian chickadee on Mt. Greylock on June 10 was the first summer record for the bird there; previously there had been a few winter records. A western meadowlark at Berkshire Country Club and seven red crossbills at Mt. Greylock were other out-of-the-ordinary records for the summer.

CLOSED SEASONS -- It has been recommended by the Committee on Bird Protection, of the American Ornithologists' Union, that the wood duck and woodcock be removed from the game list, and that the closed season on Wilson's snipe and the reduced bag limits of ruddy ducks and buffleheads be continued.

GROSBEAKS -- Following publication of the SBC Bulletin No. 3, reporting on evening grosbeaks during 1943-1944, additional records came in. Mrs. Ida E. Parkhill, Hudson Falls, wrote: "I kept a day-to-day report on the evening grosbeaks that visited my sunflower tray from January 10 when only two came until May 14, 1944, when the last one appeared. During the intervening time the numbers varied -- the largest flock was on March 3 when there were 30, including four females (there had been no more than one or two females before then). During their visit they ate nearly a bushel of sunflower seed."

SWIFTS IN WINTER -- There are several more or less standard questions whenever a speaker on the subject of birds calls for inquiries from his audience. One is "Where does the chimney swift spend the winter?"

The answer is no longer a question mark, reports Frederick C. Lincoln of Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, writing in The Auk of October. There have been some recent records for Panama and an occasional one for Mexico and Central America. They could have been records of transients.

Nearly 375,000 chimney swifts have been banded. Thirteen of the bands have been forwarded, all at once, from the American Embassy at Lima, Peru. They were taken from birds killed by Indians on the River Yanayaco, between the Putumayo and Napo Rivers, in late November or early December, 1943. The Putumayo River is along the Colombia-Peru border,

and is one of the western tributaries of the Amazon. The bands were of 1937, 1938, 1939 and 1940, for Ontario, Georgia, Alabama, Connecticut, Illinois (one each), and Nashville (three) and Memphis (five), Tenn.

Earlier in the year in The Auk was a report of thousands of swifts observed March 28-30, 1943, over an abandoned chimney in Manaus, on the Rio Negro about 1000 miles up the Amazon valley, which is about 1000 miles east of the Yanayaco river.

HEADED NORTH -- Mockingbirds have now been recorded as nesting as far north as Corina, Maine.

REFUGES -- As of June 30, 1943, there were 274 national wild life refuges under the jurisdiction of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, with a total of 17,620,320 acres.

BARROW'S -- In view of the sight record of a Barrow's golden-eye by many SBC members on the Hudson River at Mechanicville between February 20 and 25, 1939, an article on "The Status of Barrow's Golden-eye in the Eastern United States," by Dr. Edwin M. Hasbrouck of the U. S. National Museum, Washington, in The Auk, October, is of local interest.

The 1939 Barrow's golden-eye, it will be recalled, was discovered by H. V. D. Allen and Rudd Stone and then, on succeeding days, seen by many. It was a male, in with a flock of American golden-eyes.

Dr. Hasbrouck shows 74 New York State records of Barrow's golden-eye, ranging from November 23 to March 28. In his list was the record of the specimen taken at Green Island on January 21, 1887.

BLACK-BACKED -- The great black-backed gull did not breed to the south of Nova Scotia back in 1921. Ten years later it nested off Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. In 1942 it was found nesting on Cartwright Island, L. I.

WINTER HAWKS -- Every winter it is apparent that the Gateway Bridge offers interesting possibilities so far as observations of hawks are concerned, and this season will apparently be no exception. In early November at least two kinds were to be seen simultaneously on or over the islands. In general, since the observers are usually bus-passengers rather than hikers, it is difficult to identify the birds. It seems as though one of the birds is either a Cooper's hawk or goshawk, and two of the others either red-tailed or red-shouldered.

Over a period of the recent years the check-list of the hawks seen in the vicinity of the bridge includes practically all the species recorded locally.

CHRISTMAS -- Keep in mind that, for the annual Christmas census, it is important to know about wintering robins, bluebirds, and other unusuals; about particularly good feeding locations for waxwings, grosbeaks and like that; and about those places where owls are roosting.

ALONG THE SHORE

Rudd H. Stone

Of more than ordinary interest were the following early fall records of a few species:

American pipit -- Two September 15 at Watervliet Reservoir, on the flats; an early date.

Caspian tern -- Two September 20 at Watervliet Reservoir. I have several times observed them on Cayuga Lake, including a flock of 36 in the summer of 1942.

White-rumped sandpiper -- Two September 20 at Watervliet Reservoir; easily identified.

Black-bellied plover -- Two September 30 along the Mohawk River at Niskayuna.

Red-backed sandpiper -- Seven on October 1 at Watervliet Reservoir; two along the Mohawk at Niskayuna October 5.

Phalarope -- One October 12 at Watervliet Reservoir; in fall plumage, and definitely not a Wilson's. Not well enough seen to distinguish definitely between northern and red, but the northern seems somewhat more likely.

A YANKEE IN EUROPE

(A letter written to an SBC member by an Army officer who had been in the South was published in February. In mid-October the following letter was received.)

