

FEATHERS

Jan.
1947

Published by the Schenectady Bird Club

GREATER REDPOLL AND PHOEBE FEATURE 18TH CHRISTMAS COUNT

Cooper's Hawk Also New = Carolina Wren One Day
Off = Redpolls Second in Abundance = No
Owls = 3105 Individuals of 33 Species

G. Malcolm Andrews, Christmas Count Chairman

Schenectady, N.Y. (Same overall area as in 1929 and subsequent counts, but differing from 1945 area by reinclusion of Albany-Normanskill section, and omission of Central Park) -- Dec. 22; 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Cloudy, snow flurries, occasional sun; temp. 28° to 36°; wind W., 5 to 35 m.p.h.; ground covered 6-8 in. old snow; minimum of open water. Twenty-nine observers in 8 parties plus urban and suburban feeding station records. Total hours 50 (37 on foot, 13 by car); total miles 214 (51 on foot, 163 by car). Black Duck, 17; Goshawk, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 2; Marsh Hawk, 3; Sparrow Hawk, 2; Ruffed Grouse, 3; Pheasant, 6; Herring Gull, 10; Mourning Dove, 6; Kingfisher, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 8; Downy Woodpecker, 38; Phoebe, 1 (B.S., at close range along steep brushy bank of partially open stream, tail flicking noted); Horned Lark (sp?), 1; Blue Jay, 79; Crow, 427; Black-capped Chickadee, 205; White-breasted Nuthatch, 39; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Brown Creeper, 14; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 8; Starling, 894; English Sparrow, 219; Purple Finch, 1; Common Redpoll, 579 (numerous active flocks); Greater Redpoll, 1 (R.S., B.S., G.L.A., studied at 20 feet with 8x binoculars in flock of Common Redpolls feeding in road, larger size and darker coloration readily compared); Pine Siskin, 16; Goldfinch, 82; Slate-colored Junco, 116; Tree Sparrow, 308; Song Sparrow, 8; Snow Bunting, 8. Total, 33 species, 3105 individuals. (Carolina Wren at feeding station Dec. 23-24, V.J.S.) -- Mr. and Mrs. George H. Bainbridge, Pauline E. Baker, Guy Bartlett, William G. Bartlett, Mrs. Laura Beck, Mrs. Walter E. Blowney, Mrs. R. M. Brockway, Mrs. W. Lawrence Butler, Frank Freese, Mr. and Mrs. Esly Hallenbeck, Alice Holmes, B. D. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Chester N. Moore, Dorothy Sawyer, Minnie B. Scotland, Benton Seguin, Vincent J. Schaefer, Rudolph Stone, Mrs. Lillian C. Stoner, Nelle G. Van Vorst, Mr. and Mrs. John L. Voght, Lt.(Jg) Franklin H. West, Glen Wilson, James Zell, G. M. Andrews (Schenectady Bird Club).

33 SPECIES, 3105 INDIVIDUALS — 12-22-46

Party	Total	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Number of species	33	23	17	18	16	5	15	11	9	10
Total individuals	3105	555	281	523	166	49	931	97	188	315
Black Duck	17			17						
Goshawk	1						1			
Cooper's Hawk	1			1						
Red-tailed Hawk	2									
Larsh Hawk	3		2	1						
Sparrow Hawk	2		1							1
Ruffed Grouse	3	2						1		
Pheasant	6	4			1	1				
Herring Gull	10			7					3	
Lourning Dove	6		6							
Kingfisher	1			1						
Hairy Woodpecker	8	2		3	1				2	
Downy Woodpecker	38	7	1	11	4	1	1	1	10	2
Phoebe	1	1								
Horned Lark (Sp.?)	1	1								
Blue Jay	79	10	2	6	3					
Crow	427	4	79	17	5	4	34	5	15	200
Chickadee	205	45	8	20	33	2	103	15	12	8
White-br. Nuthatch	39	8	2	3	11		2	2	8	3
Red-br. Nuthatch	1						1			
Brown Creeper	14	8	1		2		1	2		
Golden-cr. Kinglet	8	4								
Starling	894	45	22	65	12		625	30	20	75
English Sparrow	219	28	23	52	10	10	24	14	40	18
Purple Finch	1									
Common Redpoll	579	240	1	180	10	32	97		20	
Greater Redpoll	1	1								
Pine Siskin	16	2	3	6	5					
Goldfinch	82	24	25	11	11		9			2
Junco	116	10	38	22	24				20	2
Tree Sparrow	308	91	66	100	32		3	11	5	
Song Sparrow	8	8								
Snow Bunting	8	8								

Participants

Party 1 - Lisha Kill, Niskayuna, Mohawk View; 8½ party-hours, 9 miles on foot. G. Li. Andrews, Benton Seguin, Rudolph Stone. 23 species, 555 individuals.

Party 2 - Meadowdale and Indian Ladder; 8 party-hours, 5 miles on foot, 43 miles by car. Alice Holmes, Dr. Minnie B. Scotland, Nelle G. Van Vorst. 17 species, 281 individuals.

Party 3 - Saratoga side of Mohawk River within 15-mile circle, Schenectady side at Lock 7, Saratoga side to Vischer

Ponds, west to G-E outlet on Schenectady side; plus Rosendale Road (lower), Knolls, Rosa Road, lower Troy and Consaul Road areas; 7 party-hours, 4 miles on foot, 45 miles by car. Guy Bartlett, William G. Bartlett, Chester N. Moore, Glen Wilson. 18 species, 523 individuals.

Party 4 - Watervliet Reservoir; 8 party-hours, 7 miles by foot, 26 miles by car. George H. Bainbridge, Esly Hallenbeck. 16 species, 166 individuals.

Party 5 - Town of Niskayuna, northeast of Mohawk Golf Club; 3 party-hours, 6 miles on foot. B. D. Miller. 5 species, 49 individuals.

Party 6 - Oxford Road; Washington Avenue from Oxford Road line to end of pavement; Fuller Road (all Albany); Six-Mile Waterworks and other side roads; Route 20 to Watervliet Reservoir pines, and six side roads; 6½ party-hours, 10 miles on foot, 19 miles by car. Pauline E. Baker, Mrs. Lillian C. Stoner, Lt. Franklin H. West, James Zell. 15 species, 931 individuals.

Party 7 - Collins Lake and Sunnyside Road, Scotia; 3 party-hours, 4 miles on foot. Dorothy Sawyer, Mr. and Mrs. John L. Voght. 11 species, 97 individuals.

Party 8 - Urban and suburban feeding stations. Mrs. George H. Bainbridge, Mrs. Laura Beck, Mrs. Walter E. Blowney, Mrs. R. M. Brockway, Mrs. W. Lawrence Butler, Mrs. Esly Hallenbeck, Mrs. Chester N. Moore. 9 species, 188 individuals.

Party 9 - Schermerhorn Road, Woestina Sanctuary, and Lock 8; 8 party-hours, 6 miles on foot, 30 miles by car. Vincent J. Schaefer, Frank Freese, Sr. 10 species, 315 individuals.

A "Normal" Day

Temperatures slightly above freezing plus the usual westerly winds combined to produce a somewhat "normal" day on December 22 for the S B C annual Christmas Bird Count. Although there were snow flurries in the morning, clearer weather prevailed over most of the area in the afternoon.

This year the Albany areas within the 15-mile circle were more extensively covered than in past years, but Schenectady's Central Park went unwatched. The net result was a considerable improvement over last year's totals of 1579 individuals of 29 species, due in no small part to the more normal temperatures.

Star performer of the Count was unquestionably the Common Redpoll. Three of the parties reported unusually large numbers of these birds in numerous, active flocks. Possibly the abundance of birch catkin food supply had something to do with the great flight of this species into the area.

As might have been expected with so great a wave of Red-



January, 1947

polls, one of the rare subspecies was positively identified feeding in the road at Niskayuna Village with a flock of the smaller Common Redpolls. This was the Greater Redpoll. The larger size and darker coloration were quite evident while the two species fed within a hand's breadth of each other.

And a Phoebe

Two other species were new on the total Count list. One was the Phoebe, found perched on a twig along an open section of the Lisha Kill. The other was a Cooper's Hawk, seen along the river at the G.E. This gives a grand total of 68 species for the 18 years of Christmas Counts held locally.

In order of abundance on this year's Count, the Starling took the lead, with the Common Redpoll second. Third comes last year's No. 1 species, the Crow; fourth the Tree Sparrow, and fifth the English Sparrow.

A single Carolina Wren was seen at the feeder of Mr. and Mrs. Schaefer on December 12, and again on December 23 and 24; but, as luck would have it, not on the day of the Count.

NEWS & NOTES IN BRIEF

MRS. WOODPECKER REMODELS

In our back yard we have a wren house which had an entrance the size of a quarter. Miss Wren looked it over at various times but never fully decided to make it her home.

It was late summer when the pecking sound of a Woodpecker was heard, but at first we could not detect where the sound came from; finally we spied Mrs. Downy Woodpecker pecking around the hole in the wren house. This lasted for some time, until entrance was obtained. The house was occupied by Mrs. Woodpecker for a short time, after which it was left to the sparrows.

