

WINDS THERE WERE ABUNDANTLY

Christmas Count Suffered Because of Weather —

Two Snowies, Evening Grosbeaks, and Robin

Feature List of Twenty-nine Species

Laura S. Beck, Christmas Count Chairman

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, Vischer Ferry, 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%). December 23; 7 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Clear; temperature 1° at start, 19° maximum at noon, 5° at return; wind west, veering to northwest, 5 m.p.h. at start, increasing to 30 m.p.h. and drifting snow in afternoon; 6 to 8 inches of old snow; minimum of open water. Twenty-six observers in eight parties, plus urban and suburban records. Total hours, 45 (35 on foot, 10 by car); total miles, 148 (42 on foot, 106 by automobile).

Black duck, 5; American merganser, 3; goshawk, 1; red-tailed hawk, 1; sparrow hawk, 1; ring-necked pheasant, 31; screech owl, 2; snowy owl, 2; barred owl, 1; kingfisher, 1; hairy woodpecker, 8; downy woodpecker, 22; northern horned lark, 1; blue jay, 39; crow, 54; black-capped chickadee, 150; white-breasted nuthatch, 21; brown creeper, 10; winter wren, 1; robin, 1; starling, 227; English sparrow, 267; evening grosbeak, 19; redpoll, 27; goldfinch, 2; slate-colored junco, 6; tree sparrow, 170; song sparrow, 3; snow bunting, 15. Total, 29 species, 1579 individuals.

Malcolm Andrews, Pauline E. Baker, Guy Bartlett, William G. Bartlett, George H. Bainbridge, Mrs. W. E. Blowney, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Freese, Esly Hallenbeck, Idella M. Heacox, Alice Holmes, Mrs. H. G. Kelley, B. D. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Chester N. Moore, Edward Rindfleisch, Vincent J. Schaefer, Dr. Minnie B. Scotland, Mrs. E. W. Scott, Robert L. Stone, Rudolph H. Stone, Beatrice Sullivan, Nelle G. Van Vorst, Mr. and Mrs. John L. Voght; Laura S. Beck, Christmas Count Chairman, S.B.C.

NO GULLS - NO GROUSE

Party	Total	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Number of Species	29	19	18	9	5	10	8	12	6	10
Total Individuals	1579	251	139	63	60	46	99	650	55	216
Black Duck	5	5								
American Merganser	3	3								
Goshawk	1		1							
Red-tailed Hawk	1					1				
Sparrow Hawk	1	1								
Pheasant	31	3	18			1			1	8
Screech Owl	2	2								
Snowy Owl	2	1				1				
Barred Owl	1		1							
Kingfisher	1	1								
Hairy Woodpecker	8	2	1					2		3
Downy Woodpecker	22	4	7				1	2		8
No. Horned Lark	1		1							
Blue Jay	39	4	18	2	1	1		1		12
Crow	542	53	3	4		10	22	450		
Blk-cap Chickadee	150	12	58	23	9	9	3	14	3	19
White-br. Nuthatch	21		6	1		2		5	1	6
Brown Creeper	10	1	5					4		
Winter Wren	1		1							
Robin	1									1
Starling	227	40	5	7	35	7	28	23	1	81
English Sparrow	267	52	2	5	14	10	34	40	35	75
Evening Grosbeak	19		2	10			7			
Redpoll	27	12	1						14	
Goldfinch	2	2								
Junco	6		1		1			4		
Tree Sparrow	170	52	8	10		4	3	90		3
Song Sparrow	3	1		1			1			
Snow Bunting	15							15		

Not the "Perfect Day"

Participants in Schenectady Bird Club's annual Christmas Bird Count on December 23 were not favored with the "perfect day for birding" which greeted the Club's groups the preceding year. In fact, it proved to be a very miserable day, not because of especially low temperatures but because of a very cutting wind.

Quite evidently the feathered tribe, as a whole, considered the weather far from ideal for Sunday strolling, winging, or food-seeking, the result being a very sharp drop in the Bird Count over the previous year.

It would seem that the various groups of Club members participating covered considerable area to turn in the total count of 1579 individuals, comprising 29 species; this is con-

siderably lower than the results of the 1944 Christmas Count which listed 3951 individuals and 40 species.

Whereas the 1944 Count for feeding stations gave the total of individuals as 58, with 7 species, that for 1945 totaled 216 with 10 species. This probably was because of weather conditions, including the fact that, owing to considerable snow-fall, many weed-seed areas were not available, while feeding stations at such times are most attractive and easily reached by wing. A somewhat unusual bird guest at the Christmas season was a robin found feasting at the feeding station of Mr. and Mrs. Chester N. Moore.

The crow has again taken the lead in order of numbers seen, followed by the English sparrow; third comes the starling; fourth, the tree sparrow; fifth, the chickadee.

Several feeding station members report having seen evening grosbeaks, chickadees, pheasants, and blue jays in greater numbers just previous to the day of the count; it is quite likely, had the weather on December 23 been less disagreeable, a much more satisfactory account would have been forthcoming for the Christmas check-up of 1945.

Those Participating

Participants in the 1945 Christmas Count, and the areas covered, included:

Party 1 -- Saratoga side of Mohawk River within 15-mile circle, outlying Niskayuna sections not included by Party 2, area from G.E. to territory of Group 7; 7 party-hours, 1 mile on foot, 40 miles by car. Guy Bartlett, William G. Bartlett, Chester N. Moore. 19 species, 251 individuals.

Party 2 -- Niskayuna; 9 party-hours, 10 miles on foot. G. Malcolm Andrews, Edward Rindfleisch, Rudolph H. Stone. 18 species, 139 individuals.

Party 3 -- Watervliet Reservoir; 6 party-hours, 8 miles on foot, 24 miles by car. George H. Bainbridge, Esly Hallenbeck. 9 species, 63 individuals.

Party 4 -- Central Park; 3½ party-hours, 5 miles on foot, 2 miles by car. Idella M. Heacox, Beatrice Sullivan. 5 species, 60 individuals.

Party 5 -- Meadowdale and Indian Ladder; 7½ party-hours, 5 miles by foot, 40 by car. Pauline E. Baker, Alice Holmes, Dr. Minnie B. Scotland, Nelle G. Van Vorst. 10 species, 46 individuals.

Party 6 -- Collins Lake and Scotia; 2 party-hours, 3½ miles on foot. Mr. and Mrs. John L. Voght. 8 species, 99 individuals.

FEATHERS
 SCHENECTADY BIRD CLUB
 Annual Membership: Active, \$2; Assoc. \$1
 Guy Bartlett, Editor
 1053 Parkwood Blvd.

Party 7 -- Schermerhorn Road, Woestina Sanctuary, and Lock 8; 7 party-hours; 5 miles on foot. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Freese, Vincent J. Schaefer. 12 species, 650 individuals.

Party 8 -- Grand Boulevard - Balltown Road area; 3 party-hours, 6 miles on foot. B. D. Miller. 6 species, 55 individuals.

Party 9 -- Feeding stations, urban and suburban. Laura S. Beck, Mrs. W. E. Blowney, Mrs. H. G. Kelley, Mrs. Chester N. Moore, Mrs. E. W. Scott, Robert L. Stone. 10 species, 216 individuals.

ACCOMMODATING BUNTINGS

Henry V. D. Allen

Eight members of SBC drove in two automobiles on November 18 to Saratoga Lake by way of Rexford, Clifton Park, and Round Lake. Those on the trip included Alice Holmes, Mary Kerley, Beatrice Sullivan, Nelle Van Vorst, Malcolm Andrews, Rudolph Stone, and the writer.

Twenty-eight species were identified: Loon, Horned Grebe (3), Double-crested Cormorant (4), Great Blue Heron, Black Duck, American Golden-eye, American Merganser (8), Red-tailed Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Kingfisher, Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, Blue Jay, Crow (6), Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Starling, English Sparrow, Meadowlark, Red-wing, Evening Grosbeak (heard), Tree Sparrow, Snow Bunting (3).

The trip lasted from 8 to 1:30 o'clock, with the temperature about 45° and the wind from zero to 20 m.p.h. At first there was rain, but this changed to heavy dark clouds.

Tame Buntings

On reaching Round Lake we piled out of the cars following a cry from Rudd Stone that he heard Snow Buntings. There were three of them standing on a pile of rowboats by the shore. They showed no fear, and allowed us to approach within 20 feet. They circled our heads, flew away, and came back to the boats. It was a grand sight. I noticed particularly the beautiful warm brown of the head, darker on the crown and shading to lighter on the sides, and also the prominent pink bill. The folded wings showed a broad white stripe over a black stripe, and in flight the white plumage showed up most prominently. It was here that Rudd Stone heard the Evening Grosbeaks, possibly three of them, flying overhead.

At the southern end of Saratoga Lake we found the Loon, Horned Grebe, about eight female American Mergansers, and at

Brown's Beach a half dozen or more Herring Gulls and one Ring-billed Gull. One Herring and the Ring-billed were standing on posts broadside on, with the latter about three feet nearer, giving a perfect comparison of size. The Ring-billed was not in full adult plumage, but much closer to adult than to first-year plumage. I was unable, even with glasses, to see the ring on the bill. There seemed to be only a black spot at the extreme end. The Ring-billed looked about three-quarters the length of the Herring, so that it couldn't have been more than half the weight. Four Double-crested Cormorants flying over the lake were identified by Nelle Van Vorst and others.

Proceeding up the east side of the lake, we had a quick view of a Red-tailed Hawk chased by Crows. We stopped for a moment at Lake Lonely and at Stafford's Bridge, but saw nothing. Lunch was eaten at Kydeross Park, closed for the winter. Only a hovering Sparrow Hawk was of interest on the trip home.

(On the preceding Sunday practically the same territory was covered by four SBC members who were unable to plan on the regular trip. They recorded 26 species, including 30 Loons, 4 Horned Grebes, 2 Double-crested Cormorants, 4 Canada Geese, 12 Black Ducks, 50 Scaup Ducks, 10 female White-winged Scoters, 5 female American Scoters, 5 female American Mergansers, and an abundance of American Golden-eyes. They also recorded one Bonaparte's Gull and two Ring-billed Gulls; and duplicated the experience of the Herring and Ring-billed on adjacent posts. Instead of Snow Buntings they found Pine Siskins. They, too, made the trip in rain.)

ON THE WATER CHESTNUT

Rudolph H. Stone

Whether or not you detest the water chestnut, there most certainly would have been fewer shorebirds anywhere near Schenectady were it not for the extensive chestnut meadows at Niskayuna this fall. While most of the interior New York State was forsaken by shorebirds owing to the high water, good numbers could be observed scampering over the chestnut until its virtual disappearance early in October.

One of the migration peaks was on September 30. There were at least 100 sandpipers in three restless flocks out over the chestnut. Of these only ten visited the restricted and partially inundated shore at the coal pocket. These were six Red-backed Sandpipers and four Lesser Yellowlegs and they remained only briefly, except for one Red-backed who stayed some time, apparently preferring it to the chestnut.

Most of the sandpipers were small, probably "peeps", but I could not safely identify many as they were too far out and did not venture close to shore. The list included 25 Semipal-

mated Sandpipers, 10 Pectoral Sandpipers, 10 Red-backed Sandpipers, 4 Lesser Yellowlegs, 1 Greater Yellowlegs, 1 Semipalmated Plover, and the rest unidentified. Also included on the trip were one Pipit and one American Egret, as well as more than 250 Black Ducks, 40 or more Mallards, and Baldpate and Green-winged Teal. The Pipit landed briefly on the chestnut and then hurried on up the river.

Other Dates

Among late dates was a Sanderling on October 4 on the chestnut at Crescent Island, and two Indigo Buntings on the same date in a marshy section of Niskayuna.

Early records included a flock of 22 Pine Siskins at Niskayuna on October 17, and a light-phase Rough-legged Hawk at Meadowdale on October 21.

IT WAS ONE OF THOSE MORNINGS

Barrington S. Havens

It was late in September, and the morning had a touch of frost in the air. There had been a full moon the night before, with the sky clear for the first time in a number of days of unsettled weather. The chilly crickets stridulated faintly and slowly as I started through the cemetery on my customary walk to work. A typical fall day.

There didn't seem much hope for any more noteworthy bird observations. I had been spending the month taking notes of those species which could be recognized by ear alone in spite of the lateness of the season, and one by one the vocalizers had dropped out of the chorus until now there was left, in addition to the expected starlings and blue jays, only the occasional pip-squeak or a chickadee or the desultory fall conversation of the robins.

A Different Note

But hark! That robin note back there was different. Sure enough, the bird was singing. I stopped in wonder, for I could recall no instance of hearing a robin in song so late in the year. True, the notes were not as continuous as the full breeding caroling, but they were as liquid and typical as those of early spring. And they were accompanied, in the occasional pauses, by other characteristically spring notes. I reflected that the bird must be under the influence of great excitement to prompt such an unseasonal outburst.

But time was passing, so I resumed my walk to work. My experiences, however, were not yet over. A few moments later I noticed a hawk of some kind -- sparrow, from the size and flight -- pass over from behind me and light in a treetop not

far away. Immediately there was strong vocal objection from a small flock of starlings and what, from the voice, seemed to be a blue jay. They all took flight.

Then I observed the hawk "make a pass" at the blue jay, which dodged it not too skillfully and squawked a vigorous protest. The birds were practically of a size, and, thought I, this is a bold and hungry hawk indeed, to tackle so formidable an opponent. The maneuver was repeated, and again the blue jay dodged with a squawk. The jay made no attempt to fly away, and even seemed somewhat of a temper to challenge the hawk's superiority. The third time the aerial interchange occurred, the birds flew beyond my orbit of vision, and I lost sight of them.

Coincidence?

This, I reflected, must be one of those mornings when everything happens. First a robin sings a late and noteworthy song, and then a sparrow hawk tangles with a blue jay. A morning of coincidences.

But, hold! Suddenly the realization came to me with utter conviction that the two events I had just observed were not unrelated at all. The strong emotion which prodded the robin into song was without question the result of a set-to with the sparrow hawk, which, robbed of a robin breakfast, flew up from behind me and took on an even more ambitious menu in the form of the jay. There may be some other version of the morning's experience, but I am satisfied with my own interpretation.

NEWS & NOTES IN BRIEF

"THE TWENTY POSSIBLES" -- "The twenty possible species of irregular winter visitors" are being well represented in eastern Massachusetts this winter. The Red-breasted Nuthatches wandered down late last summer; and from mid-October through November there have been reports of Snowy Owls and Short-eared Owls, as well as of many of the "northern" members of the family Fringillidae, including Pine and Evening Grosbeaks, White-winged Crossbills, Redpolls, and Siskins. According to the Essex County Field List, each of these fall visitors has been reported as early or earlier in some of the preceding years, but it is gratifying to have so many of these erratic guests here before winter had even begun. The white-winged gulls, most of the Alcids (Dovekies, Razor-billed Auk, Black Guillemot, Atlantic and Brünnich's Murres), Goshawk and Northern Shrike were also recorded in 1945.

-- Dorothy W. Caldwell

RED-HEADED AT FEEDER -- The September 1945 Feathers mentioned Red-headed Woodpeckers having been seen in Second Ward Park. They have been there for two years. The pair

came to our feeding station daily this past season, for bread, suet, and an occasional apple.

In the course of time they brought their two young over, and the family spent a great deal of time around the place. We found them interesting and quite often amusing.

Perhaps one of the adults had a slightly more brilliant plumage -- at times the scarlet head of one seemed deeper -- but we could not be sure. -- Cora T. Brockway

LATE WHITE-CROWNED -- A late White-crowned Sparrow was recorded in Scotia by Mrs. R. H. Zoellner. The bird was first seen on November 28, and again, in the snow, on November 30.

TOMHANNOCK DUCKS -- A trip by a few SBC members along the upper Hudson from Cohoes to Stillwater, and to Tomhannock Reservoir, and the Hudson at Troy on November 25 -- when ice was already forming -- showed plenty of ducks. It was apparent at the reservoir, however, that a good telescope is a necessity.

Ducks along the upper Hudson and along the Mohawk above Cohoes were relatively few, but a male Old-squaw stood out conspicuously.

RECORDS NEEDED -- Have you forwarded your 1945 records to the S B C Record Committee, of which John L. Voght is chairman? The year offered many interesting entries, and the detailed list is to be published. Your list is needed to make the story complete.

NEW OFFICERS -- SBC directors to be named at the annual meeting in February include the offices of Field Activities, Conservation, Publications, and Secretary.

AUDUBON SCREEN TOURS
PRESENTED BY THE SCHENECTADY BIRD CLUB
AND THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Central Park Junior High School
8:15 P. M.

FEB. 11—DR. OLIN S. PETTINGILL, JR.,
"BIRD MAGIC IN MEXICO"

Dr. Pettingill and George Miksch Sutton led the Cornell University-Carleton College expedition to the hill country of Tamaulipas, in Mexico. Their gorgeous natural color films of Mexican bird life will open an exotic new world to most Schenectady bird-lovers.

Published by the Schenectady Bird Club

ACCIDENTS WILL HAPPEN

Mabel W. French

The recent article by Mr. B. D. Miller (FEATHERS, September, 1945) discussing bird casualties reminded me of some similar experiences I have had. My closest contact with mass tragedy among birds by a natural enemy was connected with a colony of Common Terns at Orient, Long Island. In July of 1924 I visited the colony when Roy Latham, an expert local ornithologist, estimated there were at least 500 pairs breeding there. By 1939 the colony had shrunk to barely a tenth of that number. Red foxes had increased in numbers and were eating both the eggs and young.

We once found a Ruby-throated Hummingbird dead on the ground under our trumpet vine. The only mark on it was a small hole at the base of the upper mandible. I believe it was caused by a blow from the beak of another Hummer. I have often seen them fight fiercely over a blossom they mutually desired.

Chimney Victim

A bird also met its fate in our chimney; in our case it was a Chimney Swift. It became caught in the space above the damper. We removed the ventilator, but the bird was already dying from hunger and exhaustion. It interested me to see how, with its last breath, this Swift clung to the habits of its life. It seemed so uncomfortable in the grass, where we had placed it, that I picked it up. As I did so the bird gripped my finger with its toes and braced back with its tail. It reminded me that the Swift's resting place was against an upright surface. I placed the bird against the side of an upright log. It instantly dug its toes into the bark and braced with its barbed tail with all its remaining strength. It remained in that position until it died.

Saw-whet Victims

Automobile victims are too numerous to enumerate, but my son had the unique experience of finding two dead Saw-whet Owls on the Loudonville roads, one on Osborne Road and the second on Menands Road. Unfortunately I did not record the date or circumstances of the first. The second was found on January 3, 1942. By its appearance the owl had been struck in flight and killed instantly. The wings were still half spread as though arrested in flight. One was broken near the shoul-

der. The late Dr. Dayton Stoner believed this to be the first recorded motor casualty of a Saw-whet Owl in New York State.

Window Casualties

Apparently when one of our garage doors is open the window reflects light in such a way as to confuse birds flying toward it. At least we judge so from the fact that a Cedar Waxwing, Flicker, Ruby-crowned Kinglet and two Robins have been found on the ground near it in a stunned or injured condition. The Waxwing and the Flicker were simply "knocked out" and flew away later. My son found the two robins side by side in front of the door. One bore no marks of injury and was beginning to revive. The other, while living, had blood running from one eye. We put them on the chicken-house roof and left them. In about an hour both were gone. The next morning I was attracted to a Robin on the ground that seemed very indifferent to my approach. It flew to the low branch of a tree, but still ignored my presence. Through binoculars at close range I could see the reason -- the eye on my side was missing. There also seemed to be a dent on the side of the head, back of the eye socket. It was undoubtedly the injured bird of the day before.

The Ruby-crowned Kinglet referred to above was the most unfortunate victim. When brought to me, its whole body, but especially its neck, was in a twisted condition. When we straightened it, it contracted into the same shape again. It could not straighten or stand upon its legs, although it could move its toes. It could only partially spread one wing and flap about on one side. We put it in a softly lined box. The next morning it had spells of flapping madly about and shivering convulsively. My husband put it out of its misery.

Injured Oven-bird

A somewhat similar case was that of an Oven-bird brought to me by a friend. The bird seemed lively enough but when it tried to walk or fly would merely roll over on its side. The only mark on it was a hole at the outer corner of the eye. The next morning the bird was dead. I cut into the hole to see if I could find a possible shot lodged in the skull. The hole went about half way through the head, but I discovered nothing to explain it. It could have been made by the bill of another bird.

These two instances of partial paralysis were quite definitely caused by accidents affecting the spinal cord or part of the brain. I have seen other cases which support Mr. Miller's idea that birds may have heart attacks or what would correspond to strokes in human beings. The most recent was on May 3, 1945. A neighborhood boy called me to see a Bronzed Grackle struggling on the ground under our spruce tree. He said he was standing under the tree, and the bird just dropped out of it. I judged it to be the female of a pair nesting in

the spruce. It was able to raise itself a few inches from the ground and fly in sort of a circular course, but not straight or far. We put it in a basket in the garage. Regretably this has to be a story without an ending. The next morning the Grackle was where we left it, and in the same condition. By afternoon it had vanished. I do not think it could have recovered, and we had placed it where it seemed to be inaccessible to cats. We never saw the bird again.

Recovery

The most puzzling incident relative to bird disabilities that I personally know of occurred early in the morning of February 17, 1944. My boy was watching a Chickadee in our maple when he saw the bird suddenly fall off the branch to the ground. We brought it in, and could find no mark of any kind on it. Its beak was open and it was gasping as if for breath, but I have seen birds do that from pure fright. It soon became so active that I let it go from a window. It flew directly to the same maple. I had to catch a bus and so could not observe it as closely as I wished. I did glance at it at intervals of about three or four minutes for about twenty minutes. At first it sat hunched on a branch as though trying to collect its wits. Then it began to resume its Chickadee pertness and flew away. There was no paralysis in this case. Did the Chickadee have a heart attack or was it acute indigestion from too hearty a breakfast from our feeder in the tree from which it fell?

1944 IN REVIEW

Based upon the notes left by the late W. Roy Steele and upon the records turned in to him as chairman of the S B C 1944 Record Committee, the local records for that year have now been compiled. Much that Mr. Steele said in introducing his report for 1943 (FEATHERS, May, 1944) applies to the following year's records. Travel restrictions and overtime work out down on observations.

In the following report, dates not otherwise credited are from the reports of Club trips (which were summarized in FEATHERS of April, 1945). In the case of observers credited frequently, initials have been used:

GB - Guy Bartlett
 MWF - Mabel W. French
 BSH - B. S. Havens
 CNM - Chester N. Moore

WRS - W. Roy Steele
 RAS - Rudolph A. Stone
 NVV - Nelle Van Vorst

It will be noticed that dates are not given in numerous cases; it was felt that the dates recorded did not really represent the true arrival or departure dates in those cases. Where the records were beyond those shown in the 1937 booklet

or where they are of particular interest because of the rarity of the species, the entry has been underlined. The list of 190 species for 1944 includes:

- Common Loon - Transient 4.10, WRS, to 4.16; 11.19.
 Horned Grebe - Transient 4.16.
 Pied-billed Grebe - Summer resident.
 Double-crested Cormorant - Four 9.17, Albany-Kingston trip.
 Great Blue Heron - Winter visitor 1943-1944, NVV; transient 4.2
 to 5.4, NVV; 7.16, NVV, to 10.15, NVV.
 American Egret - Summer visitor, 7.16 to 9.17.
 Little Blue Heron - One, white plumage, 8.13.
 Green Heron - Summer resident, 5.4, NVV, to 10.1.
 Black-crowned Night Heron - Summer resident, 4.30 to 10.1, NVV.
 The heronry at Crescent practically abandoned.
 American Bittern - Summer resident, arrived 4.25, NVV.
 Least Bittern - Summer resident.
 Canada Goose - Recorded 3.26; 5.25, Mrs. Bainbridge; 6.11,
 Shaw; 11.19.
 Mallard - Winter, 2.6; summer resident 3.23, NVV, to 11/19.
 Black Duck - Winter visitor; increasing common breeding summer
 resident; very common transient.
 Baldpate - Transient 9.17 to 11.19.
 Pintail - Transient 9.17.
 Blue-winged Teal - Transient 4.30, 9.17 to 10.15, NVV.
 Wood Duck - Summer resident, arrived 4.16.
 Redhead - Transient 3.29, NVV, to 4.1, NVV; 11.19.
 Ring-necked Duck - Transient 4.9, NVV, to 4.16; 11.19.
 Lesser Scaup Duck - Winter 2.6; transient 3.26 to 4.16; 11.19.
 American Golden-eye - Winter 2.6; transient 3.26, NVV, to
4.16; 11.19.
 Buffle-head - Transient 3.29, NVV.
 White-winged Scoter - 9.17.
 Hooded Merganser - Transient, 4.27, NVV, to 4.30.
 American Merganser - To 4.16; arrived 11.19.
- Turkey Vulture - 6.30, WRS; 7 at Stockport late April, S.
 Waldo Bailey.
- Goshawk - 1.10, MWF.
 Sharp-shinned Hawk - Summer resident, departed 9.17.
 Cooper's Hawk - Summer resident, arrived 4.30, NVV.
 Red-tailed Hawk - Recorded 5.21; 9.17; 11.23; 12.24.
 Red-shouldered Hawk - 3.26 to 10.1.
 Rough-legged Hawk - To 3.26, NVV; arrived 12.2, WRS.
 Bald Eagle - Recorded 2.6; 6.13, killed at Niskayuna; 9.17.
 Marsh Hawk - 4.24, WRS, through winter.
 Osprey - More common spring transient than usual; 4.16 to
4.30; 9.17 to 10.8, NVV. One killed in late September by
 striking wire in Niskayuna.
 Sparrow Hawk - Resident.
- Ruffed Grouse - Resident.
 Ring-necked Pheasant - Resident. Many instances of flocks
 dying off by disease, particularly among half-grown birds.
 King Rail - Summer resident, recorded 7.16 and 8.13.
 Virginia Rail - Summer resident.