If I ever find out what birds I have seen recently, my life-list will be enormously increased -- sea-birds, doves, titmice, woodpeckers, blackbirds, and finches. While killing time on the way over I drew a lot of bird outlines and have been filling them in with color descriptions. I think that when I hit a town with books, I'll be able to tell what I have seen.

Some are obvious -- crows, magpies, and several finches looking like our own purple finches, or more like the house finch of the Southwest.

There is one drawback to doing much bird-hunting on free time -- and that is looking in the air and on the ground at the same time. There are too many mines and booby traps to be really "bird conscious", and of course I am really over here for something far different. This country is much like home -- hills, woods, and plenty of streams.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN BIRDS

Somewhat out of bounds so far as Schenectady's "local" territory is concerned, but still of interest locally are two recent unusual records of birds at Lake Champlain -- pelicans, and a white-fronted goose.

In the New York Times in mid-October was a paragraph commenting on the presence of a pelican in upland Vermont and New Hampshire following the September hurricane. In answer to an inquiry from Chester N. Moore, Harry F. Perkins, director of the Robert Hull Fleming Museum of the University of Vermont, replied:

"The pelicans reported from Lake Champlain were probably of the brown species since white ones are so relatively rare, although I am taking steps to attempt the verification of this conjecture. The birds did not appear after the hurricane but before it -- in fact, on the first day of September. There were two of them and they were seen by six or seven reliable people at a number of different points in Missisquoi Bay near the mouth of the river of that same name. The fish and game warden of Franklin County saw the birds a number of times and got pretty close to them. One of them was shot by a New Hampshire sportsman the first day of the duck-hunting season but he carried the bird away with him, probably with the idea of having it mounted after he got home.

"I have heard of no other instances of pelicans being seen in Vermont, and I have been in communication with the state ornithologist so that it would seem likely that any information would have reached me through that channel.

"How anybody can account for the pelicans getting so far from home is more than I can imagine. It may be another case of wide wandering such as that of the white herons or egrets which have been seen a number of summers in different parts of the state. I am going to try to find out who was the hunter who shot the pelican and see if it may not be possible to get a mounted specimen from Vermont in our museum."

White-fronted Goose

A white-fronted goose was killed on Lake Champlain October 22, 1943, by Lieutenant John Owen, U. S. N. R., of Rouses Point, it was reported in *The Auk*, October, 1944, by the late Dr. Dayton Stoner, New York State Museum. The goose had flown in alone to decoys. The specimen was the sixth reported to have been collected in the state, Dr. Stoner wrote. Between 1844 and 1889 five were collected along Long Island. An additional sight record there in 1889 and a similar record at Chautauqua previous to 1883 are the only other known records. The 1943 record indicates the first specimen in the state for more than fifty years.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR IN DECEMBER