-- R. S. Burnstead

FLOCKED CREEPERS

Brown Creepers are usually recorded only a few at a time, even when they are common. In the middle of November Mrs. R. K. Lepper of Ballston Lake saw between 20 and 25 of them in a tree beside her home.

1946 RECORDS NEEDED

Now is the time to pass in your records for 1946. John L. Voght is preparing the summary for an early issue -- and only if all records are turned in will the true picture be presented.

HAWK ANTICS OF MOURNING DOVES

Dr. Minnie B. Scotland

"At this (nesting) season one or both birds may be seen performing a peculiar aerial evolution. Ascending to a height of about 30 feet, they fly for some distance in an unnatural manner, and then, after a short sail, return to their perch. When engaged in this performance they very closely resemble a Sharp-shinned Hawk." Chapman: Birds of East. No. America

"Another distinctive habit of the bird, especially during the mating and nesting season, is that of the male in rising from its perch, with violent flapping of wings and flying at a sharp angle to a height of a hundred feet or more, when the flight ceases and the bird returns to the same or another perch, by sailing on motionless wings which are usually held at a downward angle, like those of a gliding Snipe or Sand-piper. This performance seems to be purely a sexual manifestation intended to impress the female." Pearson: Birds of Amer.

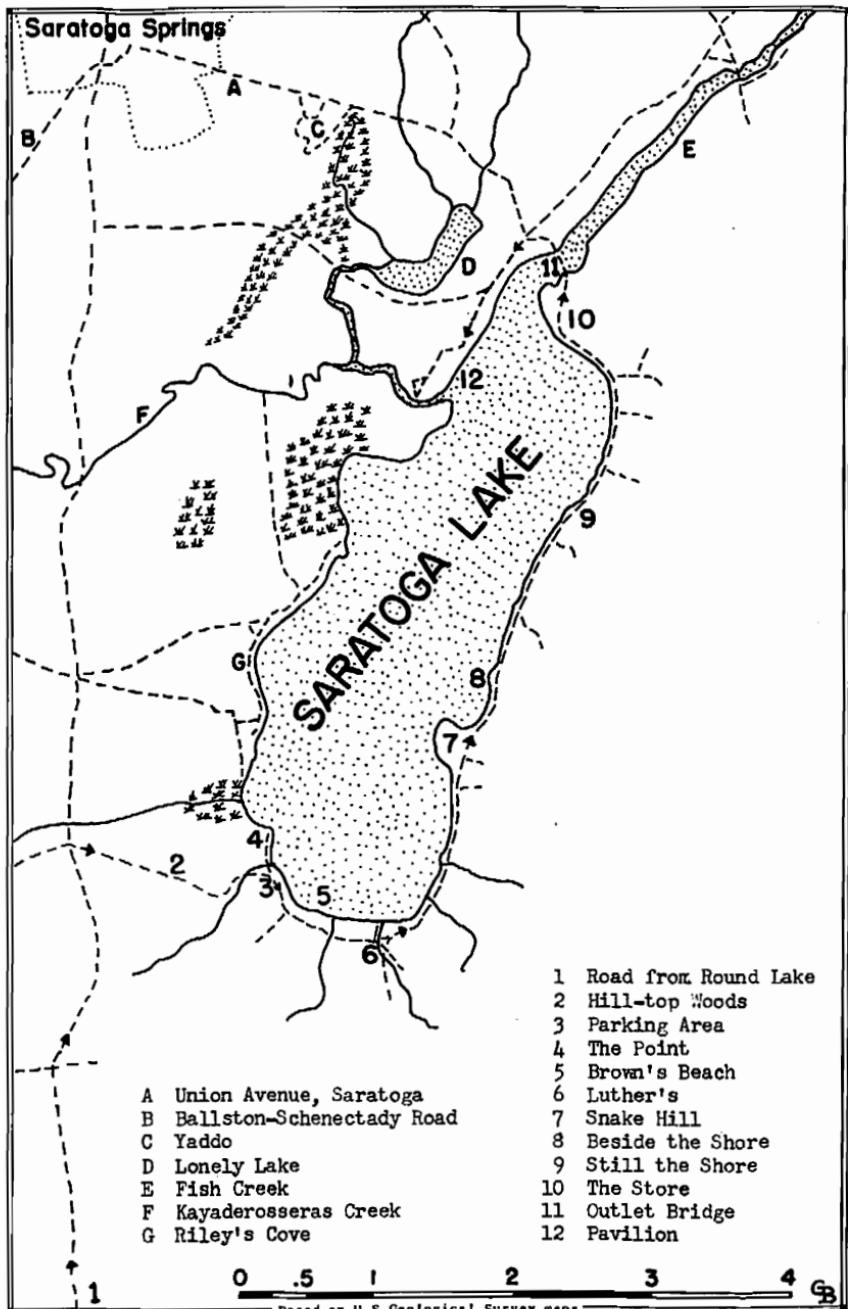
"In the wild state, when the nesting season approaches, both birds make curious acrobatic flights above the tree-tops; then, after a short sail in mid-air, they return to their perch. This appears to be their only giddiness and frivolity, unless a dust bath in a country road might be considered a dissipation." Blanchan: Bird Neighbors

As the New Yorker would say, "Which paper do you read?" At any rate the flight of two Mourning Doves last July 8 resembled that of hawks to such an extent as to puzzle the observers. Again and again long dives followed the soaring movements of the Doves.

SARATOGA IN NOVEMBER

First the usual statistics -- the regularly scheduled SBC trip of Sunday, November 10, to Round and Saratoga Lakes included eleven observers in four automobiles; was on a clear, practically windless day with the temperature about 50 degrees; and accounted, at the lakes themselves, for 28 species. Included were:

Loon, several; Horned Grebe, few; Mallard, fairly common; Black Duck, very common; Green-winged Teal, few; Ring-necked Duck, one flock; Scaup Duck, one flock; American Golden-eye, about 30; White-winged Scoter, one female; Hooded Merganser, one male; Killdeer, two; Herring Gull, about 20; Ring-billed Gull, few; Downy Woodpecker; Prairie Horned Lark, flock of a dozen in overhead flight; Blue Jay; Crow; Chickadee; Golden-crowned Kinglet; Starling; English Sparrow; Evening Grosbeak, one in flight, calling; Goldfinch; Junco; Tree Sparrow, abun-



dant; White-throated Sparrow; Fox Sparrow, two or three; and Song Sparrow.

Still another species was recorded that day by those in one of the cars -- they stopped at the lower Lohawk on their way home and added a late Great Blue Heron. It was late because it had two broken wings; the bird had been seen there several times previously.

Scope at Work

'So much for the statistics. Now for some general observations. There were no hawks on the day's record; Cormorants were absent; and water birds were lacking at Round Lake. Of the 28 species recorded, eight were species of ducks, and five more were water or shore birds. Some would probably have remained unidentified if a 40-power telescope had not been used. In many cases, however, it was not difficult to follow the different species with 6-, 8- or 10-power binoculars after they had been pointed out in the telescope. (Even with the telescope there were questions for a while as to Hooded Merganser or Bufflehead, and Surf or White-winged Scoter; but these questions were finally answered, and detail views of each obtained.)

The accompanying map, incidentally, shows a recommended route for those not already familiar with Saratoga Lake possibilities. Considering the direction of the sun, it is good for morning trips. It should be noted that cars must be parked at Point 3, and Point 4 visited on foot.

A Few Hints

Now for a few hints. Hunting season was open; there was plenty of shooting back in the woods and fields; there were boats with fishermen on the lake, and a few with gunners. On a few occasions the ducks, mostly massed in one or two large rafts out in the center of the lake, were flushed into flight (intentionally?) by low-flying planes, and once by three men in a boat who shot from a hopeless distance.

When the large flocks, or rafts, were in flight, it was easily apparent from the way the underwings flashed gray-silver-white that the big majority were Black Ducks; occasional lighter-colored bodies indicated Mallards; and a few, much smaller, faster-beating individuals indicated Teal.

Eight species of ducks were identified on the trip, but actually hundreds of individuals on the lake were not closely scrutinized -- and there was hardly need to do so. It was apparent that nearly all in the main rafts were Blacks. Just as it is far more profitable, species-wise, to concentrate on the edge of a forest or deep woods rather than well within the growth, so are more species of ducks found by concentrating on the lone individuals, those leading or trailing the main raft,

and those few not diving when all others do, or diving when the others do not. And, with the birds in flight, by watching those that rise ahead or after the main flock, those breaking away from the main group, which fly lower or trailing, or which are conspicuously different because of size, rapidity of wing beat, etc.

Only Black Ducks and Mallards were identified in the main rafts, for instance; with Green-winged Teal spotted occasionally by size. The Loons were spread over the lake, singly or by pairs; Horned Grebes were similarly spread wide apart by themselves. The Ring-necked, Scaup and Golden-eyes were found as small flocks by themselves, with Golden-eyes in one case just shoreward from the main raft. The Scoter was all alone, far from the rafts. The Hooded Merganser was even more on its own, feeding fairly close to one of the Grebes close to swamp growth.