Sora - Summer resident.
Florida Gallinule - Summer resident.
Coot - 4.30

Semipalmated Plover - Transient 8.20, NVV, to 9.3, NVV.
Killdeer - 3.12 to 10.31, NVV.
Black-bellied Plover - 8.20, NVV, to 9.30, RAS.
Woodcock - Summer resident, arrived 4.2, WRS.
Wilson's Snipe - 5.28
Upland Plover - Summer resident, recorded 6.11, NVV.
Spotted Sandpiper - 4.27, NVV, to 10.1.
Solitary Sandpiper - Transient 8.23, MWF, to 10.1, NVV.
Greater Yellow-legs - 8.30, MWF, to 10.15, NVV.
Lesser Yellow-legs - 8.20, NVV, to 10.1.
Pectoral Sandpiper - 8.24, NVV, to 10.1.
White-rumped Sandpiper - 9.20, RAS.
Least Sandpiper - 7.16 to 10.1.
Red-backed Sandpiper - 10.1, RAS, to 10.5, RAS.
Dowitcher - 8.22, NVV.
Semipalmated Sandpiper - 8.23, MWF, to 9.3, NVV.
Sanderling - Transient 7.16.
Northern Phalarope - 10.12, RAS.
Herring Gull - To 5.7; 6.18, NVV; arrived 9.17.
Ring-billed Gull - 3.29, NVV, to 4.2; 11.19.
Bonaparte's Gull - 4.16.
Common Tern - 4.24, WRS; 9.17.
Caspian Tern - 9.20, RAS.

Mourning Dove - Summer resident, arrived 3.26.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo - Summer resident, recorded 5.22, MWF.
Black-billed Cuckoo - Summer resident.

Barn Owl - 4.30, CNM.
Screech Owl - Resident.
Great Horned Owl - Resident.
Barred Owl - Resident.
Saw-whet Owl - Late March, one captured in city fire station.

Whip-poor-will - Summer resident.
Nighthawk - Summer resident, arrived 5.10, MWF.
Chimney Swift - Summer resident, arrived 4.30.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird - Summer resident, arrived 5.5, WRS.
Belted Kingfisher - Summer resident, and winter visitor both winters.

Flicker - Summer resident, arrived 3.28, NVV.
Pileated Woodpecker - Resident.
Red-headed Woodpecker - Summer resident, Second Ward Park.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - 3.26 to 5.21.
Hairy Woodpecker - Resident.
Downy Woodpecker - Resident.
Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker - 3.12, WRS.

Kingbird - Summer resident, arrived 5.1, WRS.
Crested Flycatcher - Summer resident, arrived 5.1, GB.
Phoebe - Summer resident, arrived 3.26.

- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher - Transient 5.26, NVV.
Acadian Flycatcher - Transient 5.28, NVV.
Alder Flycatcher - Summer resident, arrived 5.19, MWF.
Least Flycatcher - Summer resident, arrived 5.1, WRS.
Wood Pewee - Summer resident, arrived 5.21.
Prairie Horned Lark - Winter visitor; summer resident; transients abundant 3.5, NVV.
- Tree Swallow - Increasingly common as breeding summer resident; arrived 4.16.
Bank Swallow - Arrived 5.15, NVV.
Rough-winged Swallow - Arrived 5.28, NVV.
Barn Swallow - Arrived 4.16.
Purple Martin - Recorded at Saratoga colony 6.17, NVV.
- Canada Jay - One in late fall and into January, 1945, at a lean-to on Dunnsville Road, feeding there regularly, U. S. Massoth.
- Blue Jay - Resident.
Crow - Resident.
Black-capped Chickadee - Resident.
White-breasted Nuthatch - Resident.
Red-breasted Nuthatch - Winter, to 5.12, MWF; 12.24.
Brown Creeper - Winter visitor to 5.4, MWF.
- House Wren - Arrived 5.2, MWF.
Winter Wren - Winter visitor to 5.1, NVV; arrived 10.1.
Carolina Wren - 3.27, BSH, to 3.31, BSH & NVV.
Long-billed Marsh Wren - Summer resident.
Catbird - Summer resident, arrived 5.2, MWF.
Brown Thrasher - Summer resident, arrived 4.30, CNM.
- Robin - 3.19, NVV, to 10.30, NVV; 12.24.
Wood Thrush - Summer resident, arrived 5.2, MWF.
Hermit Thrush - Summer resident, arrived 3.27; 12.24.
Olive-backed Thrush - 4.30, CNM, to 5.8, MWF; 7.17, NVV.
Gray-cheeked Thrush - 4.30, CNM, to 5.19, MWF.
Veery - Summer resident, arrived 5.7.
Bluebird - 3.12 to 10.29, WRS; 12.24.
- Golden-crowned Kinglet - Winter visitor to 5.1, MWF; 12.24.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet - 4.11, NVV, to 5.18, MWF; 10.1.
American Pipit - 9.15, RAS.
Cedar Waxwing - 5.15, MWF, to 10.1; 12.24
Northern Shrike - 1.9, MWF.
Starling - Resident.
- Yellow-throated Vireo - Summer resident, arrived 5.4, MWF.
Blue-headed Vireo - First record 5.1, NVV.
Red-eyed Vireo - Summer resident, arrived 5.3, WRS.
Warbling Vireo - Summer resident, arrived 5.3, MWF.
- Black and White Warbler - 5.1, NVV, to 9.24, NVV.
Worm-eating Warbler - Increasingly common summer resident; arrived 5.21.
Golden-winged Warbler - Increasingly common summer resident; arrived 5.9, MWF.

- Nashville Warbler - 5.2, MWF, to 5.21.
Parula Warbler - 5.21.
Yellow Warbler - Summer resident, arrived 5.2, MWF.
Magnolia Warbler - 5.7 to 5.24, MWF; 9.3, MWF.
Cape May Warbler - 9.24, WRS.
Black-throated Blue Warbler - 5.5, MWF, to 5.27, MWF.
Myrtle Warbler - 5.2, NVV, to 5.18, MWF; 9.20, NVV.
Black-throated Green Warbler - 5.7 to 9.19.
Blackburnian Warbler - 5.3, NVV, to 5.23, MWF.
Chestnut-sided Warbler - Summer resident, arrived 5.4, NVV, MWF.
Bay-breasted Warbler - 5.19, MWF.
Black-poll Warbler - 5.7 to 5.28; 10.1 to 10.5, MWF.
~~Prairie Warbler~~ - Summer resident, first recorded 5.28; transient visitor 10.3, GB, to 10.4, GB.
Yellow Palm Warbler - 4.11, GB, to 5.4, GB.
Oven-bird - 5.3, NVV, MWF, to 9.19, MWF.
Northern Water-thrush - 5.24, NVV; 9.3, NVV, to 9.6, MWF.
Louisiana Water-thrush - 5.21.
Northern Yellow-throat - 5.6, NVV, to 10.8, NVV.
Yellow-breasted Chat - Summer resident.
Wilson's Warbler - 5.11, MWF; 9.19, MWF.
Canada Warbler - Summer resident, arrived 5.23, MWF.
American Redstart - Summer resident, arrived 5.4, MWF.
- English Sparrow - Resident.
Bobolink - 5.8, MWF, to 9.3, MWF.
Meadowlark - Arrived 3.26; numerous migrating flocks in November to 11.23, Bainbridge.
Red-wing - Summer resident, arrived 3.26.
Orchard Oriole - Recorded 6.21, Getz.
Baltimore Oriole - Summer resident, arrived 5.3, MWF.
Rusty Blackbird - 3.27, NVV, to 5.3, NVV.
Bronzed Grackle - 3.12, Hallenbeck, to 10.8, NVV.
Cowbird - Summer resident, arrived 3.26; 12.24.
Scarlet Tanager - 5.7 to 9.19, MWF.
- Cardinal - Pair 5.6, Mrs. Lee Nichols; pair at feeders in Scotia through 1944-1945 winter, arrived 10.1, Zoellner.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak - Arrived 5.5, NVV, MWF.
Indigo Bunting - Arrived 5.14.
Evening Grosbeak - Unusually common winter visitor, 1943-1944; to 5.20, Hackett; one, 11.26, WRS.
Purple Finch - Summer resident, arrived 4.20, WRS; 12.24.
Pine Grosbeak - 3.12, WRS.
Redpoll - Winter visitor to 2.13, MWF; 12.24.
Pine Siskin - Winter visitor to 5.22, MWF; 12.24.
Eastern Goldfinch - Resident.
Red-eyed Towhee - 5.2, NVV, to 10.8, NVV.
Savannah Sparrow - 4.30 to 10.8, NVV.
Grasshopper Sparrow - Arrived 5.11, NVV.
Henslow's Sparrow - Arrived 5.4, WRS.
Vesper Sparrow - 4.23, NVV, to 10.8, NVV.
Slate-colored Junco - Winter visitor, summer resident; transients 3.26 to 5.14; arrived 9.18, MWF.
Tree Sparrow - Winter visitor; to 5.1, MWF; arrived 10.29, Mrs. Laura S. Beck.

Chipping Sparrow - Arrived 4.19, NVV.
 Field Sparrow - 4.30 to 10.22, NVV.
 White-crowned Sparrow - 5.14 to 5.22, MWF; 10.22, NVV.
White-throated Sparrow - 3.26, Mrs. Beck, to 5.7; arrived
 10.1; 12.24.
Fox Sparrow - 3.27, NVV, to 4.10, NVV; 12.24.
 Swamp Sparrow - Summer resident, arrived 4.23, NVV..
 Song Sparrow - More common than usual as winter visitor in
 1944-1945 season; transients arrived 3.12.
 Snow Bunting - Recorded 12.24.

NEWS & NOTES IN BRIEF

1943 RECORDS -- While on the subject of records, there have been three additions to the list for 1943, as published in FEATHERS of May, 1944. They are:

Brewster's Warbler - One at Loudonville May 19, recorded by Mrs. Mabel W. French.

Yellow-headed Blackbird - October 18 at Stuyvesant; S. Waldo Bailey.

Lark Bunting - November 29 at Stockport, S. W. Bailey.

SNOWIES -- This has been a real Snowy Owl year, and there apparently have been plenty of the birds recorded or shot locally. A detailed report is to be prepared; Jack Voght, Records Committee chairman, needs all the records now.

FEW DUCKS -- Although both the Mohawk and Hudson were open on January 13, only about fifty Herring Gulls, three Black Ducks and one American Merganser were recorded. -- N. V. V.

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Central Park Junior High School
 8:15 P. M.

APRIL 3—EDNA MASLOWSKI,
 "OUR HERITAGE IN THE ROCKIES"

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Published by the Schenectady Bird Club

FIELD TRIP RECORDS - 1945

Alice Holmes, Chairman, Field Activities

With the month of March at hand, we are reminded that the old year for S B C has passed, and a new year has begun. During the old, historic year of shattering bombs, hard-won victory, and establishment of an organization dedicated to world peace, we found time for bird trips as well as relaxation and escape in the companionship of Bird Club members in search of our feathered friends. To be sure, necessity compelled us not to venture far afield, but to be satisfied with territory closer to home.

Last spring each member of the Club was given a schedule of ten planned trips. Nine were held, and accounts of most of them have already been published in FEATHERS. You may be interested in the total tabulation of 121 species.

The March trip yielded many of the early spring favorites, but we regretted that the Bluebird did not put in an appearance until later.

Brewster's - Egrets - Eagles

The birds outdid themselves at Karner's and on the Albany-Kingston boat trip. On the former, even the Brewster's Warbler was recorded; while on the latter there was a generous number of the hoped-for American Egrets and Bald Eagles.

The Saratoga-Round Lakes trip, like all those of fall and winter, yielded very few species and a meager total count -- yet finding the Double-crested Cormorant established a new record for us at Saratoga Lake, and sighting three Snow Buntings in the middle of November was a delightful surprise.

Looking Ahead

In the coming year we look forward to jaunts to our favorite haunts in close proximity to Schenectady and to places farther afield -- some old, and some new. It may be that the new schedule will include an excursion to Indian Ladder Ravine, where in late May and June the Worm-eating Warbler flits among the trees singing its song resembling the buzzing of an insect.

Arrangements are now under way for a week-end in June at Mount Greylock, and there is a murmur that may become such a



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Annual Membership: Active, \$5; Assoc. \$1
Guy Bartlett, Editor
1053 Parkwood Blvd

shout that we shall find ourselves at Hawk Mountain in Pennsylvania some day next fall, counting migrating hawks and eagles. The Montezuma Marshes are another possibility, now that gasoline, tires and buses are to be had -- it was in May, 1942, that S B C last visited that area.

It at least is certain that those S B C members who care for long trips will have opportunities which were denied during the war -- and Saturday excursions can also again be scheduled.

The following table shows the nine field trips of 1945, with the page numbers in parentheses indicating reports published in FEATHERS during 1945 or 1946:

A - Sunnyside Road, Scotia	Mar. 25,	20 species
B - Central Park (p. 31)	Apr. 29,	33 species
C - Central Park & Vischer Ponds (p. 41)	May 6,	52 species
D - Karner's (p. 39)	May 27,	55 species
E - Crescent Lake & Niskayuna (p. 48) . .	July 8,	53 species
F - Watervliet Reservoir (p. 75)	Aug. 26,	30 species
G - Albany-Kingston Boat Trip (p. 79) . .	Sep. 16,	47 species
H - Saratoga and Round Lakes (p. 4, 1946)	Nov. 18,	27 species
I - Christmas Count (p. 1, 1946)	Dec. 23,	29 species

SPECIES	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
Common Loon							X	X	
Horned Grebe								X	
Pied-billed Grebe			X						
Double-crested Cormorant							X	X	
Great Blue Heron					X	X	X	X	
American Egret					X		X		
Green Heron					X	X	X		
Black-crowned Night Heron			X		X		X		
American Bittern			X		X				
Least Bittern			X						
Canada Goose							X		
Mallard							X		
Black Duck					X	X	X	X	X
Baldpate							X		
Pintail							X		
Green-winged Teal							X		
Blue-winged Teal							X		
American Golden-eye								X	
American Merganser								X	X
Goshawk									X
Sharp-shinned Hawk							X		
Red-tailed Hawk								X	X
Red-shouldered Hawk							X		
Broad-winged Hawk							X		
Bald Eagle					X		X		

SPECIES	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
Marsh Hawk				X			X		
Osprey			X				X		
Sparrow Hawk	X		X					X	X
Pheasant		X	X						X
Virginia Rail					X				
Florida Gallinule			X		X				
Killdeer	X		X		X		X		
Upland Plover			X						
Spotted Sandpiper			X		X	X	X		
Herring Gull	X						X	X	
Ring-billed Gull							X	X	
Mourning Dove	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Screech Owl									X
Great Horned Owl						X			
Snowy Owl									X
Barred Owl									X
Chimney Swift				X		X	X		
Ruby-throated Hummingbird					X	X	X		
Kingfisher			X		X	X	X	X	X
Flicker	X	X	X	X		X	X		
Hairy Woodpecker		X	X					X	X
Downy Woodpecker	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Kingbird				X	X				
Crested Flycatcher				X					
Phoebe	X	X	X		X				
Least Flycatcher				X	X				
Wood Pewee				X		X			
Northern Horned Lark									X
Prairie Horned Lark	X	X							
Tree Swallow			X		X				
Bank Swallow					X				
Barn Swallow			X	X	X	X	X		
Blue Jay	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Crow	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Black-capped Chickadee	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
White-breasted Nuthatch	X				X			X	X
Brown Creeper								X	X
House Wren			X	X	X				
Winter Wren		X							X
Long-billed Marsh Wren					X				
Catbird			X	X	X	X	X		
Brown Thrasher		X	X	X			X		
Robin	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Wood Thrush			X	X	X				
Hermit Thrush		X	X	X					
Veery			X	X	X				
Bluebird			X	X	X	X	X		
Golden-crowned Kinglet									X

SPECIES	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		X	X						
Cedar Waxwing				X	X	X	X		
Starling	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Yellow-throated Vireo					X				
Blue-headed Vireo		X	X						
Red-eyed Vireo				X	X	X	X		
Warbling Vireo					X				
Black and White Warbler			X			X			
Golden-winged Warbler				X					
Brewster's Warbler				X					
Nashville Warbler		X	X	X					
Yellow Warbler			X	X					
Magnolia Warbler				X					
Myrtle Warbler		X	X						
Black-throated Green Warbler			X	X					
Chestnut-sided Warbler			X	X					
Black-poll Warbler				X					
Pine Warbler		X		X			X		
Prairie Warbler				X					
Oven-bird			X	X	X				
Northern Water-thrush				X					
Northern Yellow-throat				X	X				
Canada Warbler				X		X			
American Redstart				X	X				
English Sparrow	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Bobolink			X			X	X		
Meadowlark	X				X	X		X	
Red-wing	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	
Baltimore Oriole				X	X				
Bronzed Grackle	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Cowbird	X	X	X	X			X		
Scarlet Tanager				X	X				
Rose-breasted Grosbeak				X					
Indigo Bunting				X	X	X			
Evening Grosbeak								X	X
Redpoll									X
Goldfinch		X	X	X		X	X		X
Towhee		X	X	X	X				
Grasshopper Sparrow					X				
Vesper Sparrow		X	X	X	X				
Slate-colored Junco		X	X	X					X
Tree Sparrow							X	X	
Chipping Sparrow		X	X	X	X	X			
Field Sparrow		X		X	X				
White-throated Sparrow		X	X						
Swamp Sparrow		X		X	X				
Song Sparrow	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Snow Bunting								X	X

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NEWS & NOTES IN BRIEF

NINE KINDS OF GULLS

An item in FEATHERS of September, 1944, told about finding five species of gulls in five minutes at Newburyport Harbor, Mass. On its field trip of January 27 the Massachusetts Audubon Society listed nine kinds.

At Newburyport there were the Great Black-backed, Herring, Kumlien's, Bonaparte's, and Black-headed. At Gloucester were the Glaucous and Iceland, and at East Gloucester the Ivory Gull. The Short-billed Gull was seen earlier in the month at Newburyport. -- Dorothy W. Caldwell

CHRISTMAS -- BUFFALO AND ROCHESTER

The Buffalo Ornithological Society recorded 52 species and 10,522 individuals on its Christmas Count of December 23. Only 15 species were of "perching" birds -- of which Schenectady had 17 species in its count of 29. Its count included a Double-crested Cormorant, 14 species of ducks, two of herons, three of hawks, five of gulls, five of owls, and a Purple Sandpiper. There were 3069 American Golden-eyes, and 2368 Herring Gulls.

At Rochester, also on December 23, there were 46 species and 2021 individuals. Included were a Red-throated Loon, a Pied-billed Grebe; and a Carolina Wren and two Mockingbirds at feeders.

FEWER CROWS

There are at least 300,000 fewer crows, a recent news item indicates. Four hundred "bombs" were spread over a 15,000-square yard area in Kansas and exploded at night in a crow roost. The Interior Department is credited with devising the exterminator.

LOCAL PARAKEETS

Something for the archives, but hardly information that can be applied today is the following quotation from a century-old publication. In his "Zoology of New-York, Part II, Birds" published by the State in 1844, James E. De Kay lists the Carolina Parakeet, now extinct, as an extra-limital bird once seen in this vicinity. "In the year 1795, a large flock of these birds was seen in the middle of winter, 25 miles northwest of Albany; probably transported by a whirlwind."

Making a guess, the report places the Parakeets just up the Mohawk River a little ways from us -- in the Hoffman's - Cranesville - Glenville area.

JOB FOR RADAR

Last summer (FEATHERS, 1945, p. 45) it was reported that radar had detected Albatrosses and other large birds, and that Maurice Brooks of West Virginia University was planning use of radar atop a mountain in studying migration and flight speed.

Now comes another report of radar at work ornithologically. Nature, of October 13, published in England, reports that radar was picking up flights of birds as much as five years ago. In one instance a flock of geese was tracked 99 minutes, and 57 miles -- an average of 35 m.p.h. The birds were not seen, but were identified by their call as Gray Geese.

WARY SNOWY

Among the many Snowy Owls seen locally this winter were two that landed at the Schenectady airport on Sunday, November 18. One was shot by the manager of the airport, William F. Luke, and the other left.

The next day a Snowy Owl was seen at the Iroquois Golf Course, Rosa Road and Hillside Avenue. It was to be seen there regularly at least until late in February. And on more than one occasion it was seen by "a man with a gun".

On windy, snowless February 14 the owl was seen twice at close range by two observers -- hardly 50 feet away before the bird flew from protecting brush. On almost-as-windy February 17, also snowless, the bird showed how unapproachable it usually was. That afternoon it was out in the center of the flat, windy golf course. The owl could be seen from afar, but the bird likewise could see as far. It flew before the observers were within a hundred yards, and alighted atop a power-line pole twice as far away. Another attempt was made to approach the bird. It remained in view until the contour of the land took the observers into a slight hollow. Upon reaching higher ground, they found the owl gone. Apparently the bird made the best of the opportunity and flew as soon as he could not be seen. It was not difficult to locate the owl, however; it had landed in a plowed area, so open it could not be stalked. The owl, incidentally, had considerable gray in its plumage.

Before the owl actually was found, there were two false

alarms. Coming from the east would be seen a large, very white bird, slowly flapping as it flew against the wind. In each case, however, the bird was a mature Herring Gull.

TOO MUCH HUNTING

The Fish and Wildlife Service of the U. S. Department of the Interior has reported that last year's kill exceeded the hatch of waterfowl. It warned that the future of waterfowl may be threatened. It was estimated that there were about 105,500,000 birds in January, 1945, and that there was a natural increase of about 20,000,000 young.

The 1944 sale of duck-hunting stamps set a record of 1,458,628; and it was believed that 1945 ran about 20 per cent higher. With more men out of service in 1946 and with ammunition more plentiful -- and probably no more ducks -- the situation indicates no improvement.

The Wildlife Service reported that, in general, duck areas had smaller flights in 1945 than in 1944 and, because of extra hunting pressure, had heavier kills.

NO EAGLE

Some S B C members include an "upper Hudson" trip each year in their February or early March itinerary, chiefly in the hope of the Bald Eagle and the unusual among the wintering ducks.

There was plenty of open water in the Mohawk from the Crescent Bridge into Cohoes and along the Hudson from there to Stillwater on Sunday, February 10; but the birds could have been far more plentiful. More than a hundred American Goldeneyes were seen; and there were Black Ducks, Lesser Scaup Ducks and American Mergansers. But there was only one Herring Gull, right in Cohoes. And there was no Bald Eagle.

WAR CASUALTIES

Auks, Murres, Puffins, Gulls and Ducks suffered enormous losses during the war, the Department of the Interior has reported. They were victims of oil on the seas resulting from ship sinkings and other war activities.

Whales also were lost in unknown quantities, said the report, in the course of submarine warfare.

THE FIRST ?

Valentine's Day set a record for unexpected warmth. The Gazette of the next morning carried an item reporting the "first" Robin of the year, seen by Vernon E. Sutphen of 2224 Rose Street in his yard.

That the redbreast was more likely a wintering bird than the first of a wave of returning southern sojourners was apparent in the next few days, when the weather was far more like winter and no more Robins were reported.

That same warm February 14 also did things to Starlings. They suddenly became more musical.

DOWN, EVENTUALLY

Did you ever notice that nests, even though they look flimsy and precariously mounted on branches, will often withstand storms that break down branches? The Blue Jay nest described last summer (FEATHERS, 1945, p. 60) turned out to be such a structure.

After the maple lost its leaves in the fall the nest became conspicuous, and it certainly seemed as though the first real breeze would bring it down. There were several stiff winds, but nothing happened to the nest even though some storm windows and occasional small branches were dropped in the neighborhood.

And then, in mid-February, a sudden gust of wind -- and down came the nest. Nothing to recover -- as soon as it hit the ground it separated into loose twigs, soon blown away by the wind.

AQUATIC HOTELS

Ten years ago it was estimated that the total duck population of the United States had reached an all-time low of only 25,000,000. Last year the figure was estimated by the Fish and Wildlife Service to have reached 100,000,000. Part of the increase was credited to the establishment of 285 wildlife refuges along the water-fowl flyways throughout the country. Many more such refuges will be needed, it is pointed out, if the duck population is to be further increased.

FIRST '46 SCHEDULED TRIP

March 9 is the date of the first scheduled trip of the year for S B C. Those participating are to meet at Sunnyside and Saratoga Roads, Scotia, at 9:15 a.m. (The Burnt Hills bus leaves State and Erie at 9 a.m.)

It is the trip for the early migrants; see page 18, column "A" of this issue for the report on last year's trip, which included 20 species, with the Killdeer, Mourning Dove, Flicker, Phoebe, Robin, Meadowlark, Red-wing, Grackle, Cowbird, and Song Sparrow among the arrivals. But that trip was on the 25th of March, a good two weeks later than this year's jaunt. G. Malcolm Andrews will lead this year's trip.

DUES ARE DUE

If you have not already cared for this detail, the treasurer would like at this time to issue your 1946 membership card.

BETTER RECORDS

Lists that show only arrival dates don't tell much of a story. Try showing: First date and number seen; next date and number seen; became common; last seen; and whether the bird summered and bred, or wintered, or was transient only. Sometimes the "first date" is shown way in advance of the arrival of real numbers, and is practically worthless.

1945 IN REVIEW

Wintering White-crowned and Field Sparrows and Rusty Blackbird among Year's Features = Many New End Dates Are Established = Total of 191 Species Recorded Locally

John L. Voght, Chairman, Records Committee

How complete a local bird list may be in any one year depends on many factors, not the least important of which are two about which S B C could do little last year. One is the weather; the other is the number of experienced observers out on a sufficient number of representative field trips. Last year's weather had its ups and downs, as do all years, with resulting unexpectedly early and late dates -- and plenty of them.