Common Loon	Turkey Vulture		Western Sandpiper	Least Flycatcher	Migrant Shrike	American Redstart
Red-throated Loon	Goshawk	W	Sanderling	Wood Pewee	Starling	English Sparrow
Hobbs's Grebe	Sharp-shinned Hawk		Herring Gull	Olive-sided Flycatcher	White-eyed Vireo	Bobolink
Horned Grebe	Cooper's Hawk		Ring-billed Gull	Northern Horned Lark	Yellow-throated Vireo	Meadowlark
Pied-billed Grebe	Red-tailed Hawk		Laughing Gull	Prairie Horned Lark	Blue-headed Vireo	Red-wing
Double-crested Cormorant	Red-shouldered Hawk		Bonaparte's Gull	Common Tern	Red-eyed Vireo	Orchard Oriole
Great Blue Heron	Broad-winged Hawk		Least Tern	Bank Swallow	Philadelphia Vireo	Baltimore Oriole
American Egret	Rough-legged Hawk	W	Caspian Tern	Rough-winged Swallow	Warbling Vireo	Rusty Blackbird
Little Blue Heron	Bald Eagle		Black Tern	Barn Swallow	Black and White Warbler	Bronzed Grackle
Green Heron	Marsh Hawk		Brünnich's Murre	Cliff Swallow	Worm-eating Warbler	Cowbird
Black-crowned Night Heron	Osprey		Mourning Dove	Purple Martin	Golden-winged Warbler	Scarlet Tanager
American Bittern	Duck Hawk		Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Canada Jay	Blue-winged Warbler	Cardinal
Least Bittern	Pigeon Hawk		Black-billed Cuckoo	Blue Jay	Tennessee Warbler	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Whistling Swan	Sparrow Hawk	R	Barn Owl	Eastern Crow	Orange-crowned Warbler	Indigo Bunting
Canada Goose	Ruffed Grouse	R	Screech Owl	Fish Crow	Nashville Warbler	Evening Grosbeak
American Brant	European Partridge		Great Horned Owl	Black-capped Chickadee	Parula Warbler	Purple Finch
Greater Snow Goose	Bob-white		Snowy Owl	Acadian Chickadee	Yellow Warbler	Pine Grosbeak
Mallard	Ring-necked Pheasant	R	Barred Owl	White-breasted Nuthatch	Magnolia Warbler	Redpoll
Red-legged Black Duck	King Rail		Long-eared Owl	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Cape May Warbler	Pine Siskin
Common Black Duck	Virginia Rail		Short-eared Owl	Brown Creeper	Black-throated Blue Warbler	Eastern Goldfinch
Gadwall	Sora		Saw-whet Owl	House Wren	Myrtle Warbler	Red Crossbill
Baldpate	Florida Gallinule		Whip-poor-will	Winter Wren	Black-throated Green Warbler	White-winged Crossbill
Pintail	Coot		Nighthawk	Long-billed Marsh Wren	Cerulean Warbler	Red-eyed Vireo
Green-winged Teal	Semipalmated Plover		Chimney Swift	Short-billed Marsh Wren	Blackburnian Warbler	Swainson Sparrow
Blue-winged Teal	Killdeer		Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Mockingbird	Chestnut-sided Warbler	Grasshopper Sparrow
Shoveler	Golden Plover		Belted Kingfisher	Catbird	Bay-breasted Warbler	Henslow's Sparrow
Wood Duck	Black-bellied Plover		Flicker	Brown Thrasher	Black-poll Warbler	Vesper Sparrow
Redhead	Ruddy Turnstone		Pileated Woodpecker	Robin	Pine Warbler	Lark Sparrow
Ring-necked Duck	Woodcock		Red-headed Woodpecker	Wood Thrush	Prairie Warbler	Blue-colored Junco
Canvas-back	Wilson's Snipe		Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Hermit Thrush	Western Palm Warbler	Tree Sparrow
Greater Scaup Duck	Upland Plover		Hairy Woodpecker	Olive-backed Thrush	Yellow Palm Warbler	Chipping Sparrow
Lesser Scaup Duck	Spotted Sandpiper		Downy Woodpecker	Gray-cheeked Thrush	Oven-bird	Field Sparrow
American Golden-eye	Solitary Sandpiper	W	Arctic 3-toed Woodpecker	Bicknell's Thrush	Northern Water-thrush	White-crowned Sparrow
Barrow's Golden-eye	Greater Yellow-legs		American 3-toed Woodpecker	Very	Louisiana Water-thrush	White-throated Sparrow
Buffle-head	Lesser Yellow-legs		Kingbird	Bluebird	Connecticut Warbler	Fox Sparrow
Old-squaw	Knot		Crested Flycatcher	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Mourning Warbler	Lincoln's Sparrow
King Eider	Purple Sandpiper		Phoebe	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Yellow-throat	Swamp Sparrow
White-winged Scoter	Pectoral Sandpiper		Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	American Pipit	Yellow-breasted Chat	Song Sparrow
Surf Scoter	White-rumped Sandpiper		Acadian Flycatcher	Bohemian Waxwing	Hooded Warbler	Lapland Longspur
American Scoter	Least Sandpiper		Alder Flycatcher	Cedar Waxwing	Wilson's Warbler	Snow Bunting
Ruddy Duck	Red-backed Sandpiper			Northern Shrike	Canada Warbler	
Hooded Merganser	Dowitcher					
American Merganser	Stilt Sandpiper	W				
Red-breasted Merganser	Semipalmated Sandpiper	W				



- Arrival time; early (1 line), mid (2), or late (3) in month
- Departure time; early (1 line), mid (2), late (3) in month
- Occas. or uncommon winter visitor R - Permanent resident
- Occas. or uncommon summer resident S - Summer resident
- Occas. early arrival date W - Winter visitor
- Occas. late departure date T - Transient visitor

Published by the Schenectady Bird Club

EVENING GROSBEAK'S HABITS CERTAINLY BELIE ITS NAME

Doris Huestis Speirs, North Bay, Ontario

Why is the Evening Grosbeak so named? Does it sing in the evening as does the Hermit Thrush or the Whip-poor-will? Is it active in the evening as the Woodcock and the Nighthawk? Emphatically No! No ... the Evening Grosbeak was so named because of a fancy, a fancy entertained by a Major Delafield in 1825.

Major Delafield was an agent of the United States for boundaries, a geologist and a member of the New York Lyceum of Natural History. On a certain evening in August of 1825 he encamped near the Savannah River, northwest of Lake Superior in Hudson Bay Company territory.

"At twilight," he wrote in his notes, "the bird that I had heard before to cry in a singular strain, and only at this hour, made its appearance close by my tent... Its mournful cry about the hour of my encampment (which was at sunset) had before attracted my attention, but I could never get sight of the bird but on this occasion. There is an extensive plain and swamp through which flows the Savannah River... My inference was then, and is now, that this bird dwells in such dark retreats, and leaves them at the approach of night."

Sparrow-like Alarm Note

Because of this inference, or fancy, on the part of Major Delafield, the bird is known as the Evening Grosbeak. The "singular cry" which was heard was probably the characteristic "Pete!" which the grosbeak gives when surprised or alarmed. There is no mention of the bird singing in the evening but only giving a "singular cry". The note is remarkably like that of a noisy English Sparrow - but as the English Sparrow was not introduced into America until about 1850 the Major probably would not have noted the similarity.

He recognized the bird as similar to one in the possession of Henry R. Schoolcraft, then of Sault Ste. Marie, and later sent his notes to Schoolcraft. The specimen from Michigan Territory was sent to William Cooper, who first described the species in 1825, and who named it "Fringilla vespertina". In 1850 the genus was renamed by Prince Bonaparte "Hesperiphona", and our bird has since been known as Hesperiphona vespertina.