One more hint -- watch the poles out from Brown's Beach. There has been a pretty good record of both Ring-billed and Herring Gulls holding down perches there, making size and other comparisons easy. And, with the two in flight, there's a good chance of a faster wing-beat for the Ring-billed. Of course there's a size difference, too, of the two in flight, but that can be tricky on lone birds. And, to settle any points, there are the color patterns of the two. -- G.B.

SARATOGA IN DECEMBER

To see what could be found on Saratoga Lake in early December, several S B C members spent the morning of December 1 along its shore. It was a windy, gray morning, so very few land birds were in evidence. The chatter of the Chickadees invited the group to stop along a wooded section. Almost immediately a flock of "sispolls" feeding high in the top of some birches gave the folk a challenge to identify them. After careful study the black chin-patch of the Redpolls revealed their presence, the stripes and the yellow patches the Siskins, and olive coloring the Goldfinches in their somber winter plumage.

The rough water almost hid the few birds on the south end of the lake. Quality there offset the quantity of the previous trip. Two Red-throated Loons enjoying their breakfast and one Hooded Merganser seeking shelter in a small cove were the only ones seen. The usual Herring Gulls and one full-plumaged Ring-billed guarded Brown's Beach, as is their custom.

As the hunters with scope and binoculars searched the surface of the lake, a flock of Canvas-backs flew low over the water, the white backs and wings revealing their identity. Farther along, a large raft of American Golden-eyes and Scaup surrounded three male Canvas-backs. About fifteen of these beautiful ducks were recorded in total.

-- N.V.V.

FEATHERS

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Birds of Eastern New York

(From Booklet Published in 1937)

There have been records of nearly 300 species of birds in Schenectady, Albany, Rensselaer and Saratoga counties through 1936. Some birds have been recorded locally only once, possibly many years ago. There are birds which on old lists were shown as common and which today are very rare, or even extinct. There are others which were not included on local lists of a quarter of a century ago and which today are regularly recorded.

Records in the list for and prior to 1908 are from Eaton's "Birds of New York" for the four counties named, and from Judd's "Birds of Albany County." Records of more recent years are from unpublished notes of different observers and cover a smaller territory, including Schenectady county complete, Albany county except for the most southern part, western Rensselaer county, and southern Saratoga county.

Average seasons are first indicated and then, by specific dates and names of the observers, are shown the maximum dates.

Commonness of species has been indicated by such terms as very rare, rare, uncommon, not uncommon, fairly common, common, very common, abundant, extremely abundant. To indicate an owl as common has not meant that it is present in numbers approaching those of a common sparrow; the relative abundance has been indicated in comparison with similar birds. "Occasional" indicates that records are infrequent, often with several years between observations; "irregular" indicates that the species is not recorded every year but is found in a majority of them. Both winter visitors and summer residents are, in most cases, more abundant as transients; only when the difference in numbers is extreme, as in the case of the golden-

crowned kinglet as a transient and as a winter visitor, has note been made of the difference. Most summer residents are "local" to some extent—such as red-wings in swamps, meadowlarks in fields, etc.; in this list the indication "local" has been used to show that the bird is not distributed generally, as in the case of the yellow-breasted chat which is known to nest in very restricted sections.

The list roughly divides the species into permanent resident, summer resident, summer straggler, winter visitor, transient visitor, and accidental visitor. In many cases, such as the goldfinch which has been shown as a permanent resident, it may seem that "summer resident" would be more appropriate. Similarly, some birds indicated as transient visitors might properly be called summer residents and perhaps some of those shown as summer residents might better be classed as transient visitors. However, the added notations in the list will aid in any reassessment that may seem advisable. In this connection it is realized that many birds considered as permanent residents are represented by different individual birds in different seasons, with the crow as an example at least to some extent.

LOONS

Common Loon

Irregular and uncommon transient visitor, April to mid-May, and October and November; rare winter visitor when water is open; and also rarely recorded as a non-breeding summer visitor. Although not frequently seen on local water, it is a breeding summer resident on various Adirondack lakes, particularly in the northern part.

Maximum dates—February 22, 1920

This issue of FEATHERS comprises a reprint, with some omissions because of space limitations, of the 1937 booklet on "Birds of Eastern New York." Much of the information is incomplete today; please submit your suggested changes to the Records Committee for the revision now being prepared. Additional copies of this issue, 15 cents each, are obtainable from Nellie Van Vorst, 8 Swan St., Schenectady, N.Y.

(Houghton), to June 6, 1915 (Houghton), and October (Eaton, Rensselaer county) to December 6, 1930, as a transient visitor. Also, January 28, 1930, as winter visitor (state museum record, bird liberated at Watervliet by Game Protectors Frerer and Vickers); and during a recent summer along the Normanskill as a non-breeding summer visitor (Vincent J. Schaeffer).

Pacific Loon

No recent record. Listed by Eaton as a questioned accidental visitor in Rensselaer county. Eaton, vol. I, p. 108: "According to F. S. Webster, he once saw a female of this species which had been shot by a gunner on the Hudson river near Troy."

Red-throated Loon

Accidental or rare transient visitor. One recorded at Watervliet reservoir November 16 and 17, 1935; and one independently observed at Saratoga lake November 11, 1935, by Dr. Dayton Stoner, state museum. Shown by Eaton as recorded once, 1904, in Albany county; as a rare transient in Saratoga county; and as a rare transient from September 21 to 29 in Rensselaer county.

GREBES

Holboell's Grebe

Uncommon transient (more common in autumn), late April, and late October and November; rare winter visitor (usually recorded as stranded).

Maximum dates—April 18, 1931, to May 1, 1935 (Seguin), and October 12 (Eaton, Saratoga county) to November 24, 1932. Miscellaneous winter dates, including February 23, 1923, (state museum record, Schoonmaker, field in Rensselaer county); February, 1930 (few records, in and near both Schenectady and Albany); February, 1934 (Schenectady, two; Albany, three; Delmar, one).

Horned Grebe

Not uncommon transient visitor, late February to late April, and mid-October through November; rare winter visitor.

Maximum dates—February 22, 1929 (Houghton), to May 7, 1932, and October 10 (Eaton, Rensselaer county), to November 22, 1931; also recorded December 10, 1929 (Nichols), February 2, 1930 (Houghton), and December 22, 1932 (Overstreet), as winter dates.

Pied-billed Grebe

Fairly common transient visitor, particularly in autumn; rare local summer resident breeds. Transient visitor in April, and September through early November.

Maximum dates—March 27, 1932 (Overstreet), to May 8, 1935, and August 26, 1923 (Houghton); to November 11, 1933, as transient visitor, plus summer dates.

TUBE-NOSED SWIMMERS

Leach's Petrel

Accidental visitor. Recorded at Lock 7, Niskayuna, on August 26 and 27, 1933, following severe coastal storm. (There were numerous other simultaneous upstate records, mostly for dead or dying birds; and there were simultaneous Schenectady records for the black skimmer, herring gull, and ruby-crowned kinglet as storm victims.)

Additional old records, by Eaton—opposite North Troy, September 29, 1890, A. F. Parks, Mass; Lansingburg, November 13, 1879, (William Gibson) Thomas Heimstreet; Hudson river above Troy, October, 1879, Park, N. O. C. Bulletin, Vol. 5 p. 190; Lansingburg, November 3, 1888 (William Gibson) Austin F. Parks.

TOTIPALMATE SWIMMERS

White Pelican

No recent record. Shown by Eaton as an accidental visitor November 17, 1888, in Saratoga county

Gannet

No recent record. Shown by Eaton as an accidental visitor in Saratoga county once

Double-crested Cormorant

Irregular, rare autumn transient visitor; spring transient visitor once. Recorded May 16, 1921, at Crescent (Bedell); and November 13, 1879 (Eaton, Lansingburg); September 21, 1888 (Eaton, Albany and Rensselaer counties); October 13, 1928, at Watervliet reservoir (Houghton); October 15, 1932, at Niskayuna; and three at Niskayuna October 7 to 15, 1933 (one of these shot as goose October 15, when hunting season was opened.)

HERONS, IBISSES

Great Blue Heron

Not uncommon spring transient visitor, early April; fairly common autumn transient visitor, late July through November; probable local summer resident (occasional summer dates in recent years; shown by Eaton as a common, breeding summer resident in Rensselaer county), and occasionally recorded in winter.

Maximum dates—March 30, 1925 (Bainbridge), to May 19, 1934, and July 4, 1934, to November 29, 1929 (Havens) as transient visitor, plus miscellaneous summer dates; one reported to have wintered through 1930-1931 and 1931-1932 winters near Ballston Spa; one found recently shot at Niskayuna December 24, 1933; one recorded at Schenectady January 1 and 15, 1934 (Getz and Moore); and one at Galway, December 31, 1935 (R. C. Buell).