As for observers afield, there was a real dearth of them. The explanation is easy -- the War called for Saturday work for most of us, and even Sundays in many cases; and transportation was a real problem. The 1945 records, then, are from relatively few observers on too few trips.

A third factor, about which something can be done, is too meager information by those recording their observations. Far from the true story is told in those log books where only the first dates are shown; frequently there is a decided gap between the "first seen" and the "next seen" or "became common" dates. Actually a much truer picture of arrivals and departures is given by the second or third date.

Month by Month, Weatherwise

Quoting from the Schenectady Union-Star we have the following summary of the year's weather:

The coldest January in 25 years .. the snowiest on record .. late trains and drifted country roads as the result of nearly three feet of snow .. one zero and four sub-zero readings, with the bottom at 15 below ..

A warm February that produced the Big Thaw .. the warmest in seven years and the wettest in five .. an early flood threat in the Mohawk ..

The hottest March that ever sizzled Schenectady .. the



driest March in a decade .. a pair of startling 80-readings and six heat records that made Schenectadians wonder why folks went to Florida..

The second hottest April in a quarter-century, followed by a bud-nipping frosty spell which made apples scarce .. the wettest April in 12 years .. a month with nary a snowflake ..

The most inundated May in 26 years .. a record-smashing May snowstorm that flattened trees and shrubs into a spring wonderland and put telephone and power lines out of service .. a frost that blighted what the snow failed to damage ..

A June that was as middle-of-the-road as the San Francisco peace conference .. the season's hottest day with the mercury hitting 95 .. a June frost that scared the plants off Victory gardeners ..

A July without even a 90-reading .. the curse of St. Swithin which produced the second wettest July in a decade .. only six clear days in a traditional picnic month ..

An August drought and heat wave that wiped out some of the chill and wetness of the summer .. humidity that you could almost cut ..

Thirty days had September .. and it had dripping humidities and four heat records .. a record 90-reading, followed by a frost threat on the 17th .. the wettest month in the wettest year in eighteen ..

October's Indian Summer that shared its role with an Eskimo autumn .. the coldest October in five years and the fourth-coldest in 30 years .. the season's first frost on the 3rd .. the eighth overwet month in 1945 ..

The wettest November in 10 years .. the snowiest in 12 years .. only two days of full thaw .. a 2-below temperature as soon as the Winter season set in ..

The coldest December since 1919 .. the most December snow in 12 years .. sub-zero on the 23rd .. only two full days of thaw, and an unbroken freeze of 14 days .. more than usual snowfall, and less than usual rain.

The Year, Birdwise

The 191 species of birds recorded locally by S B C members included many particularly interesting observations. Among those wintering were the Red-shouldered Hawk, Robin, Bluebird, Rusty Blackbird, Cardinal, Field Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, and White-throated Sparrow, as well as more usual ones. The Snowy Owl was recorded both winters, with 1945-1946 records probably setting a new high. Evening Grosbeaks were relatively few in the 1944-1945 winter, but common

and exceptionally early in the fall. The Canada Jay, also recorded in 1944, was the other particularly interesting winter species.

Red-headed Woodpeckers established in Second Ward Park as breeding birds, and a late May record of the Brewster's Warbler were also of interest.

End dates beyond those listed in the 1937 booklet were established for many species (but the dates may not be beyond those of other years since 1937). In the following tabulation such records are underlined, as are other records of particular interest because of the rarity of the species. Dates not otherwise credited are from the SBC field trips of the year (summarized by Alice Holmes last month, page 17), or from the trips of April 8 or November 11 to Saratoga and Round Lakes or November 25 for the Upper Hudson River and Tomhannock Reservoir, on which trips there were several SBC members. In the tabulation the observers shown are:

B - Guy Bartlett	M - U. S. Massoth
Bk - Mrs. Laura Beck	R - Mrs. Kent C. Reynolds
F - Mabel W. French	S - Rudolph H. Stone
G - E. Geiser, Troy	Sc - Dr. Minnie B. Scotland
Gf - Chester Griffith	Sf - Alice Schafer, Albany
Gz - Al Getz	V - Nelle Van Vorst
H - Esly Hallenbeck	Vt - John L. Voght

1945 -- 191 Species

Common Loon - Transient Apr. 11, and Sept. 16 to Nov. 18; 30 recorded Nov. 11.

Horned Grebe - Transient Apr. 8 to 28 (S); and Nov. 11 to 18

Pied-billed Grebe - Summer resident, May 6 to Sept. 30 (S)

Double-crested Cormorant - Transient May 18 (S), and Aug. 20 (F) to Nov. 18

Great Blue Heron - Transient May 4 (Sc); summer visitor June 30 (S) to 11.18

American Egret - Summer visitor June 30 (S) to Sept. 30 (S)

Green Heron - Summer resident to Sept. 16

Black-crowned Night Heron - Summer resident, arrived Mar.25(S)

American Bittern - Summer resident, arrived Apr. 3 (S)

Least Bittern - Summer resident, arrived May 4 (Sc)

Canada Goose - Transient Mar. 27 (S) to Apr. 28 (S), and Sept. 16 to Nov. 11

American Brant - Flock of five at Crescent Bridge May 19 (G)

Mallard - Summer resident, arrived Mar. 9; transient Sept. 16 to Nov. 25

Black Duck - Recorded every month

Baldpate - Transient Sept. 16 to Oct. 7 (S)

Pintail - Transient Mar. 27 (S) and Sept. 16

Green-winged Teal - Transient Mar. 27 (S) and Sept. 16 to Sept. 30 (S)

Blue-winged Teal - Transient Sept. 16

- Wood Duck - Summer resident, Apr. 8 (S) to Oct. 7 (S)
Lesser Scaup Duck - Transient Mar. 22 (S) to Apr. 8, and Nov. 11 to 25.
American Golden-eye - Winter visitor, departed Apr. 25 (S), arrived Nov. 11
Buffle-head - Transient Apr. 8 to 28 (S), and Nov. 5 (S)
Old-squaw - Transient Apr. 3 (S) and Nov. 25
White-winged Scoter - Transient Nov. 11
American Scoter - Transient Nov. 11
Ruddy Duck - Transient Apr. 8 (S)
Hooded Merganser - Transient Apr. 8
American Merganser - Winter visitor, departed Apr. 25 (S), arrived Nov. 11
- Goshawk - Recorded Dec. 23
Sharp-shinned Hawk - Summer resident; transient Sept. 16 to Oct. 18 (S)
Cooper's Hawk - Summer resident, Apr. 27 (Sc) to Nov. 5 (S)
Red-tailed Hawk - Winter visitor to Mar. 27 (S), arrived Nov. 5 (S)
Red-shouldered Hawk - Recorded Jan. 2 (H); summer resident Mar. 18 (Sc) to Nov. 18
Broad-winged Hawk - Transient Sept. 13 (S) to Sept. 16
Rough-legged Hawk - Winter visitor, departed Mar. 23 (S), arrived Oct. 21 (S)
Bald Eagle - Recorded Apr. 8; July 8; Aug. 20 (F); and Sept. 16, thirteen seen
Marsh Hawk - Summer resident, arrived Mar. 27 (S)
Osprey - Transient, Apr. 8 to May 6 (Vt), and Aug. 15 (S) to Sept. 16
Duck Hawk - Recorded April 22 in Central Park (Vt)
Sparrow Hawk - Resident
- Ruffed Grouse - Resident
Ring-necked Pheasant - Resident
- Virginia Rail - Summer resident
Florida Gallinule - Summer resident, arrived May 6
Coot - Transient Sept. 30 (S)
- Semipalmated Plover - Transient Aug. 14 (S) to Sep. 30 (S)
Killdeer - Summer resident, Feb. 25 at Pumping Station to Nov. 15 (S)
Black-bellied Plover - Transient Sept. 13 (S) to Oct. 4 (S)
Woodcock - Summer resident, arrived March 24 (G)
Wilson's Snipe - Transient Apr. 13 (S) and Oct 4 (S) to 10 (S)
Upland Plover - Summer resident, arrived May 6
Spotted Sandpiper - Summer resident, May 2 (S) to Sept. 16
Solitary Sandpiper - Transient May 13 (S)
Greater Yellow-legs - Transient May 6 (S) and Aug. 20 (F) to Sept. 30 (S)
Lesser Yellow-legs - Transient Sept. 30 (S)
Pectoral Sandpiper - Transient Sept. 30 (S)
Least Sandpiper - Transient, arrived Aug. 14 (S)
Red-backed Sandpiper - Transient Sept. 30 (S)
Stilt Sandpiper - Transient Sept. 13 (S)

- Semipalmated Sandpiper - Transient Sept. 2 (V) to Sept. 30 (S)
 Sanderling - Transient Oct. 4 (S)
Herring Gull - Recorded each month until June 2 (V), and after
Sept. 1 (V)
Ring-billed Gull - Transient March 22 (S) and Sept. 16 to
 Nov. 18
 Bonaparte's Gull - Transient April 25 (S) and Nov. 11
Common Tern - Transient May 18 (S)
Black Tern - Transient May 18 (S)
- Mourning Dove - Summer resident, arrived March 11 (H)
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo - Summer resident, May 14 (F) to Sept.
 3 (V)
 Black-billed Cuckoo - Summer resident, arrived May 18 (F)
- Screech Owl - Resident
 Great Horned Owl - Resident
Snowy Owl - One 1944-1945 record, Jan. 26 (Gz); numerous 1945-
 1946 records after Oct. 29 (Gf)
 Barred Owl - Resident
- Whip-poor-will - Summer resident
Nighthawk - Summer resident, May 8 (Sc) to Sept. 26 (F)
 Chimney Swift - Summer resident, May 7 (F) to Oct. 7 (F)
Ruby-throated Hummingbird - Summer resident, May 18 (Vt) to
Sept. 26 (V) and Sept. 27 (F)
 Belted Kingfisher - Recorded each month
- Flicker - Two separate winter visitors 1944-1945; summer resi-
 dent, arrived Mar. 17 (S)
 Pileated Woodpecker - Resident
 Red-headed Woodpecker - Summer resident, bred; Second Ward Pk.
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - Transient Apr. 8 to May 4, and
 Sept. 27 (F) to Oct. 4 (Sf)
 Hairy Woodpecker - Resident
 Downy Woodpecker - Resident
- Kingbird - Summer resident, May 13 (S) to Sept. 2 (V)
 Crested Flycatcher - Summer resident May 6 (H) to Sept. 2 (V)
 Phoebe - Summer resident, arrived March 23 (S)
 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher - Recorded May 18 (S)
 Alder Flycatcher - Summer resident, arrived May 26 (S)
 Least Flycatcher - Summer resident, arrived May 6 (H)
 Wood Pewee - Summer resident, May 20 (H) to Sept. 18 (F)
- Northern Horned Lark - Arrived Nov. 15 (S)
 Prairie Horned Lark - Resident
- Tree Swallow - Summer resident, arrived April 8 (V)
 Bank Swallow - Summer resident, arrived Apr. 28 (S)
 Rough-winged Swallow - Summer resident, arrived April 25 (S)
Barn Swallow - Summer resident, arrived April 8 (H)
Cliff Swallow - Summer resident, arrived May 13 (S)
 Purple Martin - Summer resident at Saratoga Springs (V)
- Canada Jay - Recorded early January (M)

- Blue Jay - Resident
Crow - Resident
Black-capped Chickadee - Resident
White-breasted Nuthatch - Resident
Red-breasted Nuthatch - Winter visitor both winters; arrived Sept. 18 (F)
Brown Creeper - Winter visitor both winters; arrived Sep.18(F)
- House Wren - Summer resident, April 18 (H) to Sept. 30
Winter Wren - Winter visitor, departed Apr. 29, arrived Oct. 23 (H)
Long-billed Marsh Wren - Summer resident
Catbird - Summer resident, May 6 to Oct. 19 (Sc)
Brown Thrasher - Summer resident, arrived April 28 (S)
- Robin - Winter visitor both winters; arrived March 1 (Sc)
Wood Thrush - Summer resident, May 2 (S) to Oct. 25 (R)
Hermit Thrush - Summer resident, April 8 to Oct. 25 (R)
Olive-backed Thrush - Transient, May 13 (V, Vt) to June 6 (S) and Sept. 27 (F)
Gray-cheeked Thrush - Transient, May 31 (S) to June 10, and Sept. 27 (F)
Veery - Summer resident, arrived May 6
Bluebird - Winter visitor 1944-1945, recorded Jan. 16; summer resident, arrived March 4 (Sc)
- Golden-crowned Kinglet - Winter visitor to Apr. 22 (Vt), arrived Sept. 28 (V)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet - Transient Apr. 13 (S) to May 6, and Oct. 17 (Sf)
American Pipit - Transient Mar. 25 (S) to May 13 (S), and Sept. 30 (S) to Oct. 31 (S)
Cedar Waxwing - Summer resident, arrived March 23 (S)
Northern Shrike - Arrived Sept. 3 (V)
Starling - Resident
- Yellow-throated Vireo - Summer resident, arrived May 14 (S)
Blue-headed Vireo - Transient Apr. 24 (S) to May 7 (F), and to Sep. 28 (V); few summer residents
Red-eyed Vireo - Summer resident, May 14 (S) to Sept. 28 (V)
Warbling Vireo - Summer resident, April 25 (H) to Sept. 2 (V)
- Black and White Warbler - Transient May 2 (S) to June 3 (V), and Aug. 26 to Sept. 18 (V); few summer residents
Worm-eating Warbler - Summer resident at Indian Ladder
Golden-winged Warbler - Summer resident, arrived May 13 (S)
Brewster's Warbler (Hybrid) - May 27 (FEATHERS, 1945, p. 39)
Tennessee Warbler - Transient May 16 (S)
Orange-crowned Warbler - Transient May 18 (Sc)
Nashville Warbler - Transient Apr. 29 to May 27, and Sept. 18 (F) to Sept. 27 (F)
Parula Warbler - Transient May 11 (S) to June 6 (S)
Yellow Warbler - Summer resident, arrived May 2 (F)
Magnolia Warbler - Transient May 13 (S) to June 10, and Aug. 25 (F) to Oct. 1 (Sf)
Black-throated Blue Warbler - Summer resident, May 8 (S) to Sept. 27 (S)

- Myrtle Warbler - Transient, April 17 (S) to May 21 (F), and Oct. 5 (F) to Oct. 7 (S)
Black-throated Green Warbler - Summer resident, April 30 (S) to Oct. 7 (F, H)
Blackburnian Warbler - Transient May 8 (S) to May 20 (H), plus few summer residents
Chestnut-sided Warbler - Summer resident, arrived May 6
Bay-breasted Warbler - Transient May 18 (S) to June 4 (S)
Black-poll Warbler - Transient May 16 (S) to June 17 (S), and Sept. 18 (F) to Sept. 27 (F)
Pine Warbler - Summer resident, Mar. 29 (S) to Sept. 16
Prairie Warbler - Summer resident, arrived May 8 (Sc)
Yellow Palm Warbler - Transient, April 20 (Sc) to May 11 (S), and Oct. 7 (S)
Oven-bird - Summer resident, arrived May 6
Northern Water-thrush - Recorded May 3 (S) to May 27 (H)
Louisiana Water-thrush - Summer resident, arrived May 7 (S)
Mourning Warbler - Transient May 26 (S)
Northern Yellow-throat - Summer resident, May 6 (S) to Oct. 14 (S)
Yellow-breasted Chat - Summer resident, bred
Wilson's Warbler - Transient May 13 (S) to May 27 (H)
Canada Warbler - Summer resident, arrived May 16 (F, S)
American Redstart - Summer resident, arrived May 9 (H)
- English Sparrow - Resident
Bobolink - Summer resident, May 6 to Sept. 29 (V)
Meadowlark - Summer resident, March 4 (V) to Nov. 18
Red-wing - Summer resident, March 4 (H, Vt) to Nov. 18
Baltimore Oriole - Summer resident, arrived May 1 (F)
Rusty Blackbird - Winter visitor Jan. 1 (F); transient Apr. 8 and Oct. 10 (S)
Bronzed Grackle - Summer resident, March 9 (Sf) to Nov. 10 (B)
Cowbird - Summer resident, arrived March 20 (F)
Scarlet Tanager - Summer resident, arrived May 11 (S)
- Cardinal - Two winter visitors through April 14 (V)
Rose-breasted Grosbeak - Summer resident, arrived May 7 (F)
Indigo Bunting - Summer resident, May 13 (F) to Oct. 4 (S)
Evening Grosbeak - Few 1944-1945 winter visitors to March 7; common 1945-1946 winter visitor, arrived Sept. 10 in Scotia
Purple Finch - Summer resident, arrived March 16
Pine Grosbeak - Recorded December 2 (Sc)
Redpoll - Winter visitor, departed Mar. 13 (Bk); arrived Dec. 2 (Sf)
Pine Siskin - Winter visitor to Mar. 25 (S), arrived Oct. 17 (S)
Goldfinch - Resident
Red-eyed Towhee - Summer resident, arrived April 12 (S)
Savannah Sparrow - Summer resident, arrived March 27 (S)
Grasshopper Sparrow - Summer resident, arrived May 6 (H)
Henslow's Sparrow - Summer resident, arrived May 7 (S)
Vesper Sparrow - Summer resident, arrived March 27 (F, S)
Slate-colored Junco - Recorded each month
Tree Sparrow - Winter visitor to April 3 (S), arrived Nov. 18
Chipping Sparrow - Summer resident, arrived March 27 (S)
Field Sparrow - Jan. 4 (F); summer resident, arrived Mar. 20 (F)

White-crowned Sparrow - Winter visitor to Apr. 27 (F); transient May 6 (F) to May 13 (S, Vt), and Sept. 3 (V) to Oct. 22 (Bk)

White-throated Sparrow - Winter visitor, early January in Scotia; summer resident Apr. 20 (F, H) to Oct. 17 (H)

Fox Sparrow - Transient March 16 (So) to March 25 (S), and Oct. 27 (S) to Nov. 14 (S)

Lincoln's Sparrow - Transient May 13 (S), and Sept. 30 (V) to Oct. 7 (F)

Swamp Sparrow - Summer resident, arrived March 27 (S)

Song Sparrow - Recorded every month

Snow Bunting - Winter visitor to Jan. 23 (V), arrived November 9 (Bk)

NEWS & NOTES IN BRIEF

1946 OFFICERS

Following the election of directors at the S B C annual meeting in February, the officers of the Club now include:

Chairman, and Secretary - Nelle G. Van Vorst, 8 Swan Street.

Treasurer - Idella M. Heacox, 1028 Dean Street.

Conservation - P. Schuyler Miller, 306 Riverside Ave., Scotia.

Field Trips - G. Malcolm Andrews, Y.M.C.A., 13 State Street.

Junior Activities - Eva I. Bateman, 1455 State Street.

Programs - Mrs. Albert M. Sachs, 2111 Plaza.

Publications - Guy Bartlett, 1053 Parkwood Boulevard.

Records - John L. Voght, 104 Vley Road, Scotia.

TO REPEAT LECTURE SERIES

The Schoenectady Bird Club and the National Audubon Society will present five lectures during the 1946-1947 season, it was decided as the result of the poll conducted near the end of this season's program. Mrs. Sachs and the members of the program committee are now completing arrangements for the different speakers.

"FIRST" MIGRANT ?

Except for the Prairie Horned Lark, always so far in advance of other species, was the Red-wing the first back from the South in numbers?

Nelle Van Vorst recorded several noisy flocks of the blackbirds in and around Guilderland Center Monday, March 4. She found none there the previous day.

Two Robins were reported in the afternoon paper of the next day, but they seemed more like stragglers or winterers, since their numbers did not immediately increase.

Jack Voght, Records Committee chairman, is ready to receive all early spring records, as well as reports on winter observations.

Published by the Schenectady Bird Club

YOUR EARS CAN FOOL YOU

Barrington S. Havens

By the time the ambitious young bird student has learned to tell a Phoebe from a Wood Pewee or distinguish between the Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers without seeing them together -- by the time, in other words, that he has trained his eyes and his memory to a point where he can spot a Lincoln's Sparrow in flight, then he begins to sigh for new worlds to conquer and to wonder if perhaps he might get some further enjoyment out of learning some more about bird notes.

Of course he knows the song of the Redwing when he hears it, and he can recognize such obvious notes as those of the Killdeer or Meadowlark, but he realizes there are nuances in this bird-song business that might profitably be explored. So he gives it a whirl.

Fliers, and Headers

Yes, he takes a flier in bird song, and likely as not he takes a header or two. For this is a field in which there is considerable latitude and plenty of room for speculation. It is the tricky little things like this that take bird study out of the realm of an exact science and place it in some general category with, say, extra-sensory perception or divination by casting of lots.

The Trillers Five

One of the principal stumbling blocks to an immediate recognition of any bird species by its notes is the whimsical little eccentricity displayed by many birds of uttering notes more or less identical with those of other species. One of the easiest examples to cite is the so-called "trill" family, which includes the Junco, Chipping Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, and the Pine and Worm-eating Warblers.

Speaking as one who can recognize any one of these instantly -- providing he sees the bird in the act of singing -- I am probably in as good a position as any to point out comparisons and contrasts. The Junco, for example, usually sings his trill in flocks, especially early in the spring when the others are not here yet. The Chipping Sparrow, one of the latest arrivals, is one of the most difficult to distinguish, because he varies his song so much. At one time it is so rapid and high-pitched that it sounds like the whirr of a sewing

machine; at another time it is uttered so slowly that it can be readily counted. His habitat, or where you hear the note, will help you as much as anything. The only difficulty with that is that you may find the

Pine Warbler there, too, but there are those who say the Pine Warbler note is more musical and thus can be readily distinguished from that of the Chippy, but this is something I have not learned yet. The Swamp Sparrow sticks to swamps, so you have him there, and his note is definitely more lilting, ringing, and musical (at least to my ears) than any of the others. On the Worm-eating Warbler I shall attempt only to preserve a dignified silence; I have heard him sing, and that's that.

The Red-shouldered Jay

So, having disposed of the trill family so that everyone can now readily tell one from another, let us move on to something more difficult -- the Red-shouldered Hawk-Bluejay cry. It is, of course, a well-known fact that the Bluejay utters one note which is a perfect imitation of the cry of a Red-shouldered Hawk, so beware against snap judgments; don't be in a hurry to cry "Red-shouldered!" the next time you hear one squeal. I have a sure way of telling them apart, and that is to see if the bird in question is wheeling and soaring in the sky, in which event I call it a Red-shouldered Hawk. Heard in the woods, with the bird obviously alighted, it is most probably a Jay. But -- it might be a Sapsucker. That species has a "ker-lee-a" note which is very deceptively like the cry of a Red-shouldered at a distance. It is quite faint.

The Pileated Flickerhatch

Quite recently there have been many reports of difficulty with the notes of the White-breasted Nuthatch and Flicker. To my mind there should be little real cause for confusion here; the quality of the two notes is distinctly different. The Flicker note is of a "wick" or "wick-up" character, sharp and penetrating, whereas the corresponding note of the Nuthatch is more plaintive and mellow. The only characteristic common to both is the fact that the notes are uttered in chains. When one tries to distinguish between the Flicker and Pileated Woodpecker, however, one is more likely to get into trouble. The Pileated's cry is louder and more like a yell; it usually ends with a definite drop in pitch, whereas the Flicker usually sticks to the same pitch to the end.

The Nightcock

Another pair of notes that are very much alike but which can be distinguished readily are those of the Woodcock and the Nighthawk -- the "peent" or sparking note. The Nighthawk utters his in the air, and can usually be seen doing it if darkness is not too far along. The Woodcock, on the other hand, confines his sparking to the ground; when he gets aloft he squeaks and twitters.

The Downy

Some find it difficult to tell the Downy and Hairy Woodpecker notes apart. The "peek" notes common to both are confusing, but the rattle or chain note is more readily distinguishable -- that is, if you can tell a Kingfisher rattle when you hear it. For the Hairy chain is like the Kingfisher rattle, but that of the Downy is not.

The Red-headed Frog

A source of never-ending speculation to me is the confusion between the notes of the Red-headed Woodpecker and the Tree Frog (really not a frog at all but a Hyla). The two are very much alike, and the fact that I have had plenty of opportunity to hear both is what lends a sort of, shall I say pi-quancy, to the situation. I can offer no ready means of distinction other than to say that, if you track it down, and you never find it where you thought you heard it, and you are constantly hearing it somewhere else, and you never see a Red-headed Woodpecker, it is probably a Tree Frog. Most of those I hear are, as a matter of fact, Tree Frogs. Except, of course, the ones that turn out to be Flickers, for the Flicker does it also, and very well, too.

The Olive-backed Hermit

Some people seem to have a lot of difficulty telling one Thrush song from another. There really shouldn't be any difficulty here, to speak of. I think I can give a formula for distinction among them all except the Gray-cheeked, which I have never, to my knowledge, heard sing.

Here goes: The Wood Thrush always sings a number of different phrases, usually about four or five, and one of them will just about always be the "tur-a-lee" or "come to me" phrase. Furthermore, he intersperses his various phrases with harsh or guttural rattles and clackings. The only one he is likely to be confused with is the Hermit, which too sings a series of phrases. But the Hermit phrases are all more or less the same phrase sung in different pitches; furthermore, his phrase always opens with a sustained note, which those of the Wood Thrush practically never do.

The Veery sounds like somebody whistling down a drain-pipe; a nasal "ree-a-ree-a-ray-a-ray-a" on a descending pitch, or falling inflection. He is most likely to be confused with the Olive-backed Thrush, except that the Olive-back, while singing in the same voice, sings the Veery song backwards. His phrase, a sort of "a-ree-a-ray-a-ree-a" constantly rises in pitch. The other thrushes -- Robin and Bluebird -- we need not worry about.

We can, however, run into trouble with the Robin if we're not careful about distinguishing his song from those of some other, unrelated species. And there are two or three possibilities here.