FEATHERS

SCHENECTADY BIRD CLUB

Annual Membership: Active, \$2; Assoc., \$1

Guy Bartlett, Editor
1053 Parkwood Blvd

Few in Afternoon

While in Hanover, New Hampshire, in 1937 I made daily observations of the Evening Grosbeaks which came to the windowsill between January and May.

Never once was an Evening Grosbeak note heard any later than 4.10 in the afternoon. But from quite early in the morning until noon (when they usually departed), they could certainly be heard! I have only three records of their appearance in the afternoon at all. Quoting from my notes:

April 19, 1.05 p.m. "The grosbeaks, seven of them, are back. This is late for them."

April 23, 4.00 p.m. "... a pair of Evening Grosbeaks arrive at the oak. The female is bowing and teetering."

April 26, 2.15 p.m. "Seven grosbeaks here."

Experiences of Others

Where did they go after 4 p.m.? Why did they disappear so early?

Mrs. Adam Robertson, wife of the Canadian Royal Mounted Police Officer at Fort Francis, Ontario, has been sending me Evening Grosbeak records for several years. She comments in a letter: "If you notice, it is usually in the morning or early afternoon that we see these birds. I can't recall ever having seen them in the evening."

I wrote to Mr. M. J. Magee, of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan (the type-locality of the species). He has banded over 5000 Evening Grosbeaks since 1921. He replied: "I have always been surprised how early the Evening Grosbeaks departed in the afternoons. In midwinter it is exceptional to see any after 2.45 p.m. As daylight increases they stay a little longer, and towards the end of May quite a few may be around as late as 4.15 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. Now and then I have had one as late as 6 p.m., but that is very unusual."

Recently I visited Mr. Magee, to see his banding equipment. He thinks that his grosbeaks come from a considerable distance, and leave early to get back in time, after being well filled up at his feeding station.

On June 20, 1940, my husband and I went to Camp Billie Bear near Huntsville, Ontario, where Evening Grosbeaks have been summering for several years. We were in camp from June 20 to July 24. I observed the species closely every day, and made many notes. I was anxious to find out if they were heard at all in the evening on their breeding grounds. The latest hour at which one was seen or heard was on June 30. The hour was 7.50, sun time, 18 minutes before sunset. None was ever heard to cry at the twilight hour.

Early to Roost

So much for field observations. Now for the Laboratory. In April, 1940, a pair of Evening Grosbeaks were sent to me from Norwood, Manitoba. We were then at the University of Illinois. I had had them only a few days when I noticed how early they roosted for the night. Observations were then made on their time of roosting, and light measurements were taken with a Weston illumination meter. In May they roosted for the night in their nine-foot spruce tree 45 minutes before sunset, on an average. The light intensity in their outdoor aviary at the time of retirement was between 180 and 60 foot candles, averaging 135 foot candles. As the breeding season advanced the birds became suddenly insectivorous; they were looking continually for insects and departed from their usual habits. The female, "Tina", might retire at a fairly early hour, but the male, "Vesper", would keep up his vigilance until after dark, commencing with June 1. Under natural conditions it is unlikely this would have happened, as insects would have been more readily secured than was possible in the aviary.

In the autumn daily observations were made. About November 1 the birds were roosting on an average of 57 minutes before sunset, while other members of the Fringillidae in the garden without were still busy feeding - Cardinals, Juncos, White-throats, and Tree Sparrows. Robins, and members of the Icteridae, with the Starlings, had not yet flown to their roosts. As the days became shorter, the Evening Grosbeaks roosted earlier, until we found them retiring shortly after our lunch time.

From this it would appear that the Evening Grosbeak is remarkable for the early hour at which it normally roosts; and the word "evening" is a misnomer when applied to the species. The Evening Grosbeak's habits belie its name!

Notes of the Evening Grosbeak

My own phonetic interpretations of the notes of the Evening Grosbeak:

Call note: "Pete!"

Conversational notes (used by both sexes): "Chip-chip-choo-wee: chip-chip-choo-wee" (rather soft and musical). Also "Peter! Peter! Peter Teet. Peter Teet. Peter! Peter!" etc. (This chatter can be heard for blocks!) And "churr-churr" (soft).

Warning note: (Given when hawk is sighted, or cat, etc.) "Whee...whee...whee..." (very soft, and often given by female).

Ecstatic high-pitched love-song by males only, and when coming into breeding condition and in breeding season:

"Fizz-fizz, tee- ee Fizz-fizz, tee-

ee

ee

eee

eee

Also long periods of singing -- the songs a combination of all these notes ... "Pete! chip-chip-choo-wee, churr-churr, whee, whee..fizz-fizz, tee", etc.

NEWS & NOTES IN BRIEF

ABOUT GROSBEAKS -- Dorothy Huestis Speirs' notes about Evening Grosbeaks (p. 89) were assembled in connection with a life-history study she is preparing, and were received after publication of the recent SBC Bulletin about Evening Grosbeaks. In a later issue other information from Mrs. Speirs will be published, concerning the food and nesting habits of the species.

WINTER MEADOWLARKS -- Two SBC members, taking advantage of a Thanksgiving holiday, found an adult Red-tailed Hawk perched in a tree on Hog Island near the Western Gateway Bridge. It is probably one of the big hawks reported by bus passengers.