American Egret

Irregular summer visitor; Mohawk river fairly regularly, Watervliet reservoir irregularly, and Central Park, Schenectady, once. Recorded late July to late September.

No early records.

Maximum dates—July 9, 1933, to September 29, 1936.

Snowy Egret

No recent record. Shown by Eaton as an accidental visitor in Saratoga county

Little Blue Heron

Accidental or rare summer straggler, usually in immature (white) plumage. Recorded April 13, 1922 (blue phase) at Waterford (Bedell); August 5, 1923, at Watervliet reservoir (Houghton); and August 16, 1931, at Niskayuna (Bartlett).

Eastern Green Heron

Common summer resident, breeds; late April to early October. Maximum dates—April 10, 1932 (Bedell), to October 16, 1932.

Black-crowned Night Heron

Very common local summer resident, breeds; transient visitor mid-April to early May, and early August to late September. Winter records in 1935-1936 and 1936-1937.

Maximum dates—March 16 (1924, Houghton; 1935, Maynard), to October 15, 1932. Also two, dead, in December, 1935 (P. S. Miller), and one immature, dead, December 27, 1936.

American Bittern

Fairly common transient visitor; uncommon summer resident, breeds; late April to mid-October.

Maximum dates—March 27, 1932, to October 28, 1934.

Eastern Least Bittern

Rare local summer resident, breeds; more common as autumn transient visitor; late May to early September.

Maximum dates—May 14, 1932, to September 17, 1933.

Wood Ibis

No recent record. Two records by Eaton, vol. 1, p. 245.

SWANS, GEESE AND DUCKS

Whistling Swan

Immature bird illegally shot on river at Niskayuna, November 4, 1935; in state museum as No. 5642. Shown by Eaton, in his tabulation by counties, as an accidental visitor in Rensselaer county

Common Canada Goose

Not uncommon transient visitor, more common in autumn; mid-March to mid-May, and late October to early November; recorded once as winter visitor.

Maximum dates—March 2, 1935 (Steel), to May 12, 1929 (Houghton), and October 11, 1932 (Bedell), to November 21, 1920 (Houghton). Also a flock of six at Niskayuna on January 16 and 17, 1932.

Hutchins' Goose

No recent record. Shown by Eaton as accidental visitor; vol. 1, p. 233: "Mr. F. S. Webster states that it was taken once in Rensselaer county."

American Brant

Rare transient. Only recent record, flock at Watervliet reservoir, March 23 to April 5, 1930. Eaton. Occasional transient visitor in Rensselaer county.

Lesser Snow Goose

Greater Snow Goose

No early records: A flock of white geese visited a small pond in the Mont Pleasant section of Schenectady in the autumn of 1921 or 1922. Some of the flock were shot by residents of the neighborhood, and eaten. Probably the greater snow goose recorded locally.

Common Mallard

Fairly common transient visitor, early March to early April, and October and November. Uncommon winter visitor when water is open.

Maximum dates—March 4, 1923 (Bedell), to May 23, 1936 (Janice), and September 2, 1933 and 1934, to December 26, 1931. Also miscellaneous winter dates, especially along Hudson river above Waterford.

Bed-legged Black Duck

Not uncommon winter visitor when water is open; common transient visitor, late November and early December, and late February to late March. Often mixed in flocks with common black ducks, with the particular sub-species not always recognized. See next species for complete record. No early record, the sub-species not having been recognized by Eaton.

Maximum dates—October 19, 1932, to November 24, 1932, and March 16, 1935, to April 24, 1921 (Bedell), as transient visitor, plus winter dates.

Common Black Duck

Abundant transient visitor; local summer resident, breeds; occasional winter visitor in with flocks of red-legged black ducks. (See preceding species.) Transient visitor, mid-March through mid-April, and mid-September through October.

Maximum dates—March 5, 1932, to May 20, 1933, and August 7, 1933, to November 24, 1932, as transient visitor, plus summer and winter dates.

Gadwall

Occasional, rare transient visitor. Recent records, all at Niskayuna, have included four from September 21 to 23, 1932; two September 18, 1933; and four September 2, 1934.

Baldpate

Uncommon transient visitor, April, and late September to mid-November.

Maximum dates—March 25, 1933, to April 30, 1932, and September 13, 1936, to November 15, 1931.

American Pintail

Uncommon (occasionally common) transient visitor, late March to mid-April, and late September to late October.

Maximum dates—March 16, 1930, to April 22, 1933, and 1934, and September 2, 1934, to November 21, 1931.

Green-winged Teal

Not uncommon transient visitor, late March through early April, and early October to mid-November.

Maximum dates, March 14, 1921 (Bedell), to April 23, 1933, and August 14, 1932, to November 17 (Eaton, Albany county).

Blue-winged Teal

Uncommon (occasionally more common) transient visitor, early April, and late August through September.

Maximum dates, March 28, 1928 (Houghton), to April 23, 1933, and August 26, 1934, to October 28, 1934.

Shoveller

Rare transient, visitor. One female at Niskayuna October 15, 1933; one female at Niskayuna November 11, 1934; one female at Niskayuna November 10, 1935.

Wood Duck

Uncommon transient visitor; formerly a rare summer resident through the section; and today be-

Lived to be a rare local summer resident, but with definite records not available. Transient visitor late March and early April, and late September to late October.

Maximum dates, March 25 (1929, Nichols; 1933, Havens), to April 30, 1932, and September 27, 1931 to October 28, 1934. (To December 29, Eaton, Albany county).

Redhead

Irregular, uncommon transient visitor, late March and early April, and mid-October to mid-November.

Maximum dates, March 20, 1932, to April 3, 1922 (Bedell), and October 15, 1932 and 1933, to November 13, 1932.

Ring-necked Duck

Irregular, rare transient visitor (not uncommon in 1933 and 1934); late March to mid-April, and late November.

Maximum dates, March 22 (Eaton, Albany and Saratoga counties) to April 28, 1934, and November 11, 1933, to November 20, 1932.

Canvas-back

Rare transient, late March and mid-November. One winter record.

Maximum dates, March 13, 1932, to April 28, 1934, and November 15, 1931, to December 2, 1933. Also, one with mergansers at the Gatemay bridge, Schenectady, January 21, 1934.

Greater Scaup Duck

Lesser Scaup Duck

(The greater scaup duck has been definitely identified locally on numerous occasions, but the lesser scaup duck far outnumbers it. Dates for the two have been considered the same.)

Not uncommon (occasionally common) transient visitor, mid-March through April, and late October to mid-November.

Maximum dates, February 22, 1920 (Houghton), to May 24, 1933, and September 23, 1932, to December 3, 1932. Also, July 4, 1921 (Houghton).

American Golden-eye

Not uncommon winter visitor when water is open; fairly common transient, early March to mid-April and late November to winter.

Maximum dates—November 11, 1934, to ice, and March 11, 1935, to May 6, 1921 (Houghton) as transient visitor, plus winter dates.

Barrow's Golden-eye

Recent questioned and unlisted record of one male at Niskayuna on December 12, 1931 (Bartlett). One record by Eaton, vol. 1, p. 211: "There is a male in the state museum, park collection, No. 157, taken on Green Island, Albany county, January 21, 1887."

Buffle-head

Uncommon transient visitor, late March and early April, and November.

Maximum dates—March 12, 1930, to April 29, 1933 and 1934, and October 20 (Eaton, Albany county) to November 26, 1931.

Old-squaw

Irregular and uncommon (formerly fairly common) transient visitor (also former winter visitor). Transient March and early April, and November.

Maximum dates—February 13, 1923 (Bedell), to May 23 (Eaton, Albany county), and October 29, 1932, to November 11, 1933.

King Eider

Pair at Crescent lake on April 30, 1922, (Bedell). No early record.

White-winged Scoter

Irregular, uncommon transient visitor, late April and early May, and late October to mid-November. The most common of the scoters locally.

Maximum dates—April 16, 1922 (Bedell), to May 27, 1933, and September 27, 1933 (Overstreet), to November 26, 1934.

Surf Scoter

Rare transient visitor, early May and October. Only recent records May 7, 1932, and October 5, 1935. Shown by Eaton as uncommon transient visitor in Albany county from September 29 to October 28.

American Scoter

Irregular, uncommon transient visitor; no spring records. Recent records on November 21, 1931; October 22, 1933; October 7, 1934 and November 4, 1935. Shown by Eaton as an occasional transient visitor in Albany county September 24 to October 3.

Ruddy Duck

Rare transient visitor, late October and November; no spring records.

Maximum dates—October 22, 1933, to November 22, 1931.

Hooded Merganser

Not uncommon transient visitor, late March to mid-April, and mid-October to mid-November.

Maximum dates—March 15 (Eaton, Saratoga county) to April 27, 1935, and October 14, 1929 (Nichols), to November 22, 1931. Also, one male in mixed flock on Hudson river above Waterford on February 17, 1934.

American Merganser

Common winter visitor when water is open; very common transient visitor; early November to mid-April.