Rose-breasted Vireo

Beginners are likely to say "Robin" when they hear a Red-eyed Vireo, but the latter's song is a garrulous string of short, choppy, conversational phrases, strung close together, and uttered seemingly without end or particularly melodic beauty. The Robin's familiar "cheerily-cheerup" is soon distinguished readily. Not so, however, the Scarlet Tanager and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. The more advanced student will trip up on these, confusing them with the Robin and each other. It may be of help to know that the Tanager has a nasal "cher-ee-cher-ee-dle, cher-ee-cher-ee-dle!" which usually amounts to just that and no more. The Grosbeak, however, is very robin-like in character, and the student really has to become so familiar with it that he no longer confuses it with Robin notes.

And the Sispoll

And if you really want to get into this thing deeply and fuss over fine distinction, try your hand at the "sispolls". This, I hasten to explain, is a handy, shorthand designation for a bird which can be either a Pine Siskin or a Redpoll. Not only are their notes practically identical -- even to such authorities as Allan D. Cruickshank -- but the pesky little critters have the same haunts and habits, and even flock together. Every time I think I have worked out a sure-fire distinctive characteristic, like the "z-z-zip!" note, I find that it is common to both species.

Come on in, the water's fine!

SPRING ARRIVES

G. Malcolm Andrews

The old saying that a bad beginning brings a good ending was proven to the group of 12 S B C members and friends who participated in the first scheduled Club thip of the spring, along the Sunnyside Road section of Scotia Saturday morning, March 9.

We were greeted at the start by rain, driven by a sharp wind blowing from the north across the fields. This weather kept the land birds pretty quiet, but a few Killdeer were heard giving their name-call overhead, and a pair of American Mergansers were seen flying over.

A stop at the Scotia dump netted none of the usual species seen there at this time of year, so the party continued on to the east end of Collins Lake where they split up into two groups, one going up the trail along the lake and the other going on to "Scotia's Half Mile" along Riverside Avenue and vicinity.

The group that followed the path along the ridge around the lake were rewarded by finding three Fox Sparrows resting in a tree on the bank. Fine close-up views were had here of such permanent residents as the White-breasted Nuthatch, Downy Woodpecker, Chickadee, and Brown Creeper. Transients such as the Robin, Redwing and Bronzed Grackle were seen and heard.

The other group found several Evening Grosbeaks and a female Cowbird in a tree along Saunders Avenue, near Ten Broeck Street; a Ring-billed Gull in with some Herring Gulls along the river; and heard a Meadowlark.

The grand total for the trip was some 25 species, including the following beyond those already mentioned: Black Duck, American Golden-eye, Sparrow Hawk, Pheasant, Blue Jay, Crow, Starling, English Sparrow, Tree Sparrow, and Song Sparrow.

A LATE SNOWY

Esly Hallenbeck

It was a clear, sunny day for the 12 S B C members who came out for the Campbell Road-Watervliet Reservoir trip of Sunday, March 17. While waiting for the group to assemble, two Horned Larks flew up from a nearby field. Walking around the old mansion, we saw the Blue Jay, Mourning Dove, Killdeer, Meadowlark, Tree Sparrow, Chickadee, Red-wing, Kingfisher, and the newly arrived Phoebe, Cowbird and Fox Sparrow.

Only the Campbell Road section was originally scheduled for this trip, but the birds had been seen and it was still early. Someone suggested we go on to Watervliet Reservoir. The Snowy Owl had been seen Saturday near Parker's Corners. He was still in the same spot, and we had a grand view of him. It was a new life-list bird for some of the members.

We went on to the reservoir and just beyond the bridge stopped to watch some American Mergansers and Ring-necked Ducks. Then on we went through Guilderland Center, where we found a flock of 25 Evening Grosbeaks feeding in the spruce trees.

Back along the reservoir above the dam there were many kinds of ducks. The Wood Duck, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, American Golden-eye, and the American Merganser were included. The Red-shouldered, Marsh, and Sparrow Hawks, the Bluebird, Song Sparrows, and many Juncos were also found.

Two Chickadees were pecking away at a dead poplar stump, getting a house ready.

The total count for the trip was 37 species.

SCAUPS & RING-NECKS

H. V. D. Allen

Saratoga Lake was visited Sunday, April 7, by nine S B C members. On the way we picked up a few Sparrow Hawks and other spring birds, notably the Vesper Sparrow. Round Lake produced nothing, but Saratoga Lake was quite worth the trip.

On leaving Schenectady the temperature was 44° F, the wind 15 to 20 miles, and sunlight plentiful with a few white clouds. It looked like a grand day, but at the lake the sun was gone and the wind if anything higher. In other words, it was cold.

Our first bird on the lake was the Common Loon, of which we saw others later. Off the northern end of the point we found a good-sized raft of Scaup Ducks, including some American Golden-eyes, a pair of Green-winged Teal, two male Buffle-heads, American Mergansers, a male Red-breasted Merganser, and a female Canvas-back.

The birds were some distance off shore, and there was a good deal of movement as the birds were feeding and the waves were quite high, so that the 40-power telescope was a lifesaver. With the instrument it was possible to identify the Teal and Canvas-back; the Buffle-heads showed up through binoculars as a smaller, almost entirely white bird if you were lucky enough to catch him between dives. Great Scaup Ducks were identified by the occasional flash of long white stripe on the wing when they flapped, and, similarly, Lesser Scaups picked out by the short white stripe.

On the way back to the parking spot we had a glimpse of a Fox Sparrow and of a Phoebe, and the writer believes he saw a Hermit Thrush, getting a clear view of the smooth olive-brown back. We also got the cry of the Red-shouldered Hawk.

Ring-necked Ducks Closeby

On the east side of the lake was a raft of Ring-necked Ducks. They were much closer, and presented an opportunity to observe the differences and resemblances between them and the Scaups, a few of which were present. Naturally the gray back of the Scaup and the black back of the Ring-necked were the chief field marks, but the shape of the head seemed characteristic, amounting almost to a crest on the Ring-necked as against a head, the back of which sloped forward on the Scaup. This difference in the head is shown by Peterson (page 28). The female Scaup shows a white spot at the base of the bill in a side view, but it should be remembered that there is a similar spot on the other side so that head-on a large round white face jumps out at you when seen in this way.

We had a good view a little later of two male Red-breasted

Mergansers, which were close to the high, rocky shore, so that we got a top view. The coloring seemed almost as beautiful as that of the Wood Duck.

There is a small store at the northern end of the lake which seems to present quite an attraction to certain members of the club. Something was said about ten pounds of butter, and cigars were mentioned. However, we did not stop long.

There were no birds at the outlet, and the return trip was uneventful except for a Rough-legged Hawk (dark phase) which flew overhead along the road between Clifton Park and Rexford. Altogether it was a cold and windy trip, but in spite of that was well worthwhile, with 36 species recorded.

One wonders if rear views of our ducks might not be good field marks, since so often, when they sense the presence of human beings, they drift away and it becomes difficult to see the side markings. For instance, in the male Mallard there are white patches on either side of the black tail, a very good field mark which is in no way indicated by the side view. Again, there is the white tail of the deer and the rabbit, not to detract of course from the value of the flight and underwing views which are commonly shown.

On March 31, when Saratoga Lake had been free of ice two weeks, six S B C members toured the area and accounted for 38 species. Included were two Cormorants, three Old-squaws in changing plumage, one each of the Broad-winged, Marsh and Duck Hawks, a flock of more than 100 ground-feeding Pipits, three flocks of Rusty Blackbirds, as well as the Pheasant, Prairie Horned Lark and Goldfinch as birds not recorded on the April 7 expedition.

It is also of interest that on the final week-end of March -- the 30th and 31st -- the composite list of members included a few more than 50 species.

AGAIN - THE RESERVOIR

George H. Bainbridge

During the War Years, 1942 through 1945, the birds in and around the Watervliet Reservoir enjoyed their privacy practically undisturbed by Birders. But this spring the S B C has been making up for lost time, and the birds there can't even preen their feathers without the prying eyes of some S B C member seeing the performance. The fact that the Saturday was the 13th of April failed to discourage ten S B C members who came out with telescopes and binoculars to see what they could see. The seeing was quite as satisfactory as the weather, which was cool, about 40° F early in the morning and around

50° F at noontime, and partly cloudy with almost no wind. Thirty-nine species were found.

Perhaps the most striking find was a flock of 75 Pipits. These "wagtail" walkers were industriously combing the ground. In fact, one could well wish to have a flock available when the crab grass goes to seed, in the hope that the following season the crop would be lighter.

Another interesting item was a Black-crowned Night Heron. Before definite identification, this bird disappeared so mysteriously as to be amazing. However, one of our very keen-eyed members spotted something in the trees. This something remained apparently immovable for so long that it seemed unlikely that it could be a bird. Finally action developed, and the something proved to be the heron.

Birds recorded on the trip included: Great Blue Heron, 1; Black-crowned Night Heron, 1; Mallard, Black Duck, Blue-winged Teal; Wood Duck, 1; Lesser Scaup Duck; Hooded Merganser, pair; American Merganser; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Ruffed Grouse, Pheasant, Killdeer, Mourning Dove, Kingfisher, Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Blue Jay, Crow, Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Robin, Hermit Thrush, Bluebird, Golden-crowned Kinglet; American Pipit, 75; Starling, English Sparrow, Meadowlark, Red-wing, Bronzed Grackle, Cowbird, Vesper Sparrow, Slate-colored Junco, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, and Song Sparrow.

NEWS & NOTES IN BRIEF

NORTHBOUND GEESE

Game Protector Chester Griffith heard a flock of about 200 Canada Geese honking as they flew overhead near the city late at night on March 14.

Earlier that evening, in the same region, he heard the flight song of the Woodcock repeatedly.

Also on his early spring records were Pintails on March 20, and a pair of Old-squaws over the Mohawk in February.

ANOTHER G-E

Not shown on previous General Electric lists in the Golden-crowned Kinglet, heard, and then seen, by Nelle Van Vorst in the trees at the main gate on March 28.

BETTER RECORDS

Are you watching a Robin nest just outside your window? Or some other nest? If so, keep a real record on the various dates -- start of the nest, completion, first egg, successive eggs, hatching, etc. Such notes can be of real interest.

A HUNDRED, PLUS

G. Malcolm Andrews

After much anticipation and planning, five S B C members started out, a la Griscom, at 4:10 A.M. daylight time on Sunday, May 12, to attempt to identify in one day 100 or more species of birds in Schenectady and vicinity. It was agreed that, just so far as possible, all five observers would remain together and that all would identify each species.

Naturally the weather was the big question. Although cloudy all day, this later proved a blessing since land birds continued active most of the day, making observations easier and somewhat eliminating the usual noonday slump.

As might have been expected, an urban Robin was No. 1 on our list, with an early-awakening Song Sparrow next. A visit to Balltown Road at 4:50 A.M. found the Woodcock in flight song at its usual spot. Then on to Vly Road, where Whip-poor-wills obligingly called the moment we stopped the car. A Field Sparrow sang in the dim light of dawn.

Morning Chorus

Along River Road, Niskayuna, a little later, and the morning chorus was well under way, with the following heard in as many minutes: Catbird, Pheasant, Swamp Sparrow, Goldfinch, Red-wing, Killdeer, Wood Thrush, and Meadowlark. As the light improved, seen or heard were: Black Duck, Phoebe, Northern Yellow-throat, Virginia Rail, Crow, Yellow Warbler, Blue Jay, Downy Woodpecker, and Starling. A few Herring Gulls were seen over the river.

At Mohawk View the English and Chipping Sparrows, House Wren, Mourning Dove, and Bronzed Grackle were identified. Then, back along the River Road and the Crescent Lake section, American Bitterns flew overhead, and several Florida Gallinules were heard, and seen, in the marshes.

Mass-maneuvering Swallows

At about 6 A.M. hundreds of swallows, which had been roosting in the reeds during the night, suddenly took off and filled the air with swarms of chattering, swirling birds. After about 10 minutes of this exercising, the great mass of



swallows turned and flew over our heads or toward their feeding grounds. Three species were definitely identified: Barn, Tree, and Bank Swallows.

Soon a Bobolink and a Savannah Sparrow were heard. A Greater Yellow-legs flew over, and a Spotted Sandpiper came in and alighted at the water's edge. Careful search of the river areas with the telescope netted several Lesser Scaup Ducks out in the stream and a Horned Grebe among the reeds. A Marsh Hawk flew overhead on the way to breakfast.

Lone White-crowned

Back through Niskayuna Village the Cowbird, Least Flycatcher, Flicker, Redstart, Baltimore Oriole, and White-throated Sparrow were seen. A lone White-crowned Sparrow posed in a roadside bush for all of us to see, and a flock of Pine Siskins carefully examined the foliage in a tree overhead. A little farther on, a Solitary Sandpiper showed his white tail markings as he flushed from a roadside pond; a Kingbird was seen perched on a fence post; and a teetering Louisiana Water-thrush was found in a nearby tangle. Then a Chickadee's whistled "pheebee" call was heard, and a Green Heron was seen flying overhead. A Barred Owl gave a brief call from his hillside haunts.

The party then went on to Lock 7, where several Rough-winged Swallows were playing over the water; and a pair of Kingfishers flew over, possibly on the way to their nesting hole.

By now it was nearly 8 A.M., and some 58 species had been logged.

Late Evening Grosbeaks

From Lock 7 we headed back to the city via Rosendale Road. While driving along, one of the party saw the flash of a male Evening Grosbeak as it ducked into a back yard. Stopping to investigate, we were greeted by Joseph Pollak, who immediately expressed kindred interest in birds and invited us into his backyard garden, where he showed us several feeding stations and recalled having had the Grosbeaks as regular visitors since October. In addition to several Evening Grosbeaks, we added the Junco and Bluebird to the day's list at this stop. White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows, the Oriole, and Mourning Dove were also among the birds in this garden spot.

Park Pintails

Entering Central Park opposite the Golf Course, we immediately heard a Towhee giving his name-call, and found an Alder Flycatcher among the low birches. Now our list had 63 species.

Suddenly one of the group called attention to three ducks flying over. Fortunately for us, they were near enough for a good view and were positively identified as Pintails -- a bit of unexpected luck.

Park Warblers

Living up to its reputation, the park produced a variety of warblers and other land birds. The following were seen in the hour and 40 minutes spent covering various sections of the park: Myrtle Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Black and White Warbler, Yellow Palm Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Parula Warbler, Canada Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Brown Thrasher, Veery, Crested Flycatcher, Hairy Woodpecker, Scarlet Tanager, Vesper Sparrow, Prairie Horned Lark, Chimney Swift, and Ruby-crowned Kinglet, plus, of course, other species already included on earlier records. A Red-shouldered Hawk was also seen wheeling high in the sky.

Fifteen to Go

Leaving the park at 10:15 A.M., we checked our list and found that it totaled 85 species. Only 15 more to go! That these 15 were to take almost as long to locate as the first 85 was something we were to learn.

After another light breakfast we went on to the sand barrens at Karner's, to locate the Prairie Warbler. We found it alright, but only a few other additional species -- the Red-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-winged Warbler, Blue-headed Vireo, and Nashville Warbler. There was surprisingly little new green vegetation here, which probably accounted for the scarcity of birds.

No. 100, At the Ladder

Leaving the barrens at 12:40 P.M., we traveled on toward Indian Ladder, our next locality. On the way a Sparrow Hawk, our only one of the day, was identified, and a Yellow-throated Vireo was heard in the shade trees as we passed through Voorheesville.

The car was parked at the foot of the old carriage road trail leading up the Ladder, and we started the climb in quest of the Worm-eating Warbler and his neighbors, whatever they might be.

Soon a Henslow's Sparrow was heard, giving his weak song from a trailside field, and a little farther on a Pileated Woodpecker gave his loud call from across the ravine. A thrush, whose red-brown tail marked him as a Hermit Thrush, was seen among the low branches of an evergreen. Through an opening in the trees overhead a Broad-winged Hawk was seen. Then the Worm-eating Warbler, the object of our climb, was heard at his usual place, about half way up the trail. As we

crossed the ravine to descend on the other side of the stream, a Red-eyed Vireo uttered his whistled phrases from nearby. Reaching an open field, we were fortunate to see a Duck Hawk heading for the escarpment and, it is hoped, its nesting site.

It was at 3:15 P.M. when we returned to the road at the bottom of the ravine, and it was then we finally reached our 100th species -- represented by an elusive female Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Feeling that even though we had made our goal, a few more might "easily" be added to our list, we paused for another quick meal, and then headed for Watervliet Reservoir.

In the Rain

On the way we were able to hear the dry buzz of a Grasshopper Sparrow coming from a roadside field; and in the middle of a sudden downpour -- maybe cloudburst -- studied an Upland Plover standing it out in a nearby cow pasture.

Finding nothing new at the reservoir, we continued on. Near South Schenectady a Pine Warbler was heard. Later, along Schermerhorn Road, the Yellow-breasted Chat was found at last year's site.

To provide an appropriate ending, a lone Osprey was seen perched atop a dead tree across the river from the G-E Binne Kill. At 5:35 P.M., with 105 species identified, we called it a day.

Tired, but happy, the five participants returned home, but with two thoughts in mind -- a bigger list next year, and a good night's sleep.

And Those Missed

There were a few conspicuous misses, such as the Purple Finch, plenty of which were seen on both the preceding and following days. For some species the date of May 12 was just in advance a little of their arrival. The territory was far from exhausted by the trip -- and up their sleeves the participants still had such possibilities as the Screech Owl, Cliff Swallow, Ruffed Grouse, Purple Martin, and Red-headed Woodpecker, among others, they might have tracked down if they had been required for attaining the century mark.

Those on this year's trip included Nelle Van Vorst, Dr. Minnie B. Scotland, Alice Holmes, Guy Bartlett, and the writer. Car mileage was 63 miles, with approximately 7 miles on foot. The weather was overcast, with occasional showers; the wind none or little, southwest; the temperature from 45° to 56°; and the time 13-1/4 hours afield.

Incidentally, old records include at least two previous "century runs" locally -- 103 species in 1932, and 105 species in 1934, but they were made with observers traveling separately. A try in 1933 stopped short with 98 species.

IN THE RAIN, OF COURSE

Those who awoke too early rolled over and went back to sleep, for surely there'd be no bird hike on such a rainy day; but those who awakened late decided the rain didn't amount to much and would soon be over; and so they showed up at the Central Park fire tower at 6:30 A.M. on Sunday morning, May 5, for the scheduled Breakfast Hike.

There were times when it did not rain, but those times were few. The dozen S B C members who reported for the trip found much of interest, even though they did have to return to their homes for breakfast.

Few trips were made along the narrow paths -- leaves were too wet -- but considerable territory was covered along the roads. Thirty-nine species showed up on the total, including Red-shouldered Hawk, Pheasant, Killdeer, Mourning Dove, Kingfisher (nesting in a sand bank near the ball park), Flicker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Phoebe, Least Flycatcher, Blue Jay, Crow, Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, House Wren, Brown Thrasher (singing in the rain), Robin, Bluebird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Starling, Blue-headed Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Oven-bird, English Sparrow, Red-wing, Bronzed Grackle, Cowbird, Purple Finch, Goldfinch, Towhee, Vesper Sparrow, Junco, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-throated sparrow, and Song Sparrow.

CERULEAN AT BIG NOSE

Mary Guy

May 12th was another of those misty, moisty mornings that promise any bird enthusiast more exercise than birds. The weather must have discouraged the Hiking Club members too, for the bus was cancelled and the group traveled to Big Nose in automobiles.

Although the entire day was dull and the birds extremely quiet, our group of seven saw a total of 49 species, 12 of which were warblers.

The Cerulean and Parula Warblers were among the records. Finding a Pileated Woodpecker was the most exciting event of the morning. The bird seemed to enjoy the hilltop just above the reservoir, for we found a number of trees marked with the Pileated's characteristic holes. In the afternoon a Bobolink was discovered in an open field on top of the hill.

As if to make up in part for the lack of avian display,

the violets and trilliums were blooming magnificently.

The rain began to fall only as we poured the supper coffee, beside the stream in the valley.

The day's list of 49 species included: Osprey, Herring Gull, Mourning Dove, Chimney Swift, Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Kingbird, Crested Flycatcher, Phoebe, Blue Jay, Crow, Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Catbird, Robin, Wood Thrush, Olive-backed Thrush, Veery, Bluebird, Starling, Black and White Warbler, Parula Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Oven-bird, Louisiana Water-thrush, Northern Yellowthroat, Redstart, English Sparrow, Bobolink, Meadowlark, Redwing, Baltimore Oriole, Bronzed Grackle, Cowbird, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Purple Finch, Goldfinch, Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, and Song Sparrow.

(It will be noted that this trip contained three species not on the list of 105 for the Century Run of the same day -- Olive-backed Thrush, Cerulean Warbler, and Purple Finch.)

THE WORM-EATER, AS ORDERED

The SBC scheduled trip of Saturday, May 18, into the Indian Ladder Ravine was poorly attended -- too many thought the sky was too threatening. Those who went, however, accounted for 54 species between 9 and 2 o'clock, with the weather cloudy and the wind slight.

The Worm-eating Warbler is now as certain for the Ladder territory as is the Prairie Warbler for Karner's barrens.

The trip list included: Red-shouldered Hawk, Mourning Dove, Chimney Swift, Kingfisher, Downy Woodpecker, Kingbird, Crested Flycatcher, Phoebe, Least Flycatcher, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, Crow, Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Wood Thrush, Veery, Bluebird, Starling, Blue-headed Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler (for which the trip was arranged), Golden-winged Warbler, Parula Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Oven-bird, Yellow-breasted Chat, Canada Warbler, Redstart, English Sparrow, Meadowlark, Redwing, Baltimore Oriole, Bronzed Grackle, Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Goldfinch, Towhee, Grasshopper Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, and Song Sparrow.

BOOMING BITTERN

Alice Holmes

A look at the time for starting on the field trip on April 28 seemed to reveal a kind-hearted chairman. But be not deceived! In reality he had set the starting time at 6:30 A.M., for this was the week-end we changed the clocks.

With no undue mishaps or thrilling adventures we arrived at Vischer Ponds, where we met some of our Albany members. Those who, because of the succession of rainy week-ends in May, found that even a Scarlet Tanager or Baltimore Oriole may be dull colored, will be glad to be reminded that April 28 was clear and bright, with excellent visibility.

Accommodating Swallows

The blue and salmon of the first Barn Swallow, the green and white of the darting Tree Swallows, who were apparently successful in their house-hunting among the dead trees in the ponds, the sober colors yet distinctive markings of the Rough-winged and Bank Swallows were delightful to see.

In the latter part of April, it seems we can count on the ponds for the swallows, as well as for the American Bittern. One Bittern, standing among the reeds and rushes along the edge of the pond, gave us an unexcelled opportunity to observe his curious contortions as he pumped forth those booms which are called his song.

Spring Melodies

Like the Bittern, many of the birds were pouring forth their spring melodies -- hosts of Red-wings, Bronzed Grackles, Robins, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Goldfinches, Field Sparrows, Swamp Sparrows, and Song Sparrows. The Myrtle Warbler called himself to our attention from across the pond, as did the Red-shouldered Hawk which remained in hiding.

Instead of walking across the fields to the clumps of trees which still serve as the nesting sites for the Black-crowned Night Herons, we went on to Central Park for the rest of the morning.

In all, 42 species were observed. Additional to those already mentioned were the Night Heron, a flock of 14 Black Ducks, five pairs of Blue-winged Teal, Marsh Hawk, Osprey, Pheasant, Herring Gull, Mourning Dove, Kingfisher, Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Phoebe, Blue Jay, Crow, Chickadee, Starling, Yellow Palm Warbler, English Sparrow, Meadowlark, Cowbird, Junco, and, at Central Park only, the White-breasted Nuthatch, Hermit Thrush, Bluebird, Blue-headed Vireo, Vesper Sparrow, and Chipping Sparrow.

NEWS & NOTES IN BRIEFLATE GROSBEAKS

Evening Grosbeaks set a new late date locally this year. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Pollak, Rosendale Road, fed them by the dozens last winter, starting in October. The birds continued into May, in diminishing numbers; their last record was for a pair on May 23. The previous end date was May 14, 1940.

Evening Grosbeaks also set an early arrival record this past season; with a few in Scotia on and after September 10.

MORE MAY GROSBEAKS

Mrs. W. E. R. Moore, 1492 Keyes Avenue, has reported that a small flock of Evening Grosbeaks which moved into the neighborhood late in February was last seen there on May 11. The birds visited the Moore's feeding station but were shy, refusing to feed while Blue Jays were there.

The flock at one time numbered as many as 14, equally divided between sexes, but only six remained by the final day. By way of comparison, a pair of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks followed the evenings, putting on a fine mating display.

-- P. Schuyler Miller

ANOTHER CLIFF COLONY

A new colony of Cliff Swallows was found on May 25 at the farm of Frank Van Vorst, High Hills and Scotch Bush Roads, at the Burnt Hills-Charlton Road. Twenty nests have already been made or repaired, and still more were indicated.

A search for the old colony at Charlton proved that the birds had not returned, and that English Sparrows had taken over the old nests of the Cliff Swallows.

-- Minnie B. Scotland

BARN OWL AT ALBANY

At about 2 P.M. on Tuesday, March 19, a clear day, Mr. H. F. Robinton called my attention to a Barn Owl resting on a third-story window ledge of an inner court of the State Capitol. The reddish-tawny shoulders were conspicuous as it sat on the ledge. Presently it launched out across the court to the side where we stood, its long legs dangling straight down as it flew.

-- Alvin G. Whitney, State Museum, Albany

SARATOGA'S MARTINS

The colony of Purple Martins at Saratoga Springs has again established itself. Its arrival date was April 17 this year, instead of the usual April 12.

-- M. B. S.

SCOTIA'S CAPE MAYS

Cape May Warblers were seen in the vicinity of my home on May 12 and May 16.

-- Esly Hallenbeck

WHY THIS INTEREST IN BIRDS ?

B. D. Miller

Just why is so much public interest shown in wild-bird study? Why is there such a large number of bird students; so many publications, clubs and societies organized solely for the study of them; and comparatively few similar organizations to promote study in other branches of natural history, except for economic ends?