In the Helderbergs not far from Thacher Park three small flocks (about 5, 12 and 20 birds) of Meadowlarks were seen trying to pick up a meal along the plowed sides of the highway since the countryside was otherwise blanketed with snow ranging up to 12 inches in depth in the upper elevations of the park. This is apparently a late date for flocking meadowlarks (Nov. 23), and doubtless these flocks will soon be on their way to more open fields. One wonders why they did not drop down to the uncovered fields of Meadowdale for better feeding.

-- George H. Bainbridge

(Early in November there were several flocks of Meadowlarks in Meadowdale and Guilderland Center, Nelle Van Vorst reported.)

CORMORANTS -- Local observers have been seeing increased numbers of Double-crested Cormorants in recent years, particularly along the Hudson south of Albany. That other sections have also seen increases is indicated by reports for the New England shore. Formerly breeding in large numbers off Maine, it had been extirpated as a breeder before 1800. About 20 years ago it started nesting there again, and nests are now to be counted by the thousands. More recently it has expanded its summer range south to include the Massachusetts shore.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COUNT

Sunday, December 24 is the date for the S B C Christmas Count, most important of all the Club's field activities. Those planning to participate, and who were unable to attend the Club meeting on December 11, when the day's activities were planned, should communicate with Miss Frances Reeves, telephone 6-5083, so that plans may be completed for the inclusion of all. Miss Reeves is particularly anxious to receive any reports in advance of wintering robins, bluebirds and such out-of-season rarities -- as well as information about winter hide-outs of owls -- so that provisions can be made to check on them December 24.

Common Loon		Turkey Vulture		BIRDS TO LOOK FOR IN JANUARY			
Red-throated Loon		Goshawk	W	Western Sandpiper	Least Flycatcher	Migrant Shrike	American Redstart
Holboell's Grebe		Sharp-shinned Hawk		Sanderling	Wood Pewee	Starling	R English Sparrow
Horned Grebe		Cooper's Hawk		Herring Gull	W Olive-sided Flycatcher	White-eyed Vireo	Bobolink
Pied-billed Grebe		Red-tailed Hawk		Ring-billed Gull	W Northern Horned Lark	Yellow-throated Vireo	Meadowlark
Double-crested Cormorant		Red-shouldered Hawk		Laughing Gull	Prairie Horned Lark	W Blue-headed Vireo	Red-wing
Great Blue Heron		Broad-winged Hawk		Bonaparte's Gull	Tree Swallow	Red-eyed Vireo	Orchard Oriole
American Egret		Rough-legged Hawk	W	Common Tern	Bank Swallow	Philadelphia Vireo	Baltimore Oriole
Little Blue Heron		Bald Eagle		Least Tern	Rough-winged Swallow	Warbling Vireo	Rusty Blackbird
Green Heron		Marsh Hawk		Caspian Tern	Barn Swallow	Black and White Warbler	Bronzed Grackle
Black-crowned Night Heron		Osprey		Black Tern	Cliff Swallow	Worm-eating Warbler	Cowbird
American Bittern		Duck Hawk		Brünnich's Murre	Purple Martin	Golden-winged Warbler	Scarlet Tanager
Least Bittern		Pigeon Hawk		Mourning Dove	Canada Jay	Blue-winged Warbler	Cardinal
Whistling Swan		Sparrow Hawk	R	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Blue Jay	R Tennessee Warbler	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Canada Goose		Ruffed Grouse	R	Black-billed Cuckoo	Eastern Crow	R Orange-crowned Warbler	Indigo Bunting
American Brant		European Partridge		Barn Owl	R Fish Crow	W Nashville Warbler	Evening Grosbeak
Greater Snow Goose		Bob-white		Screech Owl	R Black-capped Chickadee	R Parula Warbler	Purple Finch
Mallard		Ring-necked Pheasant	R	Great Horned Owl	R Acadian Chickadee	Yellow Warbler	Pine Grosbeak
Red-legged Black Duck	W	King Rail		Snowy Owl	W White-breasted Nuthatch	R Magnolia Warbler	Redpoll
Common Black Duck	W	Virginia Rail		Barred Owl	R Red-breasted Nuthatch	W Cape May Warbler	Pine Siskin
Gadwall		Sora		Long-eared Owl	R Brown Creeper	W Black-throated Blue Warbler	Eastern Goldfinch
Baldpate		Florida Gallinule		Short-eared Owl	House Wren	Myrtle Warbler	Red Crossbill
Pintail		Coot		Saw-whet Owl	Winter Wren	W Black-throated Green Warbler	White-winged Crossbill
Green-winged Teal		Semipalmated Plover		Whip-poor-will	Long-billed Marsh Wren	Cerulean Warbler	Red-eyed Vireo
Blue-winged Teal		Killdeer		Nighthawk	Short-billed Marsh Wren	Blackburnian Warbler	W Savannah Sparrow
Shoveller		Golden Plover		Chimney Swift	Mockingbird	Chestnut-sided Warbler	Grasshopper Sparrow
Wood Duck		Black-bellied Plover		Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Catbird	Bay-breasted Warbler	Henslow's Sparrow
Redhead		Ruddy Turnstone		Belted Kingfisher	W Brown Thrasher	Black-poll Warbler	Vesper Sparrow
Ring-necked Duck		Woodcock		Flicker	Robin	Pine Warbler	Lark Sparrow
Canvas-back		Wilson's Snipe		Pileated Woodpecker	R Wood Thrush	Prairie Warbler	Slate-colored Junco
Greater Scaup Duck		Upland Plover		Red-headed Woodpecker	Hermit Thrush	Western Palm Warbler	Tree Sparrow
Lesser Scaup Duck		Spotted Sandpiper		Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Olive-backed Thrush	Yellow Palm Warbler	Chipping Sparrow
American Golden-eye	W	Solitary Sandpiper		Hairy Woodpecker	R Gray-cheeked Thrush	Oven-bird	Field Sparrow
Barrow's Golden-eye		Greater Yellow-legs		Downy Woodpecker	R Bicknell's Thrush	Northern Water-thrush	White-crowned Sparrow
Buffle-head		Lesser Yellow-legs		Arctic 3-toed Woodpecker	Veery	Louisiana Water-thrush	White-throated Sparrow
Old-squaw		Knot		American 3-toed Woodpecker	Bluebird	Connecticut Warbler	Fox Sparrow
King Eider		Purple Sandpiper		Kingbird	Golden-crowned Kinglet	W Mourning Warbler	Lincoln's Sparrow
White-winged Scoter		Fectoral Sandpiper		Created Flycatcher	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Northern Yellow-throat	Swamp Sparrow
Surf Scoter		White-rumped Sandpiper		Phoebe	American Pipit	Yellow-breasted Chat	Song Sparrow
American Scoter		Least Sandpiper		Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Bohemian Waxwing	Hooded Warbler	Song Sparrow
Ruddy Duck		Red-backed Sandpiper		Acadian Flycatcher	Cedar Waxwing	Wilson's Warbler	W Leiland Loon
Hooded Merganser		Dowitcher		Alder Flycatcher	Northern Shrike	W Canada Warbler	W Snow Bunting
American Merganser	W	Stilt Sandpiper					
Red-breasted Merganser	W	Semipalmated Sandpiper					