Maximum dates—March 2, 1935, to May 12, 1932, and October 14 (1929, Nichols; 1933; and 1934) to November 23, 1934, as transient visitor, plus winter dates. Also one female (with injured wing) at Niskayuna as summer resident in 1933.

Red-breasted Merganser

Irregular, uncommon winter visitor; not uncommon transient visitor; late November to mid-April.

Maximum dates—March 12, 1930, to May 27, 1921 (Houghton), and November 11, 1933, to winter ice, as transient visitor; plus winter dates.

BIRDS OF PREY

Turkey Vulture

No early record. State museum records show one shot by Clarence Garvey, Rensselaer, spring of 1929; and one recorded by J. V. A. Eaton, Selkirk, late March, 1930. Also, newspaper account of one seen soaring during the winter of 1930-1931 at Esperance, and of a few seen near Lake Duane during the summer of 1930.

Black Vulture

No definite record. Newspaper account in 1931 stated black vulture had been shot on a Delanson farm in 1909.

Swallow-tailed Kite

No recent record. Recorded by Eaton as a rare summer resident, June 9, 1900 and June 16, 1886, possibly breeding in Rensselaer county.

Eastern Goshawk

Irregular, generally uncommon, winter visitor; late November through early February.

Maximum dates—September 26, 1936 (Janiec, Houghton), to March 30, 1935 (VanVorst).

Sharp-shinned Hawk

Fairly common transient visitor; uncommon summer resident, breeds; occasional winter visitor. Transient visitor April and October.

Maximum dates—March 25, 1934 to May 5, 1929 (Nichols), and September 16, 1934, to November 20, 1931, plus summer and breeding dates, and occasional winter dates.

Cooper's Hawk

Fairly common transient visitor; uncommon summer resident, breeds; occasional in winter. Transient visitor in early March through April and early September to mid-October.

Maximum dates—Transient visitors or summer residents arrived March 6, 1932; transient visitor September 9, 1934, to November 11, 1933, plus summer and winter dates.

Eastern Red-tailed Hawk

Common transient visitor; uncommon summer resident, breeds; irregular (occasionally not uncommon) winter visitor; transient visitor in early April and October.

Maximum dates—March 5, 1933, to May 10, 1936 (Janiec), and August 26, 1933, to November 30, 1930, as transient visitor, plus summer and winter dates.

Northern Bed-shouldered Hawk

Common transient visitor; fairly common summer resident, breeds; irregular (occasionally not uncommon) winter visitor. Transient visitor mid-March through April, and late September through October.

Maximum dates—March 5, 1933, through April; and September 24, 1924 (Houghton) to November 18, 1934, as transient visitor, plus summer and winter dates.

Broad-winged Hawk

Fairly common transient visitor (formerly occasional summer resident, and may still be in Helderbergs, etc.), April and May, September and October.

Maximum dates—March 14, 1922 (Bedell), to May 30, 1917 (Houghton), and September 2, 1933, to November 21, 1930 (Havens).

American Rough-legged Hawk

Irregular (occasionally not uncommon) winter visitor, November through March.

Maximum dates—October 28, 1929 (Nichols), to April 3, 1929 (Houghton). Also May 8, 1932 (Overstreet).

Golden Eagle

No recent local records. A state museum record card shows one trapped at Austerlitz mountains, Columbia county, December 10, 1927.

Southern Bald Eagle

Irregularly seen throughout the year; believed to be a breeding resident near Tomhannock reservoir and possibly in the Helderbergs and other wild sections. Records most frequent in March, May, June, August and September.

Marsh Hawk

Fairly common (occasionally uncommon) summer resident, breeds; irregular (occasionally not uncommon) winter visitor; common tran-

silent visitor; summer resident early April to mid-October.

Maximum dates—March 3, 1924 (Houghton), to November 22, 1930, plus winter records.

Osprey

Not uncommon transient visitor (formerly a breeding summer resident), mid-April through early May, and early September to mid-October.

Maximum dates—April 10, 1922 (Houghton), to June 15, 1930; and August 13, 1932 (Overstreet), to October 23, 1932.

White Gyrfalcon

No recent record. Eaton, Vol. 2, p. 95—"Mr. Frederic S. Webster reports one killed near Troy, in the winter of 1874."

Duck Hawk

Rare local resident, breeds; irregularly seen in any month throughout the local section.

Eastern Pigeon Hawk

Rare transient; irregularly recorded in various months. Dates have included March 17, 1933 (Bartlett); March 22, 1922 (Bedell); March 28, 1922 (MacAvoy); April 6, 1924 (Bartlett); April 8, 1932 (Overstreet) May 7, 1933 (state museum, Dr. Stoner, Flura Bush); May 20, 1917 (Houghton); June 21, 1932 (Bartlett); July 6, 1931 (Bartlett); July 7, 1918 (Houghton); July 17, 1932 (Seguin); September 17, 1933 (Bedell); and September 25 to November 13, 1930.

Eastern Sparrow Hawk

Most common hawk locally. Common summer resident, breeds; very common transient visitor; usually fairly common (occasionally uncommon) winter visitor or resident. Summer resident mid-March through mid-October.

Maximum dates—February 17, 1920, to November 24, 1929, plus winter dates.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS

Eastern Ruffed Grouse

Uncommon resident (fluctuating in a cycle), breeds.

European Partridge

Uncommon, local, introduced resident; breeds.

Eastern Bob-white

Formerly rare breeding resident. Recorded at Ravenna by Houghton May 16, 1925.

Ring-necked Pheasant

Common, introduced resident; breeds. Stock being replenished constantly by the state.

BAILS, GALLINULLES, COOTS

King Rail

Rare local summer resident, breeds; May to mid-September. Immature birds seen in summer of 1930; nest with 14 eggs found in summer of 1932.

Maximum dates—May 6, 1934, to September 20, 1930.

Virginia Rail

Uncommon summer resident, breeds; not uncommon autumn transient visitor; late April to October.

Maximum dates—April 15, 1923 (Bedell), to October (Eaton, Saratoga county).

Sora

Uncommon summer resident, breeds; late April to mid-October; not uncommon autumn transient visitor.

Maximum dates—April 23 (Eaton, Albany county), to November 12, 1928 (Nichols).

Yellow Rail

No recent record. Shown by Eaton as a rare transient visitor, September 2, 1884, Albany county; and rare transient visitor, Saratoga county.

Black Rail

No recent record. Eaton, Vol. I, page 282—"The black rail has been reported as seen at close range by F. S. Webster, Watervliet, 1873."

Corn Crake

No recent record. Eaton, Vol. I, page 283—"This palearctic species, the common land-rail of Europe, is of casual occurrence in eastern North America. There are four New York records . . . Cohoes, N. Y., November 6, 1883. Park, Auk, 2:296."

Florida Gallinule

Fairly common local summer resident, breeds; early May through early October.

Maximum dates—April 30, 1932, to October 28, 1929 (Houghton).

American Coot

Irregular spring transient visitor, common autumn transient visitor; late April, and late September through early November. Shown by Eaton and Judd as occasional breeding summer resident.

Maximum dates—April 14, 1934, to April 30, 1932, and August 25, 1934, to December 2, 1933.

SHORE BIRDS, GULLS, ETC.

Semipalmented Plover

Occasional spring transient visitor; usually fairly common autumn transient visitor; late May, late August and September.

Maximum dates—May 3, 1936 (Janiec) to May 30, 1919 (Houghton), and July 23, 1932, to October 9, 1916 (Houghton).

Kildeer

Common summer resident, breeds; very common autumn transient visitor; mid-March through late October.

Maximum dates—Arrived February 13, 1932 (Havens); autumn transient visitor July 16, 1932, to November 23, 1930. Also accidental winter visitor January 4, 1931 (Bartlett).

American Golden Plover

No recent record. Shown by Eaton as an occasional transient visitor, October 1.

Black-bellied Plover

Rare transient. Recent records have included: September 20, 1924, and September 18, 1926, at Watervliet reservoir (Houghton); flock at Niskayuna May 14, 1933 (Bartlett), and questionable record there September 23, 1933. Shown by Eaton as occasional transient visitor, May 30 and October 8.

Buddy Turnstone

One, May 20 and 21, 1933, at Niskayuna. Shown by Eaton as a rare transient visitor, Rensselaer county.

American Woodcock

Fairly common transient visitor, not uncommon summer resident, breeds; late March through October.

Maximum dates—March 22, 1931, to November 1, 1931 (Bedell) maxi-

mum on recent records; March 7 to November 15 shown by Eaton for Rensselaer county.

Wilson's Snipe

Fairly common transient visitor, early May, late September to mid-November; occasional or local summer resident.

Maximum dates—March 26, 1932, to May 19, 1934, and August 26, 1934, to December 3 (Eaton, Albany county). Also recorded June 29, and August 13 (Overstreet), 1932, as possible summer resident. Shown by Eaton as occasional summer resident, Rensselaer county.

Eskimo Curlew

No recent record; now practically extinct. Eaton, Vol. I, p. 342—"Rensselaer county, one taken. Transient visitor, F. S. Webster."