Why is not a corresponding interest found in wild flowers, in trees or insects, or fishes?

It certainly cannot be due to a lack of material in the other fields mentioned. Should anyone suggest such an answer we will remind them of the 300,000 to 400,000 insects now classified; of the 15,000 different flowering plants once displayed in Bronx Park, and over 600,000 specimens I was told 20 years ago were then in the herbarium at Harvard, besides about 5,000 woody plant species growing at their Arnold Arboretum.

Birds Are Relatively Few

No, it can't be a lack of material, because in this comparison there are only about 25,000 species of birds in the world-wide list, with less than 500 in New York State, and about 200 in Schenectady County.

Very seldom do we have opportunities to hear lectures about trees, insects, the higher animals, or flowers. Practically every village and school, however, give some encouragement to bird study. We now have a Bird Day set aside by the New York State Department of Education.

Can anyone mention names like Audubon, Wilson, Burroughs, or Fuertes, whose material has been from other natural-history subjects? The honey bee is probably one close rival, but in this case the stimulation of economic benefits is no doubt a big factor.

In Poetry and Music

In poetry and music where have other members of the animal kingdom inspired results such as we have in "The Raven", "The Skylark", "To a Waterfowl", "The Spotted Sandpiper"? As a song of its type, "Hark, Hark, The Lark" is without a rival.

FEATHERS
 SCHENECTADY BIRD CLUB
 Annual Membership: Active, \$2; Assoc., \$1
 Guy Bartlett, Editor
 1053 Parkwood Blvd.

Vocally, next to the human voice, birds are probably supreme in the animal kingdom. The range and quality of their songs win them many friends. For beauty of color and markings they are equalled or surpassed by moths, butterflies, beetles, shells, and fishes; although when one looks at a Wood Duck, a Mallard, or reads what Darwin said about the ocelli in a Peacock's tail feathers, this point is open to discussion.

When it comes to "head work", even Burroughs credited them with very little, as compared with that of the elephant, who heads the list, or the dog, or horse.

Burroughs, who knew the songs of our birds as well as anyone I can mention, and who had listened to many of the singers of England, gives our Hermit Thrush first place. To him this song expresses "spiritual serenity".

Thoreau's Wood Thrush

"As I come over the hill," Thoreau wrote in his journal, "I hear the Wood Thrush singing his evening lay. This is the only bird whose notes affect me like music, affects the flow and tenor of my thoughts, my fancy and imagination. His is no opera music; but cool bars of melody from the atmosphere of everlasting morning or evening. Though heard at noon, there is the liquid coolness of things that are just drawn from the bottom of springs. The thrush alone declares the immortal wealth and vigor that is in the forest. Whenever a man hears it, it is a new world and a free country, and the gates of heaven are not shut against him.

"Most other birds sing from the level of my ordinary cheerful hours -- a carol; but this bird never fails to speak to me out of an ether purer than that I breathe, of immortal beauty and vigor. He deepens the significance of all things seen in the light of his strain. He sings to make man take higher and truer views of things.

"His song lifts and exhilarates me; is a meditative draught to my soul. It changes all hours to an eternal morning. It banishes all trivialness. It reinstates me in my dominion, makes me the lord of creation, is chief musician of my court. This minstrel sings in a time, a heroic age, with which no event in the village can be contemporaried.

"I long for wildness, a nature which I can not put my foot through, woods where the Wood Thrush forever sings, where the hours and early morning ones, and there is dew on the grass, and the day is forever unproved "

Unique in Many Respects

Too lengthy a quotation for a short article, we frankly admit; but included here as a challenge to our readers to produce a finer one with any other member of the vegetable or

animal kingdoms, except the genus Homo, furnishing the inspiration. But aside from the influence birds have had in the fields of pictorial art, literature, and music, there are unique animals in many other respects. Here are a few other facts about them that have been brought to my attention:

They Alone Are Feathered

Birds alone have feathers. The only approach to this wonderful device to be found elsewhere in nature are the branching hairs or spines on true bees.

Carefully examine any feather. Note its quill, the lateral barbules, and how some of them interlock; their variety of shapes, some being right hand and others left hand; observe the enormous range of markings and coloring. Some are used in flying, others for protection from cold, and some are modified solely for display.

The American Indians' appreciation for feathers may explain why he used them to indicate rank and distinction. "A feather in his hat" meant much to him.

High Temperature

We are told birds are closely related to reptiles, but a reptile's blood temperature is variable, being about that of the medium they are in, whereas a bird's temperature is apparently constant, and much higher than ours. For example, diving birds vary from 101.3 to 104.9 degrees; shore-birds 104.6 to 108 degrees; and some records as high as 112.7 degrees.

When we consider our temperature of slightly higher than 98 degrees, this fact about birds is remarkable.

Their Heart Beat

Compared with about 72 beats per minute in man, we find 312 beats in a 70-ounce chicken; 212 in a duck weighing 81 ounces; and 460 beats per minute in a sparrow weighing slightly over one ounce. When you compare these rates with that of a watch which has 300 beats per minute, we find another remarkable fact.

Swift-winged

Birds are among the swiftest, if not the swiftest, moving animals, although this point is somewhat disputed. A fairly modern authority credits the Swift with 100 miles an hour. Dr. Roy Chapman Andrews gives our Duck Hawk first place with 185 miles an hour; and a recent publication (probably unreliable) says the Frigate-bird is able to attain over 200 miles an hour.

Homing Instinct

Comparatively little is known about the homing instinct.

What guides animals over miles and miles of unknown land and water? Where do birds stand in the list? Here are a few figures, more or less reliable, I have found in the literature: Shellfish, a few feet; bees, three to five miles; toads, tortoises, and cats, 10 miles; dogs and horses, 40 miles; the homing pigeon, 3000 miles. In man this instinct is practically zero.

In their migrations, I believe, birds hold the record of 10,000 to 12,000 miles each way. Whales and seals may be their closest rivals.

And Still More

In addition to these five remarkable facts about birds, one could call attention to their amazing eyesight, their ability to live and thrive in polar regions, their many human-like traits, but enough has been given to explain why they may attract such widespread interest.

SUBURBAN OBSERVATIONS

Dr. R. H. Harrington

Our home on Keyes Avenue is next to a vacant corner lot at Nott Street. This lot includes remnants of an old orchard, grown wild, with spots of thicket and dense brush piles. That lot is a three-ring circus. Rabbits live there, and lie in wait for the dogs, teasing them openly into a breath-taking backyard chase, ending up head-on into one or another of the dense brush piles, the rabbit safe and the dog, yipping with surprise and shock as he accordionates (if you can visualize that!).

There are birds in plenty, including fringes of the migrations. Inhabitants include Blue Jays, Orioles, Brown Thrashers, Catbirds, Robins, various Sparrows, etc. -- a kaleidoscope of color and grand opera.

Garden Patrol

My gardens are practically "bugless", what with two neighbors having House Wrens in addition to the others. It is some sight to see the largest garden patrolled daily by Ma and Pa Catbird, quiet, quick-running, and, oh, so sleek -- and what obvious pride when three or four venturesome youngsters parade gaily about.

Every winter since we moved in (1942) we have furnished bread crumbs, grain, and seed-cakes in "bird diners". The customers have included Tree Sparrows, White-throats, English Sparrows, Starlings, the ubiquitous Chickadees, Juncos, Blue Jays, and Downies, among others (Oh yes, gray squirrels, too).

Who's Got the Peanut?

I have watched a gray squirrel, with much secrecy and furtiveness, hide peanuts (in the shells) in the garden, or next to the terrace step, or under a dry leaf, only to have a sharp-eyed Blue Jay, a few minutes after the squirrel's departure, fly down to retrieve the hidden nuts and hide them over again.

During the winters, almost like clock work, mixed flocks of birds gather in the back-line lilacs at 11 a.m. and 1.15 p.m., and call for free lunches. The Chickadees usually take turns, one at a time, at the diner in the cherry tree, rarely eating in twos, never by threes or more. It is also noteworthy that specific individuals of the English Sparrow clan solve the acrobatic postures necessary for them to rob the hanging Chickadee diner. Every winter, all winter long since 1942-43, just after daybreak, the White-throats have started the day right with their happy, high-pitched notes. They seem to appear late in December and disappear about early April.

BOARD - WALK SPECIAL

Everett G. Ham

Atlantic City board-walk at American Legion convention time scarcely seems to be a place where a person would expect to make an addition to his life-list. With no glasses, no "Peterson", and even without notebook or pencil, one was at considerable disadvantage when confronted with an unknown species.

The challenge came without warning. There, down on the low-tide beach with the breakers just touching his feet, was a strange ornithological individual awaiting attention. Since no glasses were at hand, stalking was in order. The bird did not appear to be disturbed, and we got close enough to see its scissors-like tail. Its black feathers were tipped with pale brownish-white triangles which reminded us of a Starling's plumage. But, in spite of the absence of field-guide, we did remember that Starlings have no webbed feet! Besides, our friend was as large as a goose!

We could now almost touch him, and noted black feet and bill and yellow eye-ring. There was no inclination for him to fly, but he strutted short distances and intimated that too close proximity on our part would call for jabs from his generous-sized bill. Since there had been a heavy storm fairly recently, we suspected that the bird was fatigued or might have had a wing injury.

A by-stander hazards a guess, "Is it a segal?" Another, "It's a hell-diver." "Would it be good to eat?" asked still

another. Meat-rationing was yet in force, and it did not seem that "Mr. X" would have dodged a quick blow with a cane! So to leave our unknown winged friend to his ocean, and hope those by-standers with murderous thoughts would follow us.

Back among the board-walk's auction-rooms and bally-ho it was refreshing to have had a glimpse of a wild, free creature in that domain so much under man's control. Then, too, we could look forward to that satisfying pastime of ferreting out the identification of our bird with the help of our mental notes.

And so the immature Gannet is now listed among our acquaintances.

NEWS & NOTES IN BRIEF

LITTLE GULL AT PITTSFIELD

The Little Gull of Europe, *Larus minutus*, was seen on April 20 on Onota Lake, northwest of Pittsfield, Mass. It was identified by Ludlow Griscom, and observed by six other birders who were fortunate to be on the trip. The bird was studied through prism binoculars and a powerful Zeiss telescope.

The first glimpse of this gull reminded one of Bonaparte's Gull, except that it was smaller. A more careful look, however, brought to light certain distinct differences. One of these was the sooty coloring of the undersurface of the wings, in contrast to the white of the Bonaparte's. Then, too, the Little Gull did not have black wing tips.

Though the Little Gull of Europe has been recorded occasionally along the Atlantic Coast from Maine to New Jersey, its appearance on inland bodies of water is rare. Consequently it gave G. Bartlett Hendricks and Dorothy Snyder of Pittsfield much satisfaction to add this new bird to the Berkshire County list.

-- M. B. S. and N. V. V.

EARLY FLICKER

Rather early was this year's first date for Vale Cemetery of the Flicker, recorded March 19.

-- Barrington S. Havens

STURDILY BILLED CHICKADEE

In FEATHERS for May (page 37) Esly Hallenbeck, in his article "A Late Snow", mentions "two Chickadees pecking away at a dead poplar stump, getting a house ready."

This was particularly interesting to me since I had been watching the construction of a Chickadee nest at Jenny Lake on May 4 under practically identical circumstances.

My curiosity was aroused when I heard tapping from inside

a dead poplar stump, and I waited to see what was causing it. A Chickadee flew out of the hole.

I had not realized before that Chickadees used their bills to make or enlarge a nesting hole. I still don't know if they made the hole in question, but it looked fresh and the ground was littered with fine chips. Evidently the Chickadee bill may be small, but it's sturdy.

-- B. S. H.

LOUDONVILLE DATES

Among arrival dates noted at Loudonville have been: Yellow Palm Warbler, April 28; Barn Swallow, May 1; Chimney Swift, May 2; Towhee, May 5; and Warbling Vireo, Baltimore Oriole, Wood Thrush, White-crowned Sparrow, and Myrtle Warbler, May 6.

-- Mabel W. French

PIGEON HAWK AT INDIAN LADDER

A Pigeon Hawk, the Broad-winged Hawk, two Winter Wrens, and two Blue-headed Vireos were among the birds recorded on April 22 at Indian Ladder.

-- George H. Bainbridge

WHITE-CROWNED AT FEEDER

On April 18 a White-crowned Sparrow was included in the variety of birds at the feeder operated by Mrs. W. H. Norris of Waverly Place.

G-E HAWK

On and after April 18 it was very apparent that a pair of Sparrow Hawks were nesting in a hole in the side of General Electric's Building 32.

-- B. S. H.

RED-HEADED

Red-headed Woodpeckers are again this year to be found in Steinmetz (formerly Second Ward) Park. Mrs. Cora Brockway, Rosa Road, first saw them this year in her yard on May 15.

On and after May 20, for at least a few days, it also looked as though Red-headed might be establishing themselves at Wendell Avenue and Rugby Road.

PILEATEDS ARE SO TALE!

One can spend a delightful half hour with a Pileated Woodpecker -- if one knows where to find him. Well, here's the spot in which to look for this shy bird. At the State Reservation in Saratoga Springs there's a planting of pines through which a road lures the bird enthusiast away from the main thoroughfare, and which affords the playground for the Pileated. It is not far from the Gideon Putnam Hotel.

The bird is apparently quite accustomed to the traffic and noise in this area, and can be approached to within 30 feet. He was observed feeding on insects in the low stumps of the cut pines, then hurrying ahead of his observers to alight on a tree for a bit of tapping, or flying low in a serpentine direction through the maze of trees to trick his followers.

He's a wary bird, but not exactly a shy one.

-- Minnie B. Scotland

GROSBEAKS AT LOUDONVILLE

A flock of 11 Evening Grosbeaks, seven of them gorgeous males, arrived in Loudonville on March 5. They were eating box elder seeds in a small tree and on the snow under it, in a corner of the yard at the back of the house at Bacon Lane and Loudonville Road, from 10 a.m. to 1.45 p.m. Some were inelegantly drinking from mud puddles at the side of the lane. Whether among the feathery seed pods, against the white snow, or at the black mud, they were beautiful.

I have recorded them in previous winters at that same tree. On January 27, 1936 there were four birds there, two remaining until January 31. On March 12, 1940 I saw two in a neighbor's yard, and on March 15 eight in the above-mentioned box elder.

-- M. W. F.

THOSE TRILLERS

One possible method of distinguishing among the various trill notes uttered by so many species of birds is the variation in length of time it takes the bird to complete its trill.

A few preliminary observations indicate that Juncos have a relatively short trill -- perhaps one second long -- while Chipping Sparrows trill for two or more seconds. Trill listeners, however, should learn to count seconds accurately or use a stop watch.

-- B. S. H.

ELUSIVE MOURNING

About 6.30 p.m. on June 2 my ear caught a vaguely remembered song from the edge of a patch of woods adjoining our Loudonville yard. My mind raced back to May 29 and 30, 1935, when that same song rang at intervals from that same spot for two days. In construction it was similar to a Yellow-throat's but was a more smoothly flowing performance, delivered in a richer tone of voice and without the jerky emphasis of the Yellow-throat. In other words it was sung, not whistled. I can whistle the Yellow-throat's notes, but not this bird's. By standing under the wild cherry trees in which it was singing and looking directly up, I was able twice to obtain a perfect view of the singer for a few brief but positive seconds. It was my third Mourning Warbler.

Of all the elusive warblers this one, in my experience, exceeds all the others. It disappears uncannily.

-- M. W. F.

FEATHERS

Published by the Schenectady Bird Club

ATOP GREYLOCK

Pauline Baker

Saturday, June 22, was a hot day locally. It was hard to believe that it could be cold on the top of Greylock.

Cars containing thirty bird-seekers and their food for supper and breakfast turned toward Pittsfield and then north on Route 7 to Lanesboro, Mass. The semi-circle of Wick's Cabins was a welcome sight. They proved to be very comfortable, with electricity and hot and cold running water.

The very early SBC arrivals were out on a walk where they discovered a family of Wood Ducks, an American Bittern, Cedar Waxwings, and Chestnut-sided Warblers.

Supper was enjoyed on the lawn under the willows, or at the fireplace, or on the porch, as the various little groups wished it. The sun was especially welcome after the long wet spell that had prevailed.

Bicknell's

At 6:30 o'clock that evening the whole group went up Greylock. On the way they saw a Turkey Vulture and a Marsh Hawk. Robins, White-throated Sparrows, Juncos, Chimney Swifts, Magnolia and Blackpoll Warblers were seen at the very top. But the Bird Club members had come to hear the Bicknell's Thrush. There were several, very near, just over the wall, but to get a real look at one was something!

A shadowy glimpse of one about eight feet away was caught, but it was after all only a shadow. This thrush was smaller but just as elusive and quiet as the other thrushes. His song, however, was very easy to distinguish. It descends as does that of the Veery, with a little break downward and then a final higher note. Now and then come notes suggestive of the Nighthawk and the single lush notes of a Wood Thrush. It is generous with its melodies.

Meanwhile the Olive-backed Thrushes, the Hermits, and the Veeries were heard by some of the party. Sunset came and went, and darkness fell. Then cars were on their way down the mountain. It was surprising how many late Robins were busy in the road. Perhaps lights of one car scared up a wandering Woodcock. At any rate, the Woodcock remained fixed in the middle of the road in the full light of a member's car.

Wick's Cabins quieted down quickly because Sunday morning held a scheduled trip, and coffee and doughnuts were due in the camp kitchen at 5 a.m. A heavy chill and morning mist greeted the party on Sunday; and the songs of an Oriole, Least Flycatcher, and Yellow Warbler announced a new day. At 6 o'clock, as members climbed to the mountain top, they were startled by a clear, full voice that rang out a song that was determined later. Magnolia, Myrtle, Blackpoll Warblers were there, and the Bicknell's was singing. Then down the group went again to two big, dead trees at Adams' Outlook. There the little singer of the big, clear, happy voice was heard again. It was the Mourning Warbler. But he does not mourn. There is a certain wren-like joyousness in his song. The black bib under his gray hooded head is the only sign of mourning.

Down the Mountain

On down the mountain the prolonged, cheerful, lusty bubble of the Winter Wren rang through the woods. All stopped to enjoy the Olive-sided Flycatcher and to know him by his "pip". Work of the Pileated Woodpecker was seen, and the song of the Red-eyed Vireos identified them with their young. Blackburnian Warblers were seen in various places on the way to the CCC camp site where SBC folks had a late breakfast. Purple Finch and Chipping Sparrow music accompanied the sound of sizzling bacon. Black-throated Green and Black-throated Blue Warblers were also about.

A Grasshopper Sparrow "spung" as two members went by, and a Savannah gave its distinctive insect-like song. After breakfast all gathered at the lean-to to make up the list, which numbered 78 species. When adieus were said, some went to the ledges, to enjoy the view and to compare it with Hawk Mountain. By 3 in the afternoon the Albany folk were in their home town after a very pleasant and rewarding overnight stay.

On Greylock Mountain were seen other birds not already mentioned, such as Sharp-shinned Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Flicker, Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, Alder Flycatcher, Wood Pewee, Tree Swallow, Blue Jay, Crow, Chickadee, Brown Creeper, Brown Thrasher, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Blue-headed Vireo, Ovenbird, Northern Yellow-throat, Canada Warbler, Redstart, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Goldfinch, Towhee, and Song Sparrow.

In the Valley

In the valley were seen some not named before: Green Heron, Black Duck, Sparrow Hawk, Killdeer, Nighthawk, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Kingbird, Phoebe, Bank Swallow, Barn and Cliff Swallows, House Wren, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Catbird, Wood Thrush, Bluebird, Starling, English Sparrow, Bobolink, Meadowlark, Red-wing, and Bronzed Grackle; a matter of twenty-two species.

MT. MANSFIELD & BICKNELL'S

Dr. Minnie B. Scotland

The limited distribution of the Bicknell subspecies of the Gray-cheeked Thrush is of real interest to bird observers. According to Dr. George J. Wallace, former warden of the Pleasant Valley Sanctuary, outside Pittsfield, Mass., "Bicknell's Thrush apparently does not occur at all on mountains much lower than 3000 to 3500 feet in elevation, and on the higher peaks finds its optimum zone between 3000 feet and the limit of trees." (Wallace, George J., "Bicknell's Thrush", Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. History, Vol. 41, No. 6). Mt. Greylock and Mt. Mansfield are both over 3400 feet.

Observations of the Bicknell's Thrush are extremely difficult because of the elusiveness of the bird. One may live with the bird for a week and never see it. Then, by sheer accident, he may be startled by the chance appearance of the thrush on a balsam in an opening along the trail. His acquaintance is really made first through his song which begins before dawn, ceases temporarily during the early afternoon, and becomes most pronounced just after sunset.

It was on the top of Greylock during the evening of June 22 that S B C members learned the calls and song of the Bicknell's Thrush (p. 57). These calls and song were heard again by two S B C members the following week on the top of Mt. Mansfield. It was there Dr. Wallace studied this thrush.

The most common call of the Bicknell is like that of the nighthawk. The song is best described by a quotation from Louis B. Gillet in his "The Thrushes of Our Woods":

"The song is quite different in effect according as it is heard at close range or from a distance. This is due largely to the two distinct parts into which it divides. The most striking characteristic of the song is its abrupt turn midway. The first part is a series of spiralling chimes which, though on muted strings as it were, suggest the Veery's chant -- gyrating, rich in reverberating resonance, wild, with just enough variation from singer to singer to puzzle one to make out whether the spirals ascend or not, though in combination with the second part, that is their effect; the song then skips or cascades over into a second part quite different. This second part is louder, a clear-cut couplet of rising and falling notes by which the Bicknell's song can be identified. Heard at a little distance, the first part of the song has a swinging movement, 'sweo-ter-see', a sweetly intertoned tintinnabulation of fairy bells; the second part comes out forcibly, is simple in sound, penetrating, and held at the end 'ter-ree'."

Only to live with this bird can one really appreciate his song and habits.

KARNER KARAVAN

There's one thing about it -- if it becomes much more popular it's going to require a police escort to get there. Even back in the war days the Memorial Day trip into the Karners Barrens was popular, though it did require a bus ride and a hike.

This year's trip, with no gasoline or rubber bans, set a record, with a dozen or more automobiles in line, and three dozen or more observers. And those so-called sand roads into the Barrens are not laid out for heavy or two-way traffic. Fortunately, however, the S B C caravan of May 30 met no on-coming traffic, and the open field at the favorite stop offered plenty of space for parking.

The morning's weather was ideal -- from 60 to 75 degrees, clear, and with a slight west wind. Sixty species were recorded -- and the fast journey from the main Albany road to the parking area meant that some species listed on previous hikes along the sand roads were missed.

Prairies, Certainly

It's now routine for S B C to take the Prairie Warbler in its stride. The bird was seen, heard, and heard again by all. Next to the Chestnut-sided, it is probably the most common of the warblers in that section now.

Bob-whites heard by Mary Kerley, familiar with the birds in the South -- several pairs of Indigo Buntings and many additional singing males -- a pair of Vesper Sparrows tame and walking and running close to the observers -- a Swamp Sparrow in a decidedly dry area -- and soaring hawks -- such were among the interesting observations of the three groups which wandered over the twisting roads and into the gullies and woods of the area.

And there was a female Chestnut-sided Warbler sitting quietly on a branch beside its nest, completed but still eggless, within two feet of one observer -- the usual abundance and vociferousness of Thrashers, Towhees, Chipping and Field Sparrows -- a late Ruby-crowned Kinglet discovered by Chester Moore -- pairs of Pine Warblers, and singing males with repeat performances. With memories of last year's trip (FEATHERS, June, 1945, p. 39), the deep ravine was investigated thoroughly for the Brewster's Warbler. Golden-winged Warblers were found, but there was no indication of a Brewster's, nor of the Yellow-breasted Chat of some preceding years.

There was a lone, soaring Broad-winged Hawk, and a little later a high-flying Marsh Hawk. The broad bands of the tail were distinct for the Buteo, and the white tail patch identified the latter. Then later three high, soaring hawks were in

view at once. First recognized was the more conspicuously marked Osprey, then a ragged-winged Red-shouldered, and finally the larger, darker Rough-legged. They remained in view several minutes.

Lists of individual observers varied somewhat, since three distinct groups of hikers were in action. The composite for all included:

Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Osprey, Bob-white, Pheasant, Killdeer, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Chimney Swift, Hummingbird, Flicker, Kingbird, Crested Flycatcher, Phoebe, Alder Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Wood Pewee, Blue Jay, Crow, Chickadee, House Wren, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Wood Thrush, Veery, Bluebird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Starling, Blue-headed Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Golden-winged Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Black-poll Warbler, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Oven-bird, Northern Yellow-throat, Redstart, English Sparrow, Meadowlark, Red-wing, Baltimore Oriole, Bronzed Grackle, Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Indigo Bunting, Goldfinch, Towhee, Grasshopper Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, and Song Sparrow. -- G. B.

-- AND THE THRUSHES SANG

Nelle G. Van Vorst

"Let's hear the thrushes sing in Indian Ladder Ravine on June 5" was the slogan exchanged among members of S B C. The result was that on that evening in June, between 5:30 and 6:30 o'clock, members from Gallupville, Albany, Scotia, and Schenectady drifted into the picnic area of Thatcher Park, just ahead of one of those unexpected showers.

They carried well-filled baskets, the contents of which were spread on tables, and fires were kindled. The heavy, dark clouds soon produced the expected rain which quenched the fires, made the folks seek shelter, and quieted the birds. Some started homeward, only to return in a short time when the storm proved to be very local.

Vesper Chorus

When the skies cleared and the beautiful double rainbow arched across the valley below, some hardy birders started down the ravine, to be rewarded with several songs. Others spent the evening enjoying the view from the car windows or from the porch of the refreshment stand.