- Arrival time; early (1 line), mid (2), or late (3) in month
- Departure time; early (1 line), mid (2), late (3) in month
- Occas. or uncommon winter visitor R - Permanent resident
- Occas. or uncommon summer resident S - Summer resident
- Occas. early arrival date W - Winter visitor
- Occas. late departure date T - Transient visitor

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR IN FEBRUARY

Common Loon	Turkey Vulture		Western Sandpiper	Least Flycatcher	Migrant Shrike	American Redstart
Red-throated Loon	Goehawk	W	Sanderling	Wood Pewee	Starling	English Sparrow
Holboell's Grebe	Sharp-shinned Hawk		Herring Gull	Olive-sided Flycatcher	White-eyed Vireo	Bobolink
Horned Grebe	Cooper's Hawk		Ring-billed Gull	Northern Horned Lark	Yellow-throated Vireo	Meadowlark
Pied-billed Grebe	Red-tailed Hawk		Laughing Gull	Prairie Horned Lark	Blue-headed Vireo	Red-wing
Double-crested Cormorant	Red-shouldered Hawk		Bonaparte's Gull	Tree Swallow	Red-eyed Vireo	Orchard Oriole
Great Blue Heron	Sharp-winged Hawk		Common Tern	Bank Swallow	Philadelphia Vireo	Baltimore Oriole
American Egret	Rough-legged Hawk	W	Least Tern	Rough-winged Swallow	Warbling Vireo	Rusty Blackbird
Little Blue Heron	Bald Eagle		Caspian Tern	Barn Swallow	Black and White Warbler	Bronzed Grackle
Green Heron	Marsh Hawk		Black Tern	Cliff Swallow	Worm-eating Warbler	Cowbird
Black-crowned Night Heron	Osprey		Brünnich's Murre	Purple Martin	Golden-winged Warbler	Scarlet Tanager
American Bittern	Duck Hawk		Mourning Dove	Canada Jay	Blue-winged Warbler	Cardinal
Least Bittern	Pigeon Hawk		Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Blue Jay	Tennessee Warbler	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Whistling Swan	Sparrow Hawk	R	Black-billed Cuckoo	Eastern Crow	Orange-crowned Warbler	Indigo Bunting
Canada Goose	Ruffed Grouse	R	Barn Owl	Fish Crow	Nashville Warbler	Eyewing Grosbeak
American Brant	European Partridge		Screech Owl	Black-capped Chickadee	Parula Warbler	Purple Finch
Greater Snow Goose	Bob-white		Great Horned Owl	Acadian Chickadee	Yellow Warbler	Fine Grosbeak
Mallard	Ring-necked Pheasant	R	Snowy Owl	White-breasted Nuthatch	Magnolia Warbler	Redpoll
Red-legged Black Duck	King Rail		Barred Owl	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Cape May Warbler	Fine Skink
Common Black Duck	Virginia Rail		Long-eared Owl	Brown Creeper	Black-throated Blue Warbler	Eastern Goldfinch
Gadwall	Bon		Short-eared Owl	House Wren	Myrtle Warbler	Red Crossbill
Baldpate	Florida Gallinule		Saw-whet Owl	Winter Wren	Black-throated Green Warbler	White-winged Crossbill
Pintail	Coot		Whip-poor-will	Long-billed Marsh Wren	Cerulean Warbler	Red-eyed Towhee
Green-winged Teal	Semipalmated Plover		Nighthawk	Short-billed Marsh Wren	Blackburnian Warbler	Savannah Sparrow
Blue-winged Teal	Killdeer		Chimney Swift	Mockingbird	Chestnut-sided Warbler	Grasshopper Sparrow
Shoveller	Golden Plover		Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Catbird	Bay-breasted Warbler	Henslow's Sparrow
Wood Duck	Black-bellied Plover		Belted Kingfisher	Brown Thrasher	Black-poll Warbler	Vesper Sparrow
Redhead	Ruddy Turnstone		Flicker	Robin	Pine Warbler	Lark Sparrow
Ring-necked Duck	Woodcock		Pileated Woodpecker	Wood Thrush	Prairie Warbler	Slate-colored Junco
Canvas-back	Wilson's Snipe		Red-headed Woodpecker	Hermit Thrush	Western Palm Warbler	Tree Sparrow
Greater Scaup Duck	Upland Plover		Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Olive-backed Thrush	Yellow Palm Warbler	Chipping Sparrow
Lesser Scaup Duck	Spotted Sandpiper		Hairy Woodpecker	Gray-checked Thrush	Oven-bird	Field Sparrow
American Golden-eye	Solitary Sandpiper		Downy Woodpecker	Bluebird	Northern Water-thrush	White-crowned Sparrow
Barrow's Golden-eye	Pectoral Sandpiper		American 3-toed Woodpecker	Veery	Louisiana Water-thrush	White-throated Sparrow
Buffle-head	Lesser Yellow-legs		Kingbird	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Connecticut Warbler	Fox Sparrow
Old-squaw	Knot		Crested Flycatcher	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Northern Yellow-throat	Lincoln's Sparrow
King Eider	Purple Sandpiper		Phoebe	American Pipit	Yellow-breasted Chat	Swamp Sparrow
White-winged Scoter	Pectoral Sandpiper		Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Bohemian Waxwing	Hooded Warbler	Song Sparrow
Surf Scoter	White-rumped Sandpiper		Acadian Flycatcher	Cedar Waxwing	Wilson's Warbler	Lapland Longspur
American Scoter	Least Sandpiper		Alder Flycatcher	Northern Shrike	Canada Warbler	Snow Bunting
Ruddy Duck	Red-backed Sandpiper					
Hooded Merganser	Dowitcher					
American Merganser	Stilt Sandpiper					
Red-breasted Merganser	Semipalmated Sandpiper					