Upland Plover

Uncommon local summer resident, breeds; several scattered breeding places known; late April through August.

Maximum dates—April 15, 1933, to September 13, 1932 (Dr. C. G. Guitta).

Spotted Sandpiper

Common summer visitor, breeds; late April to late September. Maxi-mum dates—April 16, 1933 (Overstreet) to November 3, 1935.

Eastern Solitary Sandpiper

Fairly common transient visitor, especially in the autumn; questionable summer resident. May, and late July to late September as transient visitor.

Maximum dates—April 27, 1929 (Houghton), to May 22, 1932, and July 14, 1932, to October 19, 1929. Also July 5, 1931, at pond near Charlton as possible summer date.

Greater Yellow-legs

Fairly common transient visitor, especially in autumn (but less common than the lesser yellow-legs), late April and early May, mid-August through September.

Maximum dates—April 15 (Eaton, Saratoga county) to May 28, 1916 (Houghton), and July 22, 1933 to November 9, 1935.

Lesser Yellow-legs

Fairly common transient visitor, especially in autumn (outnumbers the greater yellow-legs); early May, and late July through September.

Maximum dates—April 25, 1936 (Havens) to May 21, 1933, and July 11, 1932, to November 10, 1934.

American Knot

No recent record. Eaton, Vol. I, p. 308—"Mr. Helmstreet has collected one in May and one in September near Troy."

Purple Sandpiper

No recent record. One record shown by Eaton, Vol. I, p. 309, by F. S. Webster, from the Hudson, near Troy.

Fectoral Sandpiper

Uncommon (occasionally fairly common) autumn transient visitor; occasional spring transient visitor; mid-May, and late July through early October.

Maximum dates—May 7 to May 15 (Eaton, Rensselaer county), and July 17, 1926 (Houghton) to November 4, 1934. Also April 8, 1932 (Eaton, Albany county).

White-rumped Sandpiper

No recent record. Eaton shows one taken by Parks in Albany county, October 23, 1884.

Least Sandpiper

Common autumn transient visitor; irregular spring transient visitor; late May, and late July through September.

Maximum dates—April 15, 1929 (Nichols), to May 30, 1919 (Houghton), and July 11, 1932, to October 5, 1929.

Red-backed Sandpiper

Irregular, uncommon autumn transient visitor, October.

Maximum dates—August 22, 1920 (Houghton), to November 8, Eaton, Albany county.

Eastern Dowitcher

Rare transient visitor. Recent records: September 18, 1926, Watervliet reservoir (Houghton); and August 20 to 28, 1932, Watervliet reservoir. Shown by Eaton as transient visitor May 25, 1889.

Stilt Sandpiper

Irregular transient visitor, August and early September.

Maximum dates—July 22, 1920 (Houghton) to September 20, 1934.

Semipalmed Sandpiper

Very common autumn transient visitor; uncommon spring transient visitor; late April, and late July through mid-September.

Maximum dates—April 27, 1924 (Houghton), to May 20, 1933 (Overstreet), and July 12, 1930 (Houghton), to October 12, 1919 and 1935. Also June 7, 1934. Watervliet reservoir (Buckland).

Western Sandpiper

Two at Watervliet reservoir September 20, 1932. No early record.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper

No recent record. Eaton shows two recorded by Thomas Heimstreet at West Troy

Marbled Godwit

No recent record. Eaton, vol. 1, p. 221—"Albany, August 23, 1890, A. F. Parks."

Hudsonian Godwit

No recent record. Eaton, vol. 1, p. 322—"Green Island, Albany county, October 24, 1882, A. F. Parks."

Sanderling

Irregular and uncommon transient visitor; early May, mid-July through early September.

Maximum dates—May 4, 1929, and July 10, 1929 (Houghton), to October 2, 1926 (Houghton).

Red Phalarope

No recent record. Shown by Eaton as a rare transient visitor, September 18, 1889, in Albany and Rensselaer counties.

Northern Phalarope

No recent record. Eaton, vol. 1, p. 291—"Troy, accidental visitor, F. S. Webster; Troy, September 4, 1881. T. B. Heimstreet; near Albany, May 18, 1888, N. O. C. Bull; 8:180, G. A. Lintner."

Iceland Gull

No recent record. Eaton: Winter visitor, November 21, 1888, Albany and Rensselaer counties; female juvinal, State Museum No. 41, Lansingburg.

Great Black-backed Gull

No recent record. Shown by Eaton as a rare winter visitor in Rensselaer county.

Herring Gull

Common transient visitor; winter visitor in irregular numbers according to the amount of open

water; occasional, irregular summer straggler; has been recorded locally in each month. Transient visitor early March to early May, and late September to winter.

Maximum dates—February 26, 1922 (Houghton), to June 2, 1934, and September 9, 1934, to ice as transient visitor, plus winter dates. Also recorded June 22, 1932; July 24, 1932; August 27, 1933, following severe coastal storm; and one after August 26, 1934.

Kumlien's Gull

(The American Ornithologists' Union has accepted the opinion that Kumlien's gull is a hybrid between Thayer's gull, a subspecies of the herring gull, and the Iceland gull; and hence Kumlien's gull is no longer recognized as a species.)

No recent record. Shown by Eaton as an accidental visitor in Rensselaer county, and a winter visitor January 27, 1884, in Albany county.

Bonaparte's Gull

Uncommon transient visitor, and summer straggler. Transient visitor late April and early May, and mid-October to mid-November.

Maximum dates—April 10, 1932, to May 18, 1935, and August 26, 1933, to November 22, 1931. Also one, July 25, 1932, independently observed by C. P. Haskins and Dr. C. G. Suits.

Ring-billed Gull

Not uncommon transient visitor, and apparently increasingly common. No early records; but the bird is now more common than the herring gull in many inland sections, and recent years have included increasingly larger numbers of the birds locally. Irregular, uncommon winter visitor. Transient visitor April and May, and October and November.

Maximum dates—March 25, 1933, to May 29, 1932, and October 1, 1933, to December 2, 1933, plus winter dates.

Forster's Tern

No recent record. Eaton, vol. I, page 145—"Saratoga lake, September 11, 1880. Rich, O. and O., 6:91."

Common Tern

Irregular transient visitor, mid-May, and August and September; occasional summer straggler.

Maximum dates—May 4, 1935, to May 14, 1933 and 1934, and August 5, 1933, to September 30, 1933. Also recorded June 28, 1924 (Houghton), and June 26, 1932.

Caspian Tern

One at Niskayuna May 14, 1933; one there September 17, 1933; and two there May 14, 1934. No early records.

Black Tern

Irregular, uncommon transient visitor, late May and August; and summer straggler.

Maximum dates—May 4, 1935, to June 10, 1934, and August 2, 1930, to October 8, 1881 (Eaton, Saratoga county).

Black Skimmer

Accidental visitor at Niskayuna August 27, 1933, following severe coastal storm (Leach's petrel also local storm victim on same day). No early record.

Razor-billed Auk

No recent record. Eaton, vol. I, page 111—"Saratoga county, accidental visitor once, November 25,

1893; two taken, S. R. Ingersoll, A. S. Brower."

Brunnich's Murre

No recent record. Eaton, vol. I, page 109—"Waterford, February 25, 1904, State Museum collection; Blooming Grove, Rensselaer county, December 5, 1901, Hudson River Museum; Hudson river, near Albany, December, 1907, two shot."

Black Guillemot

No recent record. No record by Eaton, Judd—"One record, in winter."

PIGEONS AND DOVES

Eastern Mourning Dove

Common summer resident, breeds; very common autumn transient visitor; occasional winter visitor. Summer resident late March through early October.

Maximum dates—March 18, 1921 (Bedell), to October 27, 1924 (Havens). Also, through winter of 1921-1922 (Bedell), November 24, 1929, and through winters of 1933-1934 and 1934-1935; and November 9 and December 21, 1935.

CUCKOOS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo

Uncommon local summer resident, breeds; late May to mid-September.

Maximum dates—May 10, 1936 (Janet, Houghton) to September 27, 1930.

Black-billed Cuckoo

Uncommon summer resident, breeds; mid-May through September. (More common than yellow-billed cuckoo.)

Maximum dates—May 5, 1936, to October 14, 1929 (Nichols).

OWLS

Barn Owl

Very rare resident, breeds.

Eastern Screech Owl

Not uncommon resident, breeds.

Great Horned Owl

Not uncommon resident, breeds; increasingly common in recent years.

Snowy Owl

Irregular rare winter visitor. Recent records: One shot, December, 1929; one shot, February, 1931; two shot, November 28, 1933; one shot November 6, one seen November 30, one shot December 6, and one seen December 16, 1924; November 19, 1935, Glenville (Chester Griffith); state museum record, Delmar, February 19, 1927, Frank Taylor.

American Hawk Owl

No recent record. Eaton, rare winter visitor, 1888, Saratoga county.

Northern Barred Owl

Uncommon resident, breeds; has been decreasing in recent years.