The thrushes did sing. While everyone did not hear all of them, the Veery of the low places, the Wood Thrush of the

next higher level, and then the Hermit and Olive-backed Thrushes of the upper woods did render their vesper chorus.

A few nesting warblers -- the Canada, Black and White, Black-throated Green -- called while the Rose-breasted Grosbeak furnished the background music.

The most interesting songs were the evening melodies of the Oven-bird and the Wood Pewee. These songs are not common, so it was a treat to those who had the chance to hear them.

Those who hiked down to the lower main road also heard six kinds of sparrows in sunset concert.

Birds recorded after arrival at the Ladder (several more species were noted along the roads beforehand) included: Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Wood Pewee, Chickadee, Catbird, Robin, Wood Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Olive-backed Thrush, Veery, Warbling Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Oven-bird, Northern Yellow-throat, Canada Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Grasshopper Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, and Song Sparrow.

MID-STATE VACATION

Dorothy W. Caldwell

During the course of a June-July 1946 vacation spent in Central New York, fun was had by checking the avian population of the area. Lost of the time was spent in a small village in Herkimer County, overlooking the Hinckley Reservoir. The elevation is about 1000 feet, and the bird life in part was reminiscent of the avian residents at Mount McGregor. The territory within half a mile of my house includes part of the Reservoir and one of its inlets, a heavily wooded "cold bog" (beloved of botanists) through which Black Creek flows, second-growth swamp, open pasture land, and the little village. To my surprise we listed about 70 species in this small area, apparently mostly residents but including a few birds that nested just outside the territory or that wandered through.

The Reservoir, whose mud flats will be exposed later on and will teem with shore-birds as does the Watervliet Reservoir, gave a pair each of Loons, American Kergansers, and Spotted Sandpipers, with occasionally a Great Blue Heron, and once an Osprey flying over. The banks of the creek furnished a pair of Kingfishers with a home, and the wooded shores teemed with Olive-backed Thrushes, Veeries, Magnolia Warblers, and White-throated Sparrows. The bog, rich in floral treasures as well as in bird life, resounded with the Magnolia, Blackburnian and Canada, and White-throated Sparrows. Stormy

Hill with its swamp and second growth, balsam-hemlock woods and open pasture land added Broad-winged Hawk, Pileated Woodpecker, Alder Flycatcher, Cedar Waxwing, Blue-headed Vireo, Nashville, Myrtle, Black-throated Green and Chestnut-sided Warblers, nesting Juncos, and Field and Vesper Sparrows. In the village were Hummingbirds at my delphiniums, House Wrens, Baltimore Orioles, Grackles, Purple Finches, and other denizens of a village street, plus a lusty colony of Bank Swallows. Driving about in the country nearby, a small colony of Cliff Swallows was found, Red-headed Woodpeckers were twice seen, Killdeer, a family of four Upland Plovers and other items were added.

In Other Sections

Early in July a visit was made in Glens Falls. A drive with Geneva Eddy and Ethel West on July 9 along the upper Hudson above Schuylerville gave us our first record of a Double-crested Cormorant for the Hudson Valley north of Albany.

A drive through the Mohawk Valley July 24 was well rewarded with families of Pied-billed Grebes and Wood Ducks, two Virginia Rails, and several Florida Gallinules in the Canajoharie marsh off Route 5S and three American Egrets at Lasher's Creek, east of the "Noses".

Down the Hudson from Albany to Kingston July 25 with Frances Reeves netted the usual delightful boat ride and a better showing of birds than we had anticipated so early in the season. Slightly over 100 American Egrets were seen on the down trip, some in the marshes, some in the tree-tops, and occasionally some in stately flight. Near the Rip Van Winkle bridge over 40 of the beautiful birds were in sight at once. The first egrets for the day, three of them, were seen near Channel Marker 86, north of the Castleton cut-off, and four were seen in this area on the return trip. Only one Double-crested Cormorant flew past, and the count of Great Blue Herons was only 14, and of the Black-crowned Night Herons only two. Ducks were scarce but we did see one Lesser Scaup and a flock of about twenty Blacks. One Turkey Vulture, one Red-tailed Hawk, and only one Eagle were seen. A lone Herring Gull near Albany and five Bonaparte Gulls down the river represented that family. The early afternoon was hot and sultry, and few land birds were found at Kingston Point. The return trip was very windy, the tide was ebbing, and the egrets were low in the marshes where it was hard to see them.

July 27 included a morning at the Vischer Ponds, across from Niskayuna, always delightful territory. As we walked toward the Mohawk River we could hear the clamor of many Crows and soon saw the victim of their mobbing take flight -- a Short-eared Owl. Farther on, at a spot which has been fruitful on many previous occasions, we saw a Bittern cross the road, then had fine views of a Woodcock standing by the roadside in the shadow, then closely watched a Virginia Rail on the other side of the road. Meanwhile a Black-crowned Night

Heron flew over our heads, followed shortly by an American Egret. Another lagoon gave us a Florida Gallinule out for a leisurely swim, three Lesser Yellowlegs high overhead, a Blue-winged Teal flying out of the marsh, and a Louisiana Water-thrush teetering along the shore, as well as the usual Swamp Sparrows, Long-billed Marsh Wrens, and other swamp folk.

NEWS & NOTES IN BRIEF

MAKE IT AN ANNUAL?

In the short time that SBC observers were on Greylock Mountain this summer (page 57) they checked up 66% of the combined list of 1943, 1944 and 1945 compiled by Dorothy Snyder and 16 additional 20th century records of other observers.

From all reports this Greylock trip was very successful. Why not consider it as another annual, along with the Christmas Count, the Stoner trip to Kingston, the Memorial Day hike into Karners, and the other regularly made expeditions?

The turn-out showed that more such trips, perhaps even longer in time and distance, can be anticipated.

READY FOR THE BOAT TRIP?

The most popular of all the SBC scheduled field trips has always been the Albany-Kingston boat trip, scheduled this year on Sunday, September 15. Considerable publicity was given this trip in a recent issue of the New York State Bulletin to the Schools, and it is probable that this year's attendance will be the highest ever. Pittsfield, incidentally, expects to join in with quite a turn-out.

Dorothy Caldwell has indicated (page 63) there should be plenty of Egrets on this year's trip. Another count, made from a New York Central train up on July 23, revealed 24 Egrets, seven Great Blue Herons, two Little Blue Herons, a Fish Crow, one flock of ducks, and two mature Bald Eagles -- mostly in the vicinity of Rip Van Winkle Bridge -- and of course observations from trains cannot be expected to produce large counts.

The boat leaves the Albany dock at 9:15 a.m.; basket lunches are eaten at Kingston Point; and the boaters are back to Albany in late afternoon. Be sure to plan on participating.

EGRETS NUMEROUS

A dozen or more American Egrets on the Mohawk at Niskayuna, more than a hundred along the Hudson below Albany, and scattered records of one or two, or sometimes more, up the Mohawk, along the Alplaus Creek, at Watervliet Reservoir, up the Hudson to the Adirondacks, at Ticonderoga -- all indications are that this year's count will be high.

Incidentally, Watervliet Reservoir gives promise this season of offering plenty of shore-bird observations.

Published by the Schenectady Bird Club

IN THE OLD HOME TOWN

Mabel W. French

I spent from May 14 through June 1 vacationing at my old home at East Marion, next to the last village at the east end of the north fork of Long Island. An attack of the current form of grippe, and what the fishermen term "an easterly spell" of weather took an aggregate of a week from my out-of-doors activities. The migration for the rest of the time was not as heavy as I had hoped for, as shown by the total of 76 species of birds recorded in a little over two weeks, which is low.

The May migration on Long Island is usually about a week ahead of Albany County, and was doubtless past the height when I arrived. However, I gathered a few notes of interest.

Unfortunately the beaches in East Marion are too frequented by humans, and do not have enough tidal flats to attract large numbers of shore birds. Aside from the usual Spotted Sandpipers, a Piping Plover on the 25th and a Turnstone on the 30th and 31st were the only species listed. It was too late in the season for many ducks, but between 70 and 80 White-winged Scoters were observed on the 15th. These ducks are present on Gardiner's Bay every month of the year, the summer birds being mainly non-breeders.

Attracting Gulls

A few Laughing Gulls were noted twice, and I was surprised by a late Black-backed on the 31st. Herring Gulls were unusually common for late spring. On the 30th I counted over 120 around a fishing boat that had just come in with a catch of fish. The men were preparing the fish for shipment, and throwing the refuse into the bay. Therefore the attraction to the gulls.

On May 31 there were 16 Double-crested Cormorants perched on the nets and stakes of the fishing traps in the bay. These are locally known as "Shags", and are not very well loved by the fishermen because of their habit of diving into the nets and eating the eyes of the fish, when then die in the traps and are unfit for food.

Clean Fishermen

Ospreys, on the other hand, are held in good repute as "clean fishermen" by Long Islanders. These fish hawks are so

common at the eastern tip of the Island that we rarely even look at them. There are very few minutes of the day when the birds are not in sight along the Bay or Sound shores. They fly back and forth over the village frequently, and their calls are almost constantly in the air. This May I found six of their bulky nests either in use or in process of construction. I have seen the nests on both living and dead trees, sign boards, telephone poles, and rocks on the beach. One farmer a few years ago put a wagon wheel on top of a dead tree, and a pair of Ospreys used it as a building foundation for several years, until the winter storms carried it away. The Orient State Park area is one of the best known nesting sites for the species along the North Atlantic seaboard.

At Orient

My husband and son Roy drove down over the Memorial Day week end. On that day Roy and I tried to do some birding at Orient State Park, about seven miles east of our home. It is much better situated for water and marsh birds than is East Marion.

We found a "Road Closed" sign at the very entrance. The storms and high tides of last winter had lifted the cement blocks of the road and flung them all over the landscape. So we had to park the car and content ourselves with going as far as we could on foot.

Among other things the trip netted us a pair of Old Squaws, a flock of 14 Black-bellied Plover, several Common Terns, three Greater Yellow-legs, at least eight Sharp-tailed Sparrows, and a Clapper Rail. The latter was my first, for, although they are not uncommon in our salt marshes, they are masters of the art of concealment and escape, as the following account of our encounter with this one illustrates.

A Vanishing Act

The bird's strident "Kick-kick" notes led us across the marsh until I sighted it standing beside a grassy hummock, long neck erect, and its beak opening and shutting rapidly with every "Kick" it emitted. If the marsh grass had attained its summer height I could not have seen the bird at all.

When it saw us the bird lowered its neck and draw back behind the hummock. I suggested to Roy that he sneak up from one side and I from the other. When Roy was not more than a yard from the spot, the bird uttered an explosive note from almost under his feet. Roy gave a spring forward, stared wildly down, and raised a blank face.

Without as much as moving a blade of grass, the rail had vanished.

I investigated and discovered that the stunt need not

have been too difficult at that. Below the grasses the swamp muck had hardened into all sorts of hollows and runways, while the marsh was partly roofed with seaweed drift left by the tide, which formed protection from above. As we left, a mocking "Kick-kick" was flung at us from one of the ditches intersecting the marsh.

Disobedient Fisherman

In a creek in the vicinity of the Clapper Rail and Sharp-tailed Sparrows I was amused by a Green Heron perched on a sign warning "Positively No Fishing Here", and defiantly disobeying instructions.

Land birds seen during my stay included my first Rough-winged Swallow for the locality. The migrant warblers included Wilson's, Black-throated Blue, Parula, Prairie, Blackpoll, Canada, Blackburnian, and Magnolia. The Prairie is as common a migrant there as it is rare through most of our area. In my girlhood I have known May migrations when they were so common that I grew tired of chasing them in the hope they were something else. I saw at least eight different individuals from May 15 to 25. On the last date I watched a pair making trips from one green-brier thicket to another with what appeared to be nesting material in their beaks. There are numerous instances of them nesting on the island, which has a great deal of the pine barren, scrub oak type of woodland found at Karner's, their local stronghold.

Hurricane Effects

I noticed considerable difference in the land-bird population of my home town since the 1938 hurricane roared its way through the place. Now practically all the big, heavy-topped trees and the old apple trees are "gone with the wind". All tree-nesting birds such as Robins, Orioles, Waxwings, Tanagers and Kingbirds have been far below their former abundance. However, the birds of brush and thickets, as Yellow-throats, Towhees and Catbirds, have tended to increase, for the fallen trees tagged with the vegetation of the woods and made additional and denser thickets.

Upon my return to Loudonville I was even better able to appreciate the Phoebes, Least Flycatchers, Purple Finches, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Indigo Buntings, Yellow-throated and Warbling Vireos, and Veeries summering and singing on or near our Lane. I have never known one of them to nest in my particular little corner of Long Island, and several are among the rarest migrants there.

On July 26 our family paused at Golden Sands Beach, Racquette Lake. A brief preview of the fall migration was obtained, with a Magnolia Warbler, Winter Wren, several White-throated Sparrows and Golden-crowned Kinglets, and four Red Crossbills, three males and a female.

-- M. W. F.



Graft at the G.E.

(Illustration from
G-E General Office
News of Sept. 13)

Beatrice Sullivan

The guards at the G-E gate are pretty sharp-eyed fellows who take your passes or inspect your packages. To be sure, if you dash past them waving a half-open bag and shout "Nuts," they are apt to call you back to see whether you are getting personal, or really have pecans.

Nevertheless, G-E material is being taken out steadily, day after day, and perhaps during the evening, too, and the guards know nothing about it. It is all over their heads -- literally, and with no reflection on the intelligence of the Patrol Department. It is the sparrows.

They are making off with the oats -- three and a half pounds of them in four days. In the back of Building 7, on the second floor, work being done on farm machinery requires a man to run oats through a hopper. It was not long before the English Sparrows discovered the fact, and now they fly in and out quite as if they owned the place. And the flying is not merely popping in an open window. These windows have storm shields, the upper edge of which is sometimes above the lower edge of the window. In that event, the sparrow merely takes a graceful dive, and out he goes with the oats.

Several birds have discovered this snack bar, where from Friday to Tuesday they have eaten the above-mentioned quantity of grain. They fly around among the overhead pipes and machinery, and there is speculation as to whether some day, when the operator wants the crane, he may have to wait until the baby sparrows are fed -- with General Electric oats.

PIGEONS & PEOPLE

Viola Mabb

Dr. T. McKean Downs, a captain in the Medical Corps, USNR, and an ornithologist, took his binoculars and his interest in birds with him to the Aleutians, where he wrote "The Eagle" for the Atlantic Monthly, and to the Pacific, from where he sent an article "Birds of Midway." A more recent article in Atlantic Monthly, "Pigeons and People," reveals his interest in breeding racing homing pigeons. He was interested

in the conduct of the pigeons because their behavior was at times strikingly human.

"There were pugnacious bullies of both sexes, and meek ones that would allow themselves to be put upon. Some were thrifty and hard-working, others lazy and indifferent. There were flirts and philanderers as well as strict homebodies. Some of the youngsters were precocious problem children; others were retarded."

Pigeons mate for life. In spring the older pairs start housekeeping as soon as the days lengthen, often early in February, and at the same time the youngsters hatched last year set about pairing off. The cocks coo and swell out their necks to show off the brilliant, iridescent colors, and strut about in a ridiculous way with their tails dragging the floor, but the hens seem indifferent to the display. Only if the cock gets too ardent in his demonstrations does she notice him, and then merely to the extent of a few sharp slaps of her wing. One can almost imagine he hears her mutter something like "You fresh thing!"

But the hen must pay more attention than she seems to, for somehow she makes a choice from the eager suitors. Just like human individuals, pigeons often choose what seem to outsiders to be unsuitable mates. Not seldom a wild street pigeon -- a "corny" -- will make its home with a colony of homers, and often has no difficulty in finding a mate, even though legitimate inhabitants may still be single. To our eyes a corny is a miserable bird, all feathers and little body, with no style or smartness.

Although the hen chooses her mate, he selects the nest site, subject to her veto. Sometimes he suggests several places before she is satisfied. Once the selection is made, they can hardly be driven from it, though it may be most inconvenient from our point of view.

Pigeons have a strong sense of property and will fight valiantly to protect their own. None of the dove family are thought of as warriors; they are traditionally emblematic of peace. Yet two cocks will often fight all day. Of course they can't hurt one another, for they lack talons or spurs, and their bills are weak. But they peck, and shove, and strike resounding blows with their wings until both are exhausted, nests are upset, and eggs broken.

Both sexes cooperate in nest making, and there is a definite division of the work into his and hers. He collects the nest material and brings it home; she arranges it. But like people, some cocks are better providers than others. Some can't have too much, and bring home a great pile of material; others are satisfied with a few straws. Much or little, each load is greeted with cooing and gestures of affection on both sides.

Both sexes share in incubation, according to a definite

schedule. The hen takes up her duties in the late afternoon and keeps the eggs warm until morning, when she is relieved by her mate, who attends to the housekeeping during the day. But he doesn't sit quite so close as she does, and keeps himself informed of what is going on. He may even leave the eggs for a few moments, especially if he sees any immodest conduct that he feels impelled to improve.

When the squabs first hatch they are tiny little things, blind, and as weak and helpless as babies. Like babies, too, they must at first be fed a special food. Both parents secrete the so-called "pigeon's milk" which comes from the crop and is fed by regurgitation. At first the little ones can hardly hold their heads up long enough to be fed, but they grow and strengthen very fast. At the age of a week their eyes open.

At the end of two weeks the squabs are well feathered and can move about a little, though their legs are still too weak to support them for more than a moment at a time. By now the mother is beginning to lose interest in them. She cares only for tiny babies, and is ready to start a new family. But the father not only brings the material for the new nest and compels his wife to use it; he also takes full responsibility for his older children.

By the time a squab is a little over four weeks old, it is ready to leave home for good. Till then, its father gives it the best of care.

UPSTATE CHRISTMAS COUNTS

It's a little old, but a few comparisons of Schenectady's and other upstate records for the last Christmas Count are of interest. Schenectady, it will be recalled had 26 observers afield for 45 party-hours, covered 148 route-miles by car and on foot, and found 1579 individuals of 29 species.

There were 8 other upstate counts. Buffalo was high with 52 species and 10,522 individuals; Rochester next with 46 species and 2266 individuals. Geneva had 5998 individuals of 39 species. All these places had lake shores.

Schenectady's count included five Black Ducks, three American Mergansers, and no gulls. Adding the counts of all nine upstate places, more than half of the total count was in the Herring Gull, Golden-eye, Redhead, and Scaup. Next in total abundance were the English Sparrow, Starling and Crow, in that order. These seven species together accounted for 90 per cent of the total count.

Schenectady contributed the only records of the Goshawk, Northern Horned Lark, Robin, and Redpoll.

RESERVOIR MUD FLATS

G. Malcolm Andrews

Reservoir Mud Flats can mean only one thing -- shore birds! The group of eight S B C members who made the trip to Water-vliet Reservoir Sunday, August 25 were kept busy studying the plentiful numbers of these waders seen feeding along the flats near the road bridge at the upper end of the reservoir.

Seven species of shore birds were identified, including the Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer (some 40 individuals), the Spotted, Pectoral, Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers, and the Lesser Yellow-legs. Without the aid of a 40-power telescope, positive identification of several of these species would have been much more difficult. As it was, we could watch them quite closely without causing them to fly up in alarm.

Shore birds were not the only species of interest, however, as a family of some eight Wood Ducks were seen paddling about nearby. At least two separate families of Wood Ducks were seen on the trip, with a total of 14 birds, most of which were immature, indicating a successful breeding season here for this species.

The heron family was represented by both the Great Blue and Green Herons, and the American Egret. The party was fortunate in finding an American Egret feeding along an inlet. Later it flew back to the mud flats, where all had a chance to observe it at leisure through the telescope. Another Egret was discovered when the far shore of the reservoir was examined with the 'scope.

A pair of Ospreys was seen, diving for fish in the more open water area across the road. At least one Black Duck was seen on the far side of the water.

Walking up a wooded path along the inlet, a number of land birds were seen and heard. These included the Chimney Swift, Hummingbird, Kingfisher, Flicker, Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, Kingbird, Phoebe, Wood Pewee, Blue Jay, Crow, Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Catbird, Veery, Bluebird, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow-throat, Meadowlark, Baltimore Oriole, Goldfinch, and Song Sparrow.

The group drove to the lower end of the reservoir to explore the path leading up near the dam. This path has evidently been little used, as it was heavily overgrown with bushes and briars. Comparatively little activity was evident, but additions to the list included the Robin, Starling, Red-eyed Vireo; Black and White, Yellow, Chestnut-sided and Canada Warblers, and Chipping Sparrow.

Included in the 48 species identified, but not mentioned

before, were the Marsh Hawk, Mourning Dove, Barn Swallow, and English Sparrow.

Three Cancelled Trips

For the purpose of the records, mention should be made at this time about three other scheduled S B C trips. They were not held.

The July 21 trip to Niskayuna and Mohawk View apparently found every S B C member away on a vacation trip -- at least there were no hikers out that morning. Maybe the same held true on September 8, when a trip to Wolf Hollow was scheduled.

There was a different reason for the cancellation of the Stoner Trip -- the Albany-Kingston boat trip of Sunday, September 15. That trip was a victim of the maritime strike. The Hudson River Day Line announced a few days in advance that it had had to stop operations for the season; and the notice was not in time so arrangements could be made for an earlier trip. The Sassafras Club of Amsterdam was more fortunate -- they went on September 8.

NEWS & NOTES IN BRIEF

G-E VISITORS

During the night of September 8 an Oven-bird found its way into General Electric's Building 23, and was reported to Esly Hallenbeck the next morning.

It hardly seems as though the same bird would be caught twice, so it was probably another individual that Nelle Van Vorst found in Building 18A on the morning of September 12.

FLOCKED NIGHTHAWKS

There were numerous reports of flocks of silent, low-flying Nighthawks over the city in daytime flight during late August and early September. Possibly the end date for them was September 10.

TALK BACK

Screech Owls have many notes, as most who have heard them will recognize. In early August, for instance, at 2 a.m. several of them could be heard in the city. Most of the notes were high, and seemed to be those of young birds. And then there would be low, distinctly guttural notes -- as though the parent bird was calling for silence. At times there would be only two or three notes; at other times long strings of them.

And it is also very apparent at times that individual Screech Owls can be recognized because their notes are lower, higher, weaker, or more trembling than those of the others.

DOWN IN MAINE

Eva I. Bateman

A gray, cool mist -- and I was driving alone on Route 3 from Wiscasset to Damariscotta, Maine, at 7 o'clock one morning early in August. By the time I had the car in a garage, carried my luggage to the appointed place, and entered the Riverview Restaurant to meet the crowd, it was raining in earnest.

The crowd? No one knew anyone else, yet all seemed to have an air of expectancy of meeting an acquaintance. Soon "he" appeared and, while he knew none of us, he made us feel that we belonged at once. "He" was Carl W. Buchheister, vice president of the National Audubon Society and director of the Audubon Nature Camp, held in five two-week sessions on Hog Island, the home of the Todd Wild Life Sanctuary. He soon became Mr. B to all of us.

Across in the Rain

Mr. B, assisted by Allan D. Cruickshank (who will be our speaker November 11), Dr. Borrer, Mr. Cadbury and others, guided the group to cars and we were transported ten miles across country roads to a farm yard on the coast. By this time it was pouring, and a very bedraggled line of people from 14 states marched or slipped down the muddy path to climb into an open motor boat and ride across to Hog Island.

After landing at the dock by the "Queen Mary", we went to "Fish House" from which we were assigned to our quarters. It was a dreary day, with the wind and rain increasing steadily. By evening it was a real no'easter, and most of us wished we were anywhere but on the Maine coast. However, the next morning the sun greeted us and all was well for a good beginning of the fourth session at Audubon Camp.

No Days Alike

No two days at Camp were alike, yet the pattern was the same. At breakfast the groups were given their assignments for the day -- these were determined by the weather. Each of the four groups had a bird trip, nature activities, and either marine, insect, or plant trip daily. By the end of the session each group had had the same experiences as the others but at different times. Every day was full of worthwhile activities, and I'm sure I can speak for the 55 students that at no

time was it an effort to eat a big meal or to go to sleep. Being awakened at 6:30 a.m. by an accordion, jew's harp, or tin pan; a full day's program; and checked into bed by bird calls at 10 p.m. makes the above statement understandable.

Outstanding Ocean Trips

Probably outstanding were the ocean trips to Old Hump Ledge and Eastern Egg Rock. On "Old Hump" there are hundreds of Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls nesting with more hundreds of Cormorants. The noisy flocks of gulls overhead, the determined flight of the Cormorants, and the awkward dipping of the Cormorants' tails when taking off the water make a mental picture not soon forgotten.

At Eastern Egg Rock we saw the Leach's Petrel -- Mr. Cruickshank reached into two burrows and found one adult and a baby to exhibit. It was exciting to imagine hundreds of them coming in at night and changing places with those on the nests 'midst a constant humming underground.

On the return trip from "Eastern Egg" we saw many Phalaropes and -- one Puffin. I was so thrilled I went on my knees, scarcely believing my eyes. We all felt Mr. Cruickshank was justified in standing on his head on the bow of the "Puffin" to announce the unusual news as we rode into dock.

Luminous Moss

One special trip by the plant group offered a most spectacular treat -- the opportunity to see luminous moss in a cave. It reflected gold and green lights as the sunlight filtered through the leaves, and made a most beautiful and impressive sight.

Another interesting feature of Audubon camp life is the Sunday evening campfire and picnic suppers. One occurred on my birthday and, as the perfect full moon rose out of the ocean and we sat on the rocks on a point extending out into the moon's path, with a large fire leaping high before us, the group was silent -- the beauty of the moment was too wonderful for words.

These are a few of the pleasant and profitable experiences to be had at Audubon Nature Camp. They are experiences that will live long in the memories of anyone who has been fortunate enough to attend, and will make one feel the richer for living.

(Carl W. Buchheister will be the speaker at the final SBC lecture this season, on April 16. His topic will be "Out-of-doors in New England" and his films will include Camp views. For map of Audubon Nature Camp see FEATHERS, Vol. 3, No. 8, August, 1941, page 60.)