- Arrival time; early (1 line), mid (2), or late (3) in month
- Departure time; early (1 line), mid (2), late (3) in month
- Occas. or uncommon winter visitor R - Permanent resident
- Occas. or uncommon summer resident S - Summer resident
- Occas. early arrival date W - Winter visitor
- Occas. late departure date T - Transient visitor

JANUARY -- Heron New on Christmas Count, H.V.D.Allen, 1; While Watching for Planes, Genevieve E. Scott, 7.

FEBRUARY -- Fifteen Years of Christmas Counts, Guy Bartlett, 9; A Yankee in Texas, 16.

MARCH -- New Year's Fledglings (Immature English Sparrows in winter), Laura S. Beck, 17; Some New Hampshire Martins, Edith B. Clare, 18; A Key to Bird Songs, B. S. Havens, 19.

APRIL -- Birds of New York: 1644, P. Schuyler Miller, 25; Winter Ducks, Nelle Van Vorst, 27; Punctual Pileated, Dorothy W. Caldwell, 29.

MAY -- 1943 in Review, W. Roy Steele, 33.

JUNE -- First Carolina Wren, Barrington S. Havens, 41; A Tame Saw-whet, 43; Rocking-chair Observations, W. R. Steele, 43; Is There a Red-legged (Black Duck)?, 44; Martins in the West (Tucson, Ariz.), 45; Dr. Whitney's Wall Chart, 46.

JULY -- An Eagle Attacks, 49; Unusual Song of the Blue-headed Vireo, C. N. Moore, 50; Jay:Capable, Adelaide L. Staley, 51; Zee-zee-zee-zee-zee-zee (Prairie Warbler), Dr. Minnie B. Scotland, 51; Pea Island, N.C., in June, Malcolm Andrews, 53.

AUGUST -- While Taking Pictures, J. M. Hollister, 57; Drat That Flicker!, Barrington S. Havens, 59; Babes in the Woods (Horned Owls), Mrs. Bertram Wellman, 61.

SEPTEMBER -- Letters from the Schools, 65; Five Minutes: Five Gulls, Dorothy W. Caldwell, 71.

OCTOBER -- After the Hurricane (New England Coast), Nelle Van Vorst, 73; Down the Hudson, H.V.D.Allen, 75; A Preliminary Key to Bird Songs and Calls, Barrington S. Havens, 77.

NOVEMBER -- Loudonville Records, Mabel W. French, 81; Along the Shore, Rudd H. Stone, 86; A Yankee in Europe, 86; Lake Champlain Birds (White-fronted Goose and Pelicans), 87.

DECEMBER -- Evening Grosbeak's Habits Belie Its Name, Dorothy Huestis Speirs, 89; Christmas Count Plans, 92.