Great Gray Owl

No recent record. Eaton, Vol. I, p. 117—"Rensselaer county, accidental visitor once, F. S. Webster."

Long-eared Owl

Very uncommon resident, breeds; records have been meager since 1924.

Short-eared Owl

Rare resident or visitor; recent records have been meager. Ob-

served January 7 and April 21, 1922 (Houghton, Bedell); December 20, 1925, and January 16, 1926 (Houghton); January 18, 1922 (Bedell); April 28, 1933 (Seguin); April 14 and October 5, 1935; state museum record of one killed at Watervliet October 22, 1926, reported by Game Protector Myers.

Saw-whet Owl

Rare winter visitor; possibly summer resident. Recent records: April 30 and May 1, 1932, Central park, Schenectady; October 12, 1932, Central park (Underwood); March, 1933 (R. M. Proxmire); February 16, 1935, Ballston Center; and February 23, 1936 (Steele).

GOATSUCKERS

Eastern Whip-poor-will

Local summer resident, breeds; late April to late August.

Maximum dates—April 24 (Eaton, Saratoga county) to September (Eaton, Saratoga county).

Eastern Nighthawk

Fairly common summer resident, breeds; in large migrating flocks in late August and early September; mid-May to mid-September.

Maximum dates—May 2, 1922 (MacAvoy) to September 23, 1932.

SWIFTS AND HUMMINGBIRDS

Chimney Swift

Very common summer resident, breeds; late April to mid-September.

Maximum dates—April 1 (Eaton, Rensselaer county) to October 11 (Houghton).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Fairly common (sometimes uncommon) summer resident, breeds; mid-May to early September.

Maximum dates—May 1, 1936 (Steele) to September 21, 1935.

KINGFISHERS

Eastern Belted Kingfisher

Common summer resident, breeds; late March to early November; irregular, uncommon resident.

Maximum dates—March 6, 1932, to November 28, 1931, plus winter dates.

WOODPECKERS

Northern Flicker

Very common summer resident, breeds; early April through late October.

Maximum dates—March 8, 1935 (Havens) to November 25, 1926 (Houghton), and as winter visitor January 23 to February 10, 1922 (Bedell).

Northern Pileated Woodpecker

Rare local resident, breeds; irregular straggler throughout local territory, particularly in winter.

Red-headed Woodpecker

Local summer resident, breeds; late April to mid-September.

Maximum dates—April 18 (Eaton, Albany county) to October 3, 1931. Shown by Judd as questionable occasional winter visitor and also reported as wintering in 1931-32.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Fairly common (irregularly common) transient visitor, April and early May, and September and early October.

Maximum dates—March 25, 1933 (Havens) to May 20, 1936, and August 30, 1931 (Havens) to November 4, 1933.

Eastern Hairy Woodpecker

Uncommon resident, breeds.

Northern Downy Woodpecker

Fairly common resident, breeds; more common in winter.

Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker

Rare winter visitor. Recorded by Houghton October 29, 1922; November 22, 1925; November 5, 1927, and February 11, 1928. Shown by Eaton as an occasional winter visitor in Rensselaer county October 6 to 23 and as a rare winter visitor in Albany and Saratoga counties.

Perching Birds

All preceding main headings have indicated orders in the classification of the birds. All species in the remainder of the list belong to the order of perching birds; and the main headings indicate families in that order.

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS

Eastern Kingbird

Common summer resident, breeds; early May to early September.

Maximum dates—May 2 (Eaton, Saratoga county) to September 30, 1933.

Northern Crested Flycatcher

Fairly common summer resident, breeds; early May to mid-September.

Maximum dates—April 29, 1930, to September 29 (Eaton, Saratoga county).

Eastern Phoebe

Common summer resident, breeds; late March to early October.

Maximum dates—March 18, 1929 (MacAvoy), to October 22, 1932.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

Uncommon (occasionally fairly common) transient visitor, late May and early June, and late August and September.

Maximum dates—May 4, 1929, to June 7 (Eaton, Albany and Rensselaer counties), and August 6, 1922 (Bedell), to September 30, 1928. Also recorded October 28, 1929.

Acadian Flycatcher

Uncommon transient visitor, late May and early June, late August; possible rare or local summer resident.

Maximum dates—May 11, 1927 (Houghton), to June 5, 1932, and August 17, 1932 (Seguin), to September 2, 1934. Also, July 25, 1932 (Houghton).

Alder Flycatcher

Uncommon summer resident, breeds; late May to late August.

Maximum dates—May 7, 1933 (Havens), to October 12, 1935 (Steele).

Least Flycatcher

Fairly common summer resident, breeds; early May to mid-September.

Maximum dates—April 15, 1933 (Janice), (April 1, Judd), to October 13, 1934 (Steele).

Eastern Wood Pewee

Fairly common (locally common) summer resident, breeds; late May

to late September.

Maximum dates—May 7, 1933 (Bedell), to October 8, 1929.

Olive-sided Flycatcher

Irregular, uncommon transient, late May, late August. Shown by Eaton as a rare summer resident in Albany county.

Maximum dates—May 11, 1930, to June 4, 1932, and August 23, 1932 (Seguin), to September 14, 1933 (Bedell).

LARKS

Northern Horned Lark

Irregular (occasionally fairly common) winter visitor, late November to early March. It is entirely possible that some of the larks considered as the Prairie Horned Lark (far more common locally) are Northern Horned Larks, but in general the larks are considered to be the Prairie unless especially identified.

Maximum dates—October 26, 1932 to April 24, 1921 (Bedell).

Prairie Horned Lark

Abundant transient visitor; fairly common winter visitor; not uncommon summer resident, breeds. Transient visitor February to early April, and late September through November.

Maximum dates—February 1, 1931, to May 17, 1931, and September 26, 1931, to November 25, 1934, plus summer and winter dates.

SWALLOWS

Bank Swallow

Common summer resident, breeds; late April to early September.

Maximum dates—April 16, 1933, to September 20, 1930.

Tree Swallow

Common transient visitor; very uncommon summer resident, breeds—early April to late September.

Maximum dates—April 7, 1929 and 1930, to October 8, 1916 (Houghton).

Rough-winged Swallow

Not uncommon local summer resident, breeds; early May to early August.

Maximum dates—April 21, 1935, to September 23, 1933.

Barn Swallow

Very common summer resident, breeds; abundant autumn transient visitor; mid-April to mid-September.

Maximum dates—April 19, 1932, to October 8, 1933.

Northern Cliff Swallow

Uncommon, local summer resident, breeds; more common as autumn transient visitor; early May to early September.

Maximum dates—April 24, 1932, to September 20, 1930.

Purple Martin

Occasional transient visitor; former common summer resident, but already rare by 1908. Nearest known nesting colony now at Saratoga. Recent transient visitor records on May 26, 1931; August 21, 1932; and September 2, 1934.

JAYS AND CROWS

Northern Blue Jay

Fairly common resident, breeds; more common in winter.

Northern Raven

No recent record. Eaton, vol. 2, page 212—“Lansburg, one seen in 1872 by F. S. Webster.”

Eastern Crow

Abundant resident, breeds; extremely abundant in winter, October through March.

Fish Crow

Accidental visitor. Recent records: Hudson river below Albany—February 15 to 25, 1929 (Nichols); December 28 (MacAvoy) to December 30 (Bartlett), 1929; February 25 to April 7, 1930 (Nichols); January, 1931 (MacAvoy); and, along Hudson at Troy, May 15, 1932 (Overstreet). Shown by Eaton as accidental visitor, Rensselaer county; Eaton, vol 2, page 218.

TITMICE

Black-capped Chickadee

Fairly common resident, breeds; common in winter.

Acadian Chickadee

No recent record. Shown by Eaton as a winter visitor once, 1904-1905, in Albany county.

NUTHATCHES

White-breasted Nuthatch

Fairly common resident, breeds; more common in winter.

Red-breasted Nuthatch

Not uncommon transient visitor; irregular, uncommon winter visitor; possible summer resident; transient visitor late April and early May, September and October.

Maximum dates—April 15, 1932, to May 28, 1933 (Overstreet), and September 4, 1932, to November 4, 1929 (Nichols), plus winter dates. Also, August 9, 1931; August 29, 1931 (Bedell); June 12, 1932 (Bedell); August 6, 1933 (Steele).

CREEPERS

Brown Creeper

Fairly common transient visitor, April and early May, late September through November; uncommon (occasionally not uncommon) winter visitor.

Maximum dates—March 23 (Eaton, Albany county), to May 30, 1931 (Seguin), and August 18, 1932, to December 10, 1929 (Nichols), plus winter dates.

WRENS

Eastern House Wren

Fairly common summer resident, breeds; early May to late September.

Maximum dates—April 21, 1927 (MacAvoy), to October 12, 1929.

Eastern Winter Wren

Fairly common transient visitor, early March through April, late September through early November; irregular, uncommon winter visitor.