WINTER DIARY

Laura S. Beck

January 1, 1946 Very cold -- blinding bright -- 26 degrees in sun -- fine shadows across back lawn's smooth, glossy, crusted snow. Chickadees in and out all day -- special attraction is a piece of suet fastened to the once-huge, now dried, sunflower head which formed a circular balcony for the chickadees, one-spots (Tree Sparrows), and the seldom-in little Downy. Francis has camera set for pictures of the Chickadees which are so very free from sudden fears -- set for this upturned sunflower for which they show a preference. About 40 sparrows shuttle back and forth from a small group of young spruces ... to the back porch, the feeding glass box, the self-feeder on a stand, and an open wood-tray; then, too, they like the screen of pine branches which are fastened to one end of the back-porch. Two Bluejays -- our cat-chasers -- make quick work of thrown-out bread bits. Very keen wind!

January 3 One beautiful cock Ring-necked Pheasant and two hens come in; they leap high up against a fence on which, the previous summer, a row of climbing beans prospered. They found a few pods which they liked. The cock has a badly hurt leg. It is pathetic to see him try to reach food, with evident pain. His hens manage better, and can slip through the wire-fence meshes, but the injured leg, dragging, prevents ... He later settled down in the snow, then with sheer force lifted himself up and away over the fence ... other lots nearby were not fenced, and access to a great area of meadow and woodland was available ... so, later I went out to the old garden-fence and scattered seed, hoping to make it easier for the injured bird if he returned next day (He returned twice; the two hens came in several times). But by that time the Bluejays had done considerable vacuuming of seed. These birds and the two Pheasants also worked around the standing corn stalks of the previous fall, which we left standing to help out the winter landscape ... it really does, when the snows form fantastic figures. Soon but one Pheasant was calling upon us. The yelping hilarity of dogs in the meadow beyond may indicate something ... This day is milder, but very icy -- six or eight Chickadees in and out all day... A skulking cat -- over under the branches of several young spruces -- may be the cause of few sparrows about, this morning.

January 23 Thirty-five to 40 Sparrows, two one-spots return, five Bluejays, and one lone hen pheasant. She walks up a great snowbank on to the back porch -- and food. What a lovely creature, though of course it is the cock that is so exquisitely beautiful in this species. To watch, off and on through the days that followed for several weeks, this timid creature was a real joy to both of us. Francis fixed up a "blind" in his bedroom window, and took many motion pictures

of her. It seems to me that the fashion-mannikins may have tried to pattern after this stately bird in slow motion, but have yet far to go to achieve her marvelous poise and gracefulness. Our back-lawn's white expanse in embroidered neatly and prettily in patterns of foot-prints ... Bluejays', Pheasants', Sparrows', and the indications of the prowling cat down Becky Lane.

January 24 Wild winds! ... small birds blown sideways back to the tossing spruces ... Even husky Crows, towards 4.30 to 5 p.m., blown off their course, some dropping into the neighborhood trees like rudderless or baffled creatures for a time.

January 25 Continued wild winds! ... flying birds buffeted and for the most part few of them about.

February 6 Birds about as usual ... high-light -- two pairs of sparrows removing old nest-materials from two bird-cottages, and quite persistent about it. Heavy, keen winds and the 25 to 30 sparrows have hit on a way to cheat its force, by taking a curved flight from the spruces to the porch instead of the diagonal manner. I have come to the conclusion that each cottage used by sparrows (on our place) is handed over to one or another of the latest brood hatched in said cottage, of that Fall, and is so claimed. Three such cottages in amongst the trees near the back-lawn, every spring, just quietly become occupied and the scene of orderly setting-up housekeeping. Annually the wren-house down Becky Lane seems to be occupied by wrens who just come and settle down as though their rent had been paid in advance the preceding Fall.

February 16 A dainty pie-bald pigeon has adopted us .. but I may not include his antics in this story ... the usual wild birds ...

February 22 The coral-footed pigeon is in again, and he is an energetic vacuum-cleaner of all seed put out for our wild birds ... The little friend pheasant has grown more and more tame with Francis and myself, but seemingly does sense strangers. Her comings-in and her goings-out are beautiful to watch.

February 24 Chickadees go a-skating on the glass top of the large feeding box which is attached to the dining-room storm-window. A rain and sleet storm covered this box with ice, even to forming height-length icicles on the entrance side, making one think of circus-days' menagerie cages. Through these narrow spaces little One-spot and the Chickadees made their way to peck off bits of food from two balls of frozen crackles-fat. Funny to see how cleverly a bird will maneuver such bits about to roll out or off.

February 25 A dozen Chickadees in and out ... a couple of these are quite pugacious today. This is unusual here.

Pheasant is half-way in from the woodland, hugging close into a spruce-base, when suddenly a huge black cat comes crying through, and suddenly Pheasy is not there! But just where she had been -- that is, upon the nearest low branches -- at least 24 sparrows perch, like a huge cluster of buds upon the tree. I believe these little birds know that in numbers there is safety, and really would have been a protection to the pheasant if needed. Late afternoon: Pheasy is in again. When throwing an extra amount of wild-bird seed out, especially for her, I even showered her lightly; she showed her appreciation by extreme busyness. The little birds have all gone; storm is in the air. At 4.30 Pheasy suddenly grew very wary, and in the peculiar way of pheasants hurriedly left for the places of safety ... I watched her across the lawn; oh so cautiously she moved to the edge of woodland, then in zig-zag fashion she literally flew through the narrow spaces, slipped through the fence, and speeded away in the growing darkness.

March 5 Beautiful crystal-gleaming branches, stems, pine-plumes; birds' acrobatics on icy lawn and feeding arrangements interesting. Pheasant, pigeon, sparrows, blue jays and chickadees ... 9 a.m., one Downy in, four one-spots at once. Sparrows have a real contest over one of the cottages. Pigeon picked up at night on an upstairs window sill and taken to his real owners.

March 6 Downy in again ... Pheasant in frequently ... Francis took movies and stills ... Pheasy takes dust baths at edge of lawn by garden, where several sparrows showed her how. Pheasy settled in sunshine on lawn, and spreading herself out took a sun-bath.

March 7 Dull sky, melting snows, back lawn bare now; Blue Jays now jubilant, and uttering their "bell-call".

March 9 First Bluebird in our place and at old house-nest of neighbors. Pheasy comes in; Pidgie returns, to our disgust, even though he is amusing ... Francis comes home from week-end trip and returns Pidgie to his folks once more. Francis saw a black cat in our yard ... Pheasy not far off ... Francis scared the cat away with small stones ... Pheasy looked on! then came on up towards house. Cold wave coming! Two more Bluebirds! Pidgie's coloring very beautiful on close inspection ... dove-grey, deeper grey, magenta-rose, greens, glistening much as a hummingbird's gloss on neck ... coral feet and toes, topaz eyes, white lids, black iris.

March 12 Spring -- Songs fill the air of woodland, meadow, and big woods beyond. Hear Killdeer, one Robin, two Bluebirds; hear Song Sparrows ... "Songie" here by my porch. Pidgie returns ... was prisoner in a nearby garage for two days. Hawks soaring aloft and screeching.

March 14 Six Redpolls, unafraid.

March 18 Six Redpolls; three cottages taken by sparrows.

AT THE A. O. U.

Lillian C. Stoner

The 64th meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union was held at the University of Illinois and the Illinois Natural History Survey at Urbana, Ill. September 2 - 6. This was the first stated meeting since 1942 in Philadelphia, and the first one to be held on the campus of Illinois University.

A wide variety of various phases of bird study was presented in the 32 scheduled papers; over half of which were illustrated by slides and motion pictures. Taxonomy, bird population, bird banding, migration, life history, invasions of Snowy Owl and Evening Grosbeak, improvement in sound recording, methods of Starling control, and other subjects were included in the program.

Five of the speakers came from California, several from Washington, D. C., and others from Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, New York, Pennsylvania, Washington, Colorado, Louisiana, Iowa, West Virginia, and Minnesota. Other members in attendance were from different states such as Nebraska, Wisconsin, Tennessee, Maryland, and Florida.

Studies of Barn Owl

Of the five papers which were devoted to owls, the writer, who enjoyed attending all the sessions, was especially interested in "Studies of the Barn Owl in Michigan"; this was the report of G. J. Wallace on birds observed outside his window on the campus of Michigan State College. Many of our SBC members will remember Dr. Wallace's splendid work on Bicknell's Thrush, and also that for several years he was in charge of the Sanctuary at Lenox, Mass. In the discussion which followed this paper, Dr. Alexander Wetmore, director of the National Museum and secretary of Smithsonian Institute, brought out the fact that Barn Owls have nested almost continuously in one of the towers of Smithsonian Institute; this building is located in the heart of Washington. Fisher (1893) in his "Hawks and Owls of the United States" first mentioned the rearing of Barn Owls in this tower in 1890.

Since several SBC members are associate members of the AOU they, as well as others of our membership, will be interested to learn that the incoming secretary is Dr. O. S. Pettingill, who is again scheduled to appear here in this winter's lecture series (March 5). The outgoing secretary, Dr. Lawrence E. Hicks, served efficiently for 10 years.

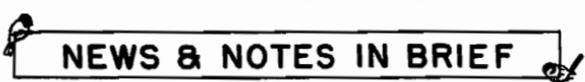
The writer not only enjoyed the renewal of friendships but again as in many previous meetings appreciated hearing of outstanding research which active workers are carrying on, and also the suggestions of many phases of bird study which remain to be studied.

KINGSTON BY ~~BOAT~~ CARNelle G. Van Vorst

The Stoner Bird Trip on the Hudson Dayline, scheduled for September 15, was cancelled when strikes tied up traffic in the New York City area. When some SBC members could not go down the river by boat they drove down, stopping at many places, including the Stockport Station section.

Many American Egrets and Great Blue Herons and large flocks of Red-wings were seen, and a few Long-billed Marsh Wrens were still heard from the cat-tail swamps.

Opposite the Stockport Station four relatively small white birds were spotted. While a discussion concerning their identity was being enjoyed, an American Egret winged its way up the river and slowly landed on the edge of the swamp very near the birds in question. This solved the problem, and four immature Little Blue Herons were recorded for the day.


 NEWS & NOTES IN BRIEF
TWO THOUSAND HAWKS

Reports from Mt. Tom, Mass., show that the peak day of the hawk migration was September 12, when approximately 2,000 were counted. This date was about one week earlier than the average date.

FIVE CAMPERS

Miss Bateman (page 73) was one of five S B C members to have been at the Audubon Camp in Maine this summer. Others included Helen M. Cole, Alice Holmes, Mary Kerley, and Ethel H. Young. They attended two other sections.

MASSACHUSETTS SKIMMERS

On the long sand bar opposite the city of Plymouth, Mass. there are large nesting colonies of Terns -- Common, Least and a few Arotics. For several years the Black Skimmers have frequented this area. This year at least one pair of these very interesting birds nested with the terns. -- N. V. V.

NISKAYUNA

The end of September found at least one American Egret still in the marshes of the wide waters at Niskayuna. An American Bittern was also recorded, but Great Blue Herons, if any, escaped attention. Also present was one Herring Gull. As for the ducks, the final week-end of September showed

they were more numerous than usual in the wide waters -- mostly Blacks, of course, but with some Mallards and other species. That was before the opening of hunting season.

GOING TO HAVE A FEEDER?

It's not too early to start feeding stations. The winter birds are now arriving.

RED - HEADED

Cora T. Brockway

The Red-headed Woodpeckers which I have had in other recent years stayed at my feeding station this season until August 27. Their nest was in a conspicuous place near the Gerling Street entrance to Steinmetz Park.

The male was shot just after the young were hatched -- because of his fondness for sweet cherries. It has been difficult to stop the shooting of birds in this locality, although the Schenectady Police Department has always given full cooperation in efforts to end it.

The female raised two young ones, possibly three. She made many trips to the feeding station every day. She brought the young ones to the yard when they were full grown, allowing them to eat at the suet feeder on the tree, but keeping them from the ground until they were quite adult.

After she had finished bringing up her family she cleaned up, rested, and looked much improved in appearance.

AUDUBON SCREEN TOURS
PRESENTED BY THE SCHENECTADY BIRD CLUB
AND THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Central Park Junior High School
8 P. M.

NOV. 11--ALLAN D. CRUICKSHANK,
"SOUTH ALONG THE SUWANNEE"

Allan Cruickshank is well known to Schenectady nature-lovers as a speaker, photographer, and imitator of bird calls. In this film he follows the famous Suwannee River from its source deep in the great Okefinokee Swamp for 250 miles to the Gulf of Mexico, recording its weird and beautiful animal, bird, and plant life.

Published by the Schenectady Bird Club

EGRETS, AND MORE EGRETS

Lillian C. Stoner

Many members and friends of the Schenectady Bird Club were greatly disappointed when word came that, due to labor difficulties, the Hudson River Day Boat would have to end its run for the season, from Albany to New York, with the down trip of September 10. Perhaps no one regretted more the cancellation of the scheduled "Stoner Boat Trip" of September 15 than I did.

Here may I again reiterate my appreciation to the Schenectady Bird Club for the honor which they bestowed on my late husband by using his name for this particular annual trip.

Since I wished to obtain another count of American Egrets, I took part of this final down trip of the boat on September 10. My observations were made from the upper deck of the Peter Stuyvesant on its voyage from Albany to Poughkeepsie. The New York Central Railroad station in that city is only two blocks distant from the steamship pier, and here within an hour I was able to get a train back home. It is of this and of a previous trip that I have been asked to report. While nothing unusual was noted on either of these voyages, which were over six weeks apart, the most interesting facts are the increases in numbers of gulls, ducks and other flocking species, and the goodly number of Egrets sighted on the later summer date.

July 27

On the very hot day of July 27 I listed 24 species on the Albany-Kingston Point trip. This was two days after the boat trip of Miss Caldwell which she reported in such an able manner in the August issue of FEATHERS (page 62). Some 60 and 70 American Egrets, and 30 and 10 Great Blue Herons were seen on the down and up trips respectively. A greater share of the white birds were perched in the trees on the east side of the river, and only a small portion were seen standing in the water. As the tide was quite high, neither trip was especially good for observing birds which were feeding in swampy areas along the Hudson.

More species and individuals were noticed during the morning than the afternoon. On the down trip the usual common species were recorded in this order: Rock Dove, Crow, Starling, Herring Gull (very few, some in immature plumage), Eng-

lish Sparrow, Red-wing, Grackle, and Black Duck. Then, near the shore, several Spotted Sandpipers and killdeers were seen, and most frequently heard from the shores were the Song Sparrows and the Indigo Buntings. A few Goldfinches dipping along in their usual undulatory flight crossed over the river. Several Barn Swallows appeared displaying their usual skillful flight, while the notes of an occasional Robin or Red-eyed Vireo were recognizable in the distance. Of most interest outside the heron family was the one Double-crested Cormorant noted both in flight and when settled on a rocky point in the river, and the lone adult Bald Eagle. This emblem of our country posed quietly on top a dead tree on the shore not far south of Castleton. The white head and tail and dark-colored body plumage were plainly visible without field glasses from the southbound steamer deck; the large bird seen on this typical perch against a blue sky presented a beautiful picture. During the stopover at Kingston Point the Kingbird, Catbird, Cedar Waxwing, and House Wren were in evidence.

September 10

On September 10 the weather was hazy, and visibility was not too good. Out of a total of 16 species recorded on this date, I had the following count on the one-way boat trip:

American Egret, 108; Great Blue Heron, 10; Herring Gull, 200 plus; Ring-billed Gull, very few; Bald Eagle, 2; Crow, 25 plus; Kingfisher, 5; Red-wing, flocks; Bronzed Grackle, flocks; Starling, flocks; English Sparrow, small flocks; Black Duck (and other ducks), small flocks.

Since the wind was quite strong I heard very few shore birds, woodpeckers, Goldfinches, or Song Sparrows.

Thirty-nine of the American Egrets were seen north of the Stockport railroad station. Again the greatest number were on the east side of the river, with concentration not far from Hudson and the Rip Van Winkle Bridge. No Egrets and comparatively few other species were observed between Kingston Point and Poughkeepsie.

However, on the return train trip some 38 white birds were noted. Many of these were not on the river proper but at the edge of small inland pools. Surprisingly the perched birds, in one case seven and in another nine, were perched in what looked like solitary shrubs or very small trees which were comparatively barren of leaves. Since this roost was so near the water and the birds appeared to be looking down at the water, I wondered if perhaps they might not be watching for insects, fish or frogs to supplement their low-tide feeding. This number of large birds in small trees or shrubs made a rather queer picture; it, too, illustrates a different roosting place from previous observations when they were seen at different elevations in clumps of fairly tall trees on the bank of the Hudson. The number of birds seen in this off-the-river section is suggestive of the many individuals which may

escape our attention on steamer counts when we are estimating the prevalence of birds in the region.

My total number of American Egrets for boat boat and train trip for September 10 total 146. Since we do not know to what extent these birds change their roosting posts during their rest period, but we do see a few flying about, no doubt some of these individuals have been counted twice. In past years my husband and I noticed in some of our group counts of birds seen in trees when tide was high, the counts did not vary considerably in the same groups in the down and up voyages.

Perhaps Miss Caldwell's and my discrepancy in numbers of two days separation may be partially explained by the tide or by the vagaries of this species. However, this bird in its post-breeding activities has been especially prevalent this season along or not distant from the Hudson and the Mohawk; which shows that a fairly common population record is maintained with perhaps a slight increase in numbers.

Additional Egret Records

Stephen Fordham Jr. has given me permission to tell of the five American Egrets which made their first appearance at the Delmar Game Farm on July 12. All remained about for a short time, then four left. They returned soon after for another temporary visit, when all five disappeared. Before long some returned, and a solitary individual remained about until October 2.

On August 1 and 4, near Slingerland, I saw a lone white bird standing in a small pool inside a pasture fairly close to the Albany-Slingerland roadside fence. On two other dates three of these herons were seen at Watervliet Reservoir, and again from a train on August 31 I saw one Egret on the Barge Canal some distance east of Amsterdam.

L. J. Koster of the New York State Museum reported observing from a small row boat on the evening of September 4, about eight Egrets at the shallow end of Kinderhook Lake. This lake is about 8 to 10 miles east of the Hudson River. Three birds remained fairly near while others were in the distance. At times they were seen to suddenly pluck some food out of the water and gulp it down, then continue to look for more. When the boat started in their direction, they slowly and disdainfully turned and walked sedately away. The campers reported hearing these birds on several nights, and said that they were really quite noisy after dusk in frequently uttering their notes or calls.

Various records, some near the Massachusetts - New York line, were reported, which shows the prevalence this season inland away from the larger bodies of water.

Undoubtedly, had we been able to make the scheduled boat trip on the very fine, clear day of September 15, a large

count would have been made, to say nothing of the enjoyment which the S B C members would have had on this field trip.

Since the age of birds is quite uncertain and not too much is yet known as to how long different species live, with Editor Geoffrey Gill's permission I am quoting a paragraph headed "American Egret" from the September 1946 EBBA News (Eastern Bird Banding Association): "Ben B. Coffey Jr. of Memphis (Tenn.) banded one of these birds and received a report of its demise, making it eight years and one month old."

RAINBOW LAKE

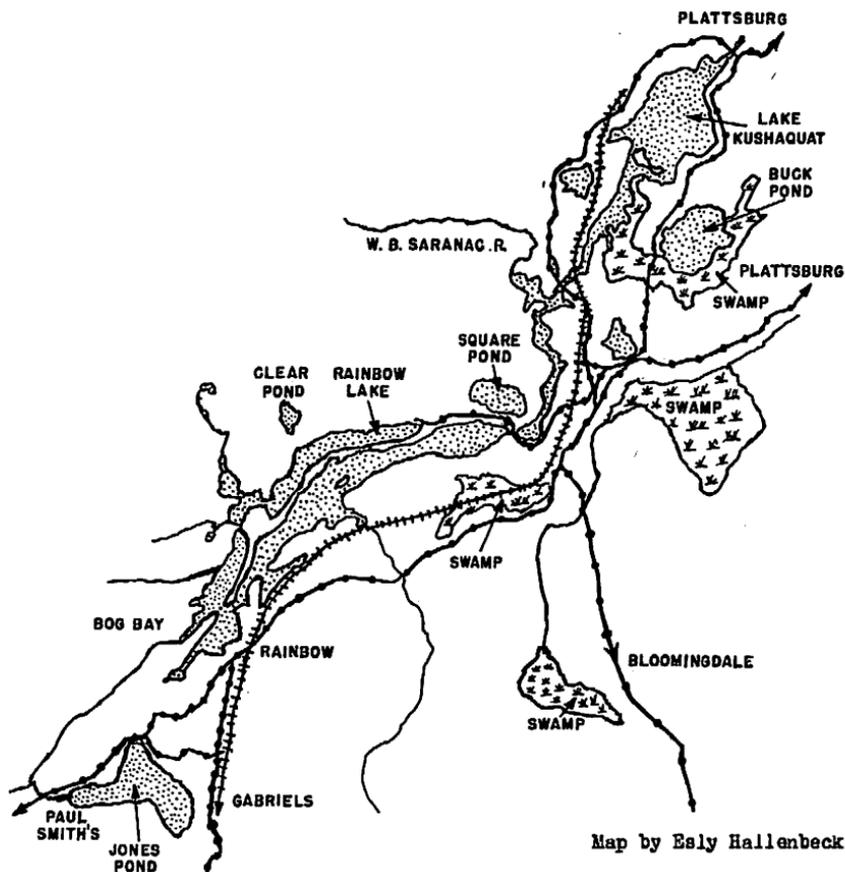
Ann and George Bainbridge

Seeking new waters on which to paddle our Folbot and hoping for good birding and prospects of other fauna, we decided on Rainbow Lake this past summer because of its connecting waterways and promising possibilities in wildlife. This lake is about 11 miles north of the northern end of Lower Saranac Lake. By rail on the Adirondack Division of the New York Central, the nearest station, Rainbow Lake Post Office on the east side of the southern end of the lake, is about 7-1/2 miles north of Saranac Junction. By automobile from Schenectady the distance is about 165 miles.

According to local stories, the name "Rainbow" comes from the bowed shape of the lake, which extends in a generally southwest and northeast direction for about 3-1/2 miles. On the northerly side of the lake and connecting therewith through a cut in a long, narrow, intervening ridge is Clear Pond. To the west of Clear Pond and Rainbow Lake is a winding waterway marked on the U. S. Geological Survey map (Saranac quadrangle) as Inlet, but known locally as the Grapevine, which is much more descriptive of its tortuous character. At the southern end of Clear Pond is a passageway for canoes and the like into the Grapevine. At the southern end of the Grapevine there is a passageway to Rainbow Lake. From the north end of Rainbow Lake it is possible to go directly into Lake Kushaqua and from there to Mud Lake.

The approximate elevation of these waters is 1665 feet. This level is held by a dam built about 1858 for lumbering purposes but now maintained by the State. According to local memories, this dam raised the water level about five to eight feet. In so doing, many shallow bays were formed. Some of these have developed bog islands and are slowly filling in, much as has happened at Consalus Vlaie (FEATHERS, Vol. 1, No. 5, page 21) and is happening at Elk Lake (FEATHERS, Vol. 4, No. 9, page 77) and in the glaciated lake districts of Canada where the bog is generally designated "muskeg".

At the southern end of Rainbow Lake is a practically bog-



filled bay of considerable extent. This bay proved very fruitful in the bird line. Thus, one evening while paddling slowly in the near dusk, a bird flew into the top of a tree almost overhead. Before we could get him in our glasses, he flew down to a floating but lodged log and drank his fill so close to us that glasses were unnecessary. To our delightful surprise, it was a Red Crossbill, a first for one of us and about the third of this species for the other.

Another evening while just barely moving through this Bog Bay, as we named it, we were able to get within about 15 feet of a sandpiper before he even deigned to notice us. A slight wind drift carried us still closer before this bird took off with a "jeet" note and displayed a white rump to tell us he was a White-rumped Sandpiper. After a short flight this bird again alighted on the edge of the bog and we had another but more distant view. It would seem that a White-rumped Sandpiper so far inland must have been a stray.

In general, the flora and fauna are characteristic of the Canadian zone, with red spruce, red pine, pitcher plant, Labrador tea, bladderwort, cotton grass and like vegetation abounding. While mammals were not numerous, White-tailed Deer, Otter, Maccoons, Red Squirrels, and Deer Mice were seen. In fact, one big fat 'coon made his way into the food-storage part of the lodge, only to get his toes pinched in a trap long enough to give him a lesson in that Commandment which says "Thou shalt not steal". Bog Bay also contained the remnants of three Beaver houses. Past work of Beaver was also evident at the end of navigation on the Grapevine where a battered beaver dam prevented further progress by boat.

Singing White-throats

White-throated Sparrows seemed to be everywhere, as one would expect. Generally speaking, these birds sang with the first of the two introductory notes lower than the second in pitch. One day in late afternoon near Rainbow Lake Station, two of these sparrows were singing, one as usual but the other led off with the first introductory note higher in pitch than the second. Upon imitating his song as nearly as possible, this bird seemed inclined to keep answering in kind until, having exhausted our whistling abilities, we traveled out of hearing of his song. Of all the appealing bird songs, we enjoy that of the White-throated Sparrow most.

In the vicinity of Rainbow Lake from August 3 to 17 the following 46 species of birds were found: Common Loon, Great Blue Heron, American Bittern, Black Duck, American Merganser, Red-shouldered Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Ruffed Grouse, White-rumped Sandpiper, Barred Owl, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Kingfisher, Flicker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Phoebe, Wood Pewee, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Robin, Hermit Thrush, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Blue-headed Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Northern Yellowthroat, Red-wing, Bronzed Grackle, Purple Finch, Goldfinch, Red Crossbill, Slate-colored Junco, Chipping Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

In farther but not distant sections, we found the Mallard, Kingbird, Bank Swallow and Indigo Bunting, the last three on the Rockefeller Preserve about five miles west of Paul Smiths. This preserve and an adjacent preserve in the duPont family also disclosed 12 White-tailed Deer during an early evening drive. A stream near the eastern border of the Rockefeller Preserve had a beautiful display of the cardinal flower.