NEWS AND NOTES IN BRIEF -- Jan,4; Mar,23; Apr,30; May,37; Jun,46; Jul,55; Aug,62; Sep,68; Oct,76; Nov,82; Dec,92.

BIRDS TO LOOK FOR IN: Jan,93; Feb,94; Mar,24; Apr,31; May,32; Jun,40; Jul,48; Aug,56; Sep,64; Oct,72; Nov,80; Dec,88.

.

BULLETIN 3 -- The Evening Grosbeak - Some Notes on Its 1943-1944 Visitation (Published August, 1944)

HIGH LIGHTS OF 1944

SPECIES (Local records) -- Loon, 47; Cormorant, 75; Great Blue Heron, 1, 6, 33; Egret, 69, 70(2), 75; Little Blue Heron, 70; Night Heron, 33, 55; Canada Goose, 5, 33, 38, 39, 63; Snow Goose, 63; Mallard, 29; Black Duck, 44, 68; Lesser Scaup, 34; Barrow's Golden-eye, 85; American Merganser, 6; Turkey Vulture, 62, 68; Rough-legged Hawk, 34; Bald Eagle, 29, 49, 76, 82; Osprey, 47, 82(2); Pigeon Hawk, 34; Pheasant, 70; King Rail, 70; Golden Plover, 34; Black-bellied Plover, 34, 70, 86; Snipe, 52; Knot, 34; White-rumped Sandpiper, 34, 86; Red-backed Sandpiper, 86; Dowitcher, 34; Phalarope, 86; Great Black-backed Gull, 34; Ring-billed Gull, 34; Caspian Tern, 86; Barn Owl, 35, 47; Screech Owl, 4, 63; Barred Owl, 6, 38; Saw-whet Owl, 43, 63; Chimney Swift, 47; Flicker, 59, 63; Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker, 39; Kingbird, 35; Purple Martin, 18; Blue Jay, 35, 51; Crow, 35; House Wren, 35, 46, 63; Carolina Wren, 41; Robin, 4, 39, 46, 81; Wood Thrush, 55; Hermit Thrush, 55; Olive-backed Thrush, 55; Gray-cheeked Thrush, 47; Bluebird, 4, 46; Pipit, 36, 86; Starling, 76; Blue-headed Vireo, 50, 69; Worm-eating Warbler, 55, 62; Golden-winged Warbler, 36, 81; Cape May Warbler, 82; Black-poll Warbler, 36; Prairie Warbler, 36, 51, 82; Yellow Palm Warbler, 46; English Sparrow, 17; Meadowlark, 92; Red-wing, 37; Yellow-headed Blackbird, 30; Orchard Oriole, 36; Cardinal, 47, 82; Evening Grosbeak, 5, 37, 38, 47; Pine Grosbeak, 5(2), 38; Redpoll, 5, 37; Red Crossbill, 5, 6, 37; White-winged Crossbill, 23, 37; Lark Bunting, 30; Henslow's Sparrow, 37; Field Sparrow, 71; Fox Sparrow, 37; Song Sparrow, 6.

LOCALITIES -- Central Park, 5, 6, 47; Crescent Heronry, 55; General Electric, 2, 6, 39, 62, 76(3); Indian Ladder, 55, 62; Karners, 51; Lake Champlain, 87; Loudonville, 81; Niskayuna, 4, 5, 6, 49, 69, 70, 82; Scotia, 9; Stockport & Lower Hudson, 30, 62, 75; Upper Hudson, 27; Vale Cemetery, 30, 33, 41; Watervliet Reservoir, 70.

AUTHORS -- Bernice Abramson, 65; H.L. Achilles, 23; H.V.D. Allen, 1, 75; S. Waldo Bailey, 30; George H. Bainbridge, 37, 92; Guy Bartlett, 6, 9, 38, 46, 68, 69, 82; Laura S. Beck, 17; Thomas Brown, 65; Dorothy W. Caldwell, 29, 71; Edith B. Clare, 18; Helen Cole, 38; Betty Dickheuer, 66; Mabel W. French, 81; Mary Lou Grzelecki, 66; Roger Harvey, 66; Barrington S. Havens, 19, 30, 37, 41, 59, 62, 63, 77; Nancy Jean Havens, 66; J.M. Hollister, 57; Viola Mabb, 47; Marylin Madison, 67; P. Schuyler Miller, 25, 39; Chester N. Moore, 50, 69; John Pierce, 67; Dr. Minnie B. Scotland, 51, 55; Genevieve E. Scott, 5, 7; Susan Seib, 67; L.H. Shaw, 63; Dorothy H. Speirs, 89; Adelaide L. Staley, 51; W. Roy Steele, 33, 39, 43, 68, 76; Rudd H. Stone, 86; Nelle VanVorst, 6(2), 27, 47, 55, 62, 70, 73; Mrs. Bertram Wellman, 61.

ILLUSTRATIONS -- Upper Hudson (map), 28; Saw-whet Owl (photograph), 43; Bald Eagle (photograph), 49.

SUMMARIES -- 1943 Christmas Count, 1; 15-year Christmas Summary, 9; 1943 in Review, 33.

Bird Songs, 19, 77.

Water-chestnut, 69.