Maximum dates—September 10, 1932, to May 20, 1917 (Houghton). Also, record of song in Central park, Schenectady, June 3, 1933 (Havens).

Long-billed Marsh Wren

Fairly common local summer resident, breeds; early May through early October.

Maximum dates—April 30, 1932, to October 25, 1931.

Short-billed Marsh Wren

Rare local summer resident, breeds; very uncommon transient visitor; mid-May to mid-September.

Maximum dates—May 5, 1918 (Houghton), to May 21, 1933, and September 21, 1932, to October 5, 1935, as transient visitor; plus summer dates.

MOCKINGBIRDS, THRASHERS

Brown Thrasher

Uncommon summer resident, breeds, early May to early October; fairly common transient visitor.

Maximum dates—April 24 (several years), to October 18, 1926 (Houghton).

Eastern Mockingbird

Accidental visitor. Found in Washington park, Albany, March 17, 1928 (Houghton). Pair reported in same spring at Slingerlands. Shown by Eaton as accidental visitor once, 1900, in Albany county.

Cathartid

Common summer resident, breeds; early May to mid-October.

Maximum dates—April 20, 1919 (MacAvoy), to October 23, 1932.

THRUSHES, BLUEBIRDS

Eastern Robin

An abundant summer resident; breeds; occasional rare winter visitor or resident; early March to mid-November.

Maximum dates—February 21, 1938 (Havens) to November 29, 1930, plus winter dates. Records in each winter since and including 1931-32.

Wood Thrush

Not uncommon summer resident; breeds; early May through September.

Maximum dates—April 28 (Eaton, Saratoga county) to October 23, 1929.

Eastern Hermit Thrush

Common transient visitor, early April to mid-May, early October to early November; local summer resident at higher altitudes; breeds.

Maximum dates—March 29, 1936 (MacAvoy), to May 17, 1931 (Seguin), and September 3, 1935 (Janiec), to November 18, 1933 (Overstreet), plus summer dates.

Olive-backed Thrush

Fairly common transient visitor, mid-May through month, and late September to mid-October.

Maximum dates—May 3, 1935 (Bainbridge), to June 1, 1935, and September 10, 1933 (Bedell), to October 23, 1929. Also, in full song, June 13 and July 22, 1921, at Rensselaer (MacAvoy).

Gray-cheeked Thrush

Uncommon transient visitor, late May and late September.

Maximum dates—April 30, 1919 (Houghton) to June 4, 1932, and September 21, 1930 (Havens) to October 5, 1930.

Bicknell's Thrush

Not recorded but probably a migrant locally. This sub-species of the Gray-cheeked Thrush, a summer resident in both the Catskills and Adirondacks, cannot be determined by sight records alone.

Veery

Fairly common summer resident; breeds; early May through September.

Maximum dates—April 21, 1932, to October 8, 1929.

Eastern Bluebird

A common summer resident; breeds; early March to early November.

Maximum dates—February 23 (Eaton, Albany county) to November 22, 1931.

KINGLETS

Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglet
Very common transient visitor, late March to late April, early October through November; irregular and uncommon (occasionally fairly common) winter visitor.

Maximum dates—March 20, 1932, to May 15, 1928, and September 23, 1932, to December 1, 1922 (Houghton), plus winter dates.

Eastern Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Very common transient visitor, April to mid-May and October; generally in advance of preceding species in autumn, and later in spring.

Maximum dates—April 1, 1921 (Houghton) to May 27, 1934 (Havens), and September 14, 1935, to November 19, 1929 (Nichols). Also one August 26, 1933, after severe storm.

PIPITS

American Pipit

Fairly common transient visitor, irregular in dates; April and early May, late September through October.

Maximum dates—March 22, 1931, to May 20, 1934 (Steele), and September 16, 1934, to November 8, 1935.

WAXWINGS

Bohemian Waxwing

Occasional, rare winter visitor, sometimes with cedar waxwing. Flock of 400 in Parkview cemetery, Schenectady, March 22 to 24, 1932 (Bedell and others); few May 15, 1934 (Janiec). Eaton, vol. 2, page 355—"There are records from . . . Albany in 1835 by DeKay; Saratoga, February 24 and March 2, 1891, by S. R. Ingersoll; and from Waterford February 24, 1904, by Will Richard."

Cedar Waxwing

Common summer resident, breeds; occasional winter visitor or resident; irregular transient visitor in March; summer resident mid-May to late October.

Maximum dates—March 11, 1933 (Overstreet), to November 21, 1930 (Havens), plus winter dates.

SHRIKES

Northern Shrike

Irregular, uncommon winter visitor, mid-November to late March.

Maximum dates—October 11, 1931, to April 2 (Eaton, Saratoga county). Also recorded April 29, 1917 (Houghton).

Migrant Shrike

Irregular, uncommon transient visitor, early April, November; rare local summer resident.

Maximum dates—March 22, 1931 (Overstreet), to May 4, 1935, and September 1, 1930 (Havens), to November 24, 1929 (MacAvoy), as transient visitor.

STARLINGS

Starling

Extremely abundant, introduced resident, breeds.

VIREOS

White-eyed Vireo

No recent record. Shown by Eaton as uncommon summer resident in Albany county, arriving May 13 and breeding; and as a rare, breeding summer resident in Rensselaer county.

Yellow-throated Vireo

Fairly common summer resident, breeds; early May to late September.

Maximum dates—April 28, 1932 (Overstreet), to October 2, 1929.

Blue-headed Vireo

Fairly common transient visitor, late April to late May, mid-September to late October.

Maximum dates—April 24, 1932 and 1935, to May 30, 1935, and August 6, 1932 (Bedell), to November 1, 1931 (Bedell).

Red-eyed Vireo

Common summer resident, breeds; mid-May to late September.

Maximum dates—May 4, 1936, to October 2, 1932 (Bedell).

Philadelphia Vireo

Rare transient visitor, mid-May, mid-September.

Maximum dates—May 14, 1934 (Bedell), to May 15, 1932 (Bedell), and September 18 and 19, 1932.

Eastern Warbling Vireo

Fairly common summer resident, breeds; early May to mid-September.

Maximum dates—May 1 (Eaton, Saratoga county), to September 27 (Eaton, Rensselaer county).

WARBLERs

Black and White Warbler

Very common transient visitor, end of April to late May, late August to mid-September; uncommon summer resident, breeds.

Maximum dates—April 19 (Eaton, Rensselaer county), to June 8, 1935, and August 9, 1922 (Bedell), to September 27, 1930 and 1931, plus summer dates.

Worm-eating Warbler

Rare transient visitor, mid-May and mid-September; rare summer resident at Ravena, and possibly at Albany Ladder.

Maximum dates—May 12, 1929 (Ravena, Houghton), to September 14, 1935. (Transient at Niskayunas).

Golden-winged Warbler

Uncommon (occasionally fairly common) transient visitor; local summer resident, breeds; transient visitor in early May; autumn records deficient.

Maximum dates—May 1, 1932, to August 9, 1922 (Bedell). (Autumn dates lacking).

Blue-winged Warbler

No recent record. Eaton, vol. 2, page 385—Specimen taken at Ballston Spa.

Brewster's Warbler

Lawrence's Warbler

(Both of these are now regarded as hybrids of the golden-winged and blue-winged warblers, with Lawrence's the much rarer form; they have been dropped from the check-list of the American Ornithologists' Union).

A Brewster's warbler was recorded by Houghton at Albany May 24, 1921; and there are other Albany records for both the Brewster's and Lawrence's forms.

Tennessee Warbler

Uncommon transient visitor, mid-May, mid-September.

Maximum dates—May 5, 1934, to May 27, 1929 (Nichols), and August 13, 1922 (Bedell), to October 20, 1934.

Orange-crowned Warbler

Rare transient visitor. Independently recorded at Rensselaer May 2 (MacAvoy) and May 8 to 10 (Nichols), 1929; May 16, 1934

(Janiec). Also May 10, 1876 (Eaton, Schenectady county).

Nashville Warbler

Common transient visitor, May, mid-August to early October; local summer resident, breeds.

Maximum dates—April 27, 1919 (Houghton), to June 6 (Eaton, Albany county), and August 6, 1932, to October 23, 1932, plus summer dates.

Northern Parula Warbler

Fairly common (occasionally common) transient visitor, mid-May, mid-September through the month.

Maximum dates—May 3, 1936 (Bainbridge), to May 25, 1930, and September 4, 1932 (Bedell), to October 9, 1932.

Eastern Yellow Warbler

Common summer resident, breeds—early May to late September.

Maximum dates—April 29 (several years) to September 26 (several years).

Magnolia Warbler

Common transient visitor, May and September; local summer resident.

Maximum dates—April 29 (Eaton, Saratoga county) to June 1, 1935 (Havens), and August 12, 1934 (Underwood), to October 12, 1935 (Steel). Also June 30, 1932, as probable summer resident.

Cape May Warbler

Irregular, very uncommon transient visitor, mid-May, mid-September.

Maximum dates—May 3, 1916 (Houghton), to May 26, 1924 (Houghton), and September