SAFETY FIRST

It's hunting season -- and that can mean danger when you stalk birds -- there might be a trigger-happy individual who will shoot first and investigate afterwards as to the cause of a slight rustling in the woods. Maybe it'll be a little safer to stay in more open territory.

SPARROWS IN QUANTITIES

Glen H. Wilson

It was a beautiful Sunday morning when S B C made a trip to Watervliet Reservoir October 6. Although the water was very low the number of shore birds seen was not as good as it usually is; there had been some cold days the previous week.

An early investigation of the reservoir shore revealed numerous Killdeer, a pair of Greater Yellow-legs, and an immature Great Blue Heron.

Before the reservoir was given a thorough looking into, a field along Bozen Kill was explored and found to contain an abundance of sparrows: English, Savannah, Vesper, Chipping, Field, White-crowned, White-throated, and last, but not least, Song Sparrows. Along with the sparrows were found Goldfinches, Starlings, Cooper's Hawk (overhead), Robins, White-breasted Nuthatch, Chickadees, Crows, Prairie Horned Larks (overhead), Downy Woodpecker, Mourning Doves, and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.

Back at the reservoir a second time a Spotted Sandpiper, a pair of Lesser Yellow-legs, Kingfisher, Herring Gull and a lone Pectoral Sandpiper were seen.

Along the Normans Kill inlet to the west of the bridge a mature Great Blue Heron and a Blue-headed Vireo were among those found.

At the parking site were seen or heard a Flicker, Blue Jays, Catbird, Bluebirds, Magnolia Warbler, Red-wings, Bronzed Grackles, and a Meadowlark, making a total of 36 species for the morning.

BLUEBIRDS AND MYRTLES

Minnie B. Scotland

Four S B C members met on September 29 for the scheduled trip to Karner Sand Barrens. They had hoped to see migrating birds in their fall plumage. However, skies were overcast most of the time and it was not a day for good birding.

For three hours the birds were sought -- first to the right, then to the left, up over a hill and down on the other side, through brush, along roads, and across paths until the most experienced hiker of the group-admitted being lost in those barrens.

This roaming about in the wilds had its rewards for not

only were Bluebirds and Myrtle Warblers somewhat in abundance but also Black-polls, Goldfinches, Flickers, Catbirds, Bronzed Grackles, a Savannah Sparrow, Chipping Sparrows, and Song Sparrows were easy to check off.

A Cooper's Hawk came into view early on the trip. One of the party saw a family of Pheasants, and another spotted a Hermit Thrush, while a third ran down in the key, a Yellow Palm Warbler. A Towhee was heard several times, and the sound of the White-throated Sparrows came from a shrub just as the trip ended.

There were, of course, still other species recorded during the morning. In addition to the birds mentioned so far, there was a Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jays, Crows, Robins, Cedar Waxwings, Starlings, and English Sparrows.

Twenty-three species was the count for the field trip. The count was smaller than on Memorial Day (page 60), but that was expected.

TO REPRINT BENT VOLUME

Several S B C members have copies of the United States National Museum Bulletins by A. C. Bent on the Life Histories of North American Birds, fourteen of which have been issued. Few, however, possess all 14, and several of the numbers have become collectors' items.

It has now been announced that Dodd, Lead and Company, 432 Fourth Ave., New York 16, N.Y., will publish a reprint of Bulletin 107, Life Histories of North American Diving Birds, the first and rarest of the series. Since the edition will be limited, it has been suggested that those interested notify the publishers they would like to have an opportunity to purchase a copy. If the demand seems to warrant it, some of the other rare numbers may be reproduced.

AUDUBON SCREEN TOURS

PRESENTED BY THE SCHENECTADY BIRD CLUB
AND THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

NOV. 11—ALLAN D. CRUICKSHANK,
"SOUTH ALONG THE SUWANNEE"

Allan Cruickshank is well known to Schenectady nature-lovers as a speaker, photographer, and imitator of bird calls. In this film he follows the famous Suwannee River from its source deep in the great Okefinokee Swamp for 250 miles to the Gulf of Mexico, recording its weird and beautiful animal, bird, and plant life.

READY FOR CHRISTMAS COUNT

The eighth annual Christmas Count of the Schenectady Bird Club will be made Sunday, December 22, under the leadership of G. Malcolm Andrews. This is a change of date, in that the trip was originally scheduled for a week later. If heavy snow or rain, or extreme cold, occurs on the 22nd, the count may be postponed until the following Sunday but, if postponed, will then be on the 29th, regardless of the weather.

Plans for this popular annual event, conducted in cooperation with the National Audubon Society, will be made at the S B C meeting of December 16, at the G-E Women's Club. Those planning to participate in the Christmas Count are asked to attend this meeting as special check lists will be distributed and various parties will be assigned to cover designated areas within our 15-mile-diameter circle.

If you are planning to help with the Count but cannot be at the meeting, contact Mr. Andrews, 13 State Street, telephone 4-9136, so that you can be supplied with the necessary check-lists and schedules.

A wide variety of areas will be covered this year, offering plenty of opportunity for all to participate. These vary from urban feeding stations, Central Park, and Collins Lake, to more distant spots such as Niskayuna, Watervliet Reservoir, Indian Ladder, and others.

Last year 26 observers in nine parties recorded some 1600 individuals of 29 species within our 15-mile circle.

Members are urged to report to the Count leader the finding of any species not usually wintering here, so that a special effort can be made to locate the species on the day of the Count.

Any mass movements of Crows, Starlings, etc. should be noted as to locality and time of day, so these concentrations can be included December 22 (or December 29).

Those with feeding stations should keep a close check on bird visitors during December, as more southern species are often induced to remain in this area a little longer than usual if such an easily obtained food supply is available.

Let's make this year's Christmas Count a big success! We'll be looking for you December 16 and 22.

HAWKS OF ALL KINDS

Albert G. Guy

Early in his career every bird enthusiast hears about the famous Hawk Mountain in Pennsylvania. Probably he forms a mental picture of rocky crags high above the surrounding country, with hawks of all descriptions soaring about and perhaps occasionally taking a field mouse to their hungry nestlings. However, he is an exceptionally fortunate person if he ever has a chance to compare this picture with reality.

In the week-end of October 11 this good fortune fell to the lot of eleven members of the Schenectady Bird Club, and this log of the outing shows they were not disappointed.

On Friday afternoon, the 11th, three cars started from the Schenectady area loaded with lunches, raincoats, cameras, binoculars, and -- Alice Abel, Mac Andrews, Mabel Barnes, Helen Cole, Al Guy, Idella Heacox, Alice Holmes, Mary Kerley, Minnie Scotland, Bea Sullivan, and Nelle Van Vorst.

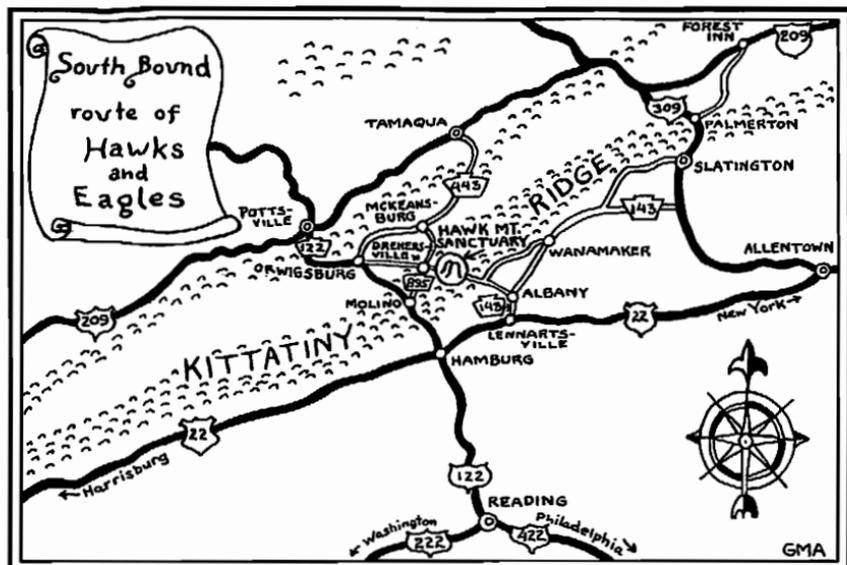
Rain, of Course

Needless to say, it was raining! When the group reached Hotel Minisink in Port Jervis, N. Y., a gentle pitter-patter on the window panes lulled them to sleep. Even on Saturday morning a steady drizzle was falling as the cars started on the second leg of the 240-mile trip. After breakfast at the Penn-Stroud in Stroudsburg, Pa., featuring griddle cakes with a topping of butter, syrup and orange marmalade, a pleasant drive through Slatington, Slatedale, Slateville, Slatetown, etc. brought the party to Hawk Mountain shortly before noon.

The automobile road takes one most of the way to the 1500-foot summit of the mountain, but a third of a mile of rocky foot path still remains to be traversed. At the entrance to this foot path the party was greeted by Mrs. Broun (The Brouns are the caretakers of the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary), and over a glass of sweet cider she told about the Golden Eagle that had flown over at 10 o'clock that morning. It was probably Nelle Van Vorst who philosophized that if she had been there at 10 the eagle would have hurried and been gone by 9.

The rain had stopped by this time, and the walk to the top was enlivened by numerous little signs along the way identifying trees, giving quizzes on birds, and telling the story of the local "Hall of the Mountain King." The "lookout" at the top of Hawk Mountain is a relatively flat area covered with large rock fragments.

Maurice Broun was there with several groups. He reported that the wind was blowing in the wrong direction for good hawking.



-- By G. M. Andrews, from H. M. S. A. map

Unfortunately the truth of this report was evident during the course of the afternoon, as only a relatively small number of birds were sighted. Included were a few Sharp-shinned, Cooper's and Sparrow Hawks, and several Turkey Vultures. However, a bright spot in the afternoon was the fact that the black clouds held back their load of raindrops; and just long enough, too. About 5 o'clock, when the party was safely settled in Mrs. Tyndall's boarding house in Orwigsburg, the rain started again.

Dinner at a local hotel was high-lighted by the possibility of having steak, not to mention the side-dish of juke-box. Since no dessert was served, the whole group later congregated in one of the rooms at the boarding house and had half a pint of ice cream and a candy bar all around. After a suitable discussion of the day's activities and of the possibility of seeing a Golden Eagle on the next day at 10 a.m., everyone hit the hay at an early hour.

Better Weather

Some time during the night the rain spent itself, for Sunday morning was beautiful and sunny. After eating a delicious breakfast served by Mrs. Tyndall and picking up the lunches for consumption during the ride home, the party set out for the mountain again. On the way to the lookout, rumor had it that the wind had shifted to a more favorable quarter. And indeed it was true! There at the top was Mr. Broun with his two pairs of binoculars, busily engaged in recording in a



notebook and on a hand-counter the number of various hawks that flew overhead, frequently half a dozen in sight at one time. Of course another rare bird had flown over before "A" hour. This time it was a Raven.

Hawks Aplenty

Those were very pleasant and exciting hours that sunny, balmy morning, sitting on that rocky prominence and watching the black specks appear over the distant peaks, draw closer, and finally fly overhead, giving the novice a chance to see the characteristic profile, the banded tail, or the red coloring at the shoulder. It was reassuring, too, to have Mr. Broun agree that the two over to the left were "Sharpies."

Perhaps it should have been expected, since it was just 10 o'clock, but everyone was extremely busy watching a Broad-winged that was hovering overhead.

"There's the Golden Eagle!" someone shouted. It was a little to the west of the mountain, a gigantic dark bird leisurely winging its way toward the south. When it had passed out of range Mr. Broun modestly took full credit for supplying a Golden Eagle to complete this wonderful day. Shortly after this high point, the group reluctantly started on the homeward trip.

During the stop for lunch any distraction was that of the many circling Turkey Vultures (no, not trying to eat the lunches or lunchees).

An idea of the number of hawks that flew over the mountain Sunday morning is given by Mr. Broun's list. He showed 410 individuals for Sunday, October 13, which was the best October record. He showed: 271 Sharp-shinned (225 to noon); 32 Cooper's (20 to noon); 56 Red-tailed; 20 Red-shouldered; 4 Golden Eagles (1 adult, 3 immature); 2 Ospreys; 6 Marsh; 2 Duck (both adult); 4 Pigeon; 11 Sparrow; and 2 Broad-winged (late). The previous day had only 41: 30 Sharp-shinned; 2 Cooper's; 3 Red-tailed; 1 adult Golden Eagle; and 1 Sparrow Hawk. Incidentally, there was a flight of 40 Golden Eagles in early November.

The S B C record for the trip included 35 species in all. In flight over the mountain were Turkey Vulture (20 residents at the mountain), Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Golden Eagle, Marsh Hawk, Pigeon Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Crow, Pipit, Rusty Blackbird (flock in flight). Along the mountain road or along the trail: Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Phoebe, Blue Jay, Chickadee, Robin, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Cape May Warbler, Black-poll Warbler, Goldfinch, Savannah Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Slate-colored Junco, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, and Song Sparrow. In the valleys: Turkey Vulture (common), Ring-necked Pheasant, Killdeer, Tree

Swallow, Crow, Bluebird, and Meadowlark. Away from the mountain, of course, the species recorded were hardly more than incidental.

Decorated Barns

After lunch, as the members of the party drove along the country roads of Lehigh County, they were afforded an excellent opportunity to examine and photograph the artistically decorated barns of this vicinity. For example, a large part of the side of one barn had been painted with a scene showing a number of very handsome horses. Other barns showed waterfalls, snowscapes, and a cow with her calf. Although the quality of some of the paintings was poor, many of them were very good. A common symbol was a circle enclosing a six-lobed star, measuring about four feet in diameter. These stars were placed high on the ends and sides of the barns, frequently in addition to the pictures.

When asked, the owner of one of the barns said that the decorations were simply designed to improve the appearance of the barns. However, it is likely that the custom originated in the belief that the symbols would keep evil spirits away. Cornelius Weygandt in "The Red Hills" claims that they were supposed to keep lightning from striking the barns, and also to prevent the animals housed in the barn from being bewitched or "ferhexed" as the vernacular has it.

A beautiful autumn moon, rising as the party drove into Schenectady Sunday night, helped to add a final golden touch to an eminently satisfactory trip. Eleven people are already waiting for the next Schenectady Bird Club trip to fabulous Hawk Mountain.

(An earlier S B C trip to Hawk Mountain, see FEATHERS, Vol. 2, No. 11, Nov., 1940, p. 54)

NEWS & NOTES IN BRIEF

GULLS AT COHOES

Below the state dam across the Mohawk River at Cohoes, Herring Gulls find it profitable to feed. The first returns, after an absence throughout July and most of August, numbered three on August 27. During September stragglers came, but it was throughout the month of October that the numbers really increased.

On October 5 the count was 50. On October 20 it was nearer 200. On October 26 there were easily 500, with many immature included. The gulls spend the night along the small branches of the Mohawk, although several no doubt ride the rippling water near the dam. In the morning some birds can be seen in this location, but more can be observed moving in from

the small streams and out into the open expanse below the dam. In the morning sunlight they look like hundreds of white, cottony masses on the surface of the water. This number of gulls exceeds any that has been counted in recent years. In contrast, at the same time the Hudson River had scarcely a gull.

-- Minnie B. Scotland

LATE EGRET

An American Egret remained late in the vicinity of Collins Lake. It was seen regularly until at least November 14, which was after several freezes.

-- Esly Hallenbeck

PILEATED

It was my good fortune to see a Pileated Woodpecker on October 20 along the road to Greenfield Center five miles north of Ballston Spa. The road is the seldom-traveled one between the two villages.

-- H. V. D. Allen

GROSBEAKS AGAIN

Among the first reports of Evening Grosbeaks: One seen by Cora T. Brockway at her home on November 9; a flock in the same week in Albany, reported to Dr. Scotland; a flock of six or eight at the Municipal Golf Course seen by Game Protector Chester Griffith in early November; one by Bill Bartlett near Oneida School November 18. And one flying over during the S B C trip to Saratoga Lake on November 10.

LADDER THRUSH

Among the birds recorded at Indian Ladder on October 13 was an Olive-backed Thrush.

-- Esly Hallenbeck

FOGGED GEESE

At 4 o'clock on the morning of October 28 I was awakened by the honking of wild geese, and on springing up I found they were apparently circling close over the roof-tops in a dense fog, as if confused. They could not have seen any landmarks, though probably the glow from street lights would have penetrated some distance into the fog. The honking lasted for several minutes. This was on the southwest edge of Albany, near St. Peter's Hospital. In such conditions any high building, such as the 32-story State Office Building, would seem to be a great danger to fast-flying geese.

-- Dr. Alvin G. Whitney

INJURED BARN OWL

A Barn Owl with a broken right wing was picked up on November 7 near the Albany Hospital entrance by an ambulance driver. The wing was x-rayed and then fixed by inserting a rod into the break and binding the mend with silk suture thread. The bird could flap, and was to be released later.

- JANUARY Winds There Were Abundantly (Christmas Count), Laura S. Beck, 1; Accommodating Buntings, Henry V. D. Allen, 4; On the Water Chestnut, Rudolph H. Stone, 5; It Was One of Those Mornings, Barrington S. Havens, 6.
- FEBRUARY Accidents Will Happen, Mabel W. French, 9; 1944 in Review, 11.
- MARCH Field Trip Records of 1945, Alice Holmes, 17.
- APRIL 1945 in Review, John L. Voght, 25.
- MAY Your Ears Can Fool You, Barrington S. Havens, 33; Spring Arrives, G. Malcolm Andrews, 36; A Late Snowy, Esly Hallenbeck, 37; Scaups and Ring-necks, Henry V. D. Allen, 38; Again the Reservoir, George H. Bainbridge, 39.
- JUNE A Hundred Plus, G. Malcolm Andrews, 41; In the Rain, Of Course, 45; Cerulean at Big Nose, Mary Guy, 45; The Worm-eater, As Ordered, 46; Booming Bittern, Alice Holmes, 47.
- JULY Why This Interest in Birds? B. D. Miller, 49; Suburban Observations, Dr. R. H. Harrington, 52; Board-walk Special, Everett G. Ham, 53.
- AUGUST Atop Greylock, Pauline Baker, 57; Lt. Lansfield and Bicknell's, Dr. Minnie B. Scotland, 59; Karner Karavan, Guy Bartlett, 60; -- And the Thrushes Sang, Nelle G. Van Vorst, 61; Mid-state Vacation, Dorothy W. Caldwell, 62.
- SEPTEMBER In the Old Home Town, Mabel W. French, 65; Graft at the G-E, 68; Pigeons and People, Viola Mabb, 68; Upstate Christmas Counts, 70; Reservoir Mud Flats, G. Malcolm Andrews, 71.
- OCTOBER Down in Maine, Eva I. Bateman, 73; Winter Diary, Laura S. Beck, 75; At the A. O. U., Lillian C. Stoner, 78; Kingston by Beat Car, Nelle G. Van Vorst, 79; Red-heads, Cora T. Brockway, 80.
- NOVEMBER Egrets, and More Egrets, Lillian C. Stoner, 81; Rainbow Lake, Ann and George Bainbridge, 84; Sparrows in Quantities, Glen H. Wilson, 87; Bluebirds and Myrtles, Minnie B. Scotland, 87.
- DECEMBER Ready for Christmas Count, 89; Hawks of All Kinds (Hawk Mountain), Albert G. Guy, 90.
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- NEWS AND NOTES Jan. 7; Feb. 16; Mar. 21; Apr. 32; May 40; June 48; July 54; Aug. 64; Sep. 72; Oct. 79; Dec. 93.

HIGH LIGHTS OF 1946

LOCAL RECORDS -- Loon, 27; Cormorant, 4, 5, 27, 39, 63, 82; Great Blue Heron, 12; American Egret, 27, 63, 64, 79, 81, 94; Little Blue Heron, 12, 64, 79; Least Bittern, 27; Canada Goose, 12, 40, 94; Brant, 27; Baldpate, 12; Pintail, 40, 43; Blue-winged Teal, 12, 64; Wood Duck, 71; Redhead, 12; Ring-necked Duck, 38; Lesser Scaup Duck, 12, 63; American Golden-eye, 28; Old-squaw, 28, 40; White-winged Scoter, 12; Ruddy Duck, 28; Hooded Merganser, 12; Turkey Vulture, 12, 63; Rough-legged Hawk, 6, 28, 60; Bald Eagle, 63, 64, 82; Pigeon Hawk, 55; Bob-white, 60; Coot, 13; Black-bellied Plover, 13; Woodcock, 40; Wilson's Snipe, 13; Upland Plover, 44; White-rumped Sandpiper, 13; Northern Phalarope, 13; Herring Gull, 13, 29, 93; King-billed Gull, 5, 29; Bonaparte's Gull, 63; Common Tern, 13, 29; Caspian Tern, 13; Mourning Dove, 29; Carolina Parakeet, 22; Barn Owl, 13, 48, 94; Snowy Owl, 1, 22, 29, 37; Saw-whet Owl, 9; Night-hawk, 29, 72; Hummingbird, 29; Pileated Woodpecker, 55, 94; Red-headed Woodpecker, 7, 13, 55, 80; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 13; Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker, 13; Tree Swallow, 41; Bank Swallow, 41; Barn Swallow, 14, 29, 41; Cliff Swallow, 48; Purple Martin, 48; Canada Jay, 14, 29; Blue Jay, 24; House Wren, 30; Carolina Wren, 14; Robin, 23; Wood Thrush, 30; Hermit Thrush, 14; Olive-backed Thrush, 14, 30, 94; Gray-cheeked Thrush, 14, 30; Bluebird, 14; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 60; Pipit, 14; Northern Shrike, 30; Red-eyed Vireo, 14; Warbling Vireo, 30; Worm-eating Warbler, 46; Brewster's Warbler, 16, 30; Parula Warbler, 30; Magnolia Warbler, 30; Cape May Warbler, 15, 48; Lyrtle Warbler, 31; Cerulean Warbler, 45; Bay-breasted Warbler, 31; Black-poll Warbler, 15, 31; Prairie Warbler, 15, 43, 60; Yellow Palm Warbler, 15; Bobolink, 31; Meadowlark, 15; Yellow-headed Blackbird, 16; Baltimore Oriole, 31; Rusty Blackbird, 31; Bronzed Grackle, 31; Cardinal, 15; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 15; Evening Grosbeak, 1, 15, 31, 42, 48 (2), 56, 94; Pine Siskin, 6, 15, 31; Lark Bunting, 16; Savannah Sparrow, 31; Vesper Sparrow, 31; Chipping Sparrow, 31; Field Sparrow, 31; White-crowned Sparrow, 8, 32; White-throated Sparrow, 16, 32; Fox Sparrow, 16; Swamp Sparrow, 32; Snow Bunting, 4.

AUTHORS -- Henry V. D. Allen, 4, 38, 94; G. Malcolm Andrews, 36, 41, 71; Ann and George H. Bainbridge, 84; George H. Bainbridge, 39, 55; Pauline Baker, 57; Guy Bartlett, 60; Eva I. Bateman, 73; Laura S. Beck, 1, 75; Cora T. Brockway, 7, 80; Dorothy W. Caldwell, 7, 21, 62; Mabel W. French, 9, 55, 56 (2), 65; Albert G. Guy, 90; Mary Guy, 45; Esly Hallenbeck, 37, 48, 94 (2); Everett G. Ham, 53; Dr. R. H. Harrington, 52; Barrington S. Havens, 6, 33, 54 (2), 55, 56; Alice Holmes, 17, 47; Viola Lobb, 68; B. D. Miller, 49; P. Schuyler Miller, 48; Dr. Minnie B. Scotland, 48 (2), 54, 55, 59, 87, 93; Rudolph H. Stone, 5; Lillian C. Stoner, 78, 81; Beatrice Sullivan, 68; Nelle G. Van Vorst, 16, 54, 61, 79 (2); John L. Voght, 25; Alvin G. Whitney, 48, 94; Glen H. Wilson, 87.

S B C TRIPS -- 1945 Christmas Count, 1; Saratoga Lake, Nov. 18, 1945, 4; 1945 Trip Summary, 17; Scotia, Mar. 9, 36; Watervliet Rsvr., Mar. 17, 37; Saratoga Lake, Apr. 7, 38; Watervliet Rsvr., Apr. 13, 39; Viscers, Apr. 28, 47; Central Park, May 5, 45; Big Nose, May 12, 45; Indian Ladder, May 18, 46; Karners, May 30, 60; Indian Ladder, June 5, 61; Greylock Mt., June 22-23, 57; Watervliet Rsvr., Aug. 25, 71; Karners, Sep. 29, 87; Watervliet Rsvr., Oct. 6, 87; Hawk Mt., Oct. 11-13, 90.

SULLIVAN -- 1945 Christmas, 1, 70; Year 1944, 11; 1945 Field Trips, 17; Year 1945, 25.

MAPS -- Rainbow Lake, 85; Hawk Mountain, 91.

LOCALITIES -- Local: Big Nose, 45; Central Park, 45; Century Run, 41; General Electric, 40, 55, 68, 72; Indian Ladder, 46, 55, 61; Karners, 60, 87; Kingston, 63, 79, 81; Niskayuna, 5, 79; Saratoga Lake, 4, 38, 39; Scotia, 36, 94; Tomhannock Rsvr., 8; Upper Hudson River, 23, 93; Schenectady Urban, 80; Viscers, 47, 63; Watervliet Rsvr., 37, 39, 87. Non-local: Greylock Mt., 57; Hawk Mt., 90; Long Island, 65; Maine, 73; Mt. Mansfield, 59; Rainbow Lake, 84; New York Upstate, 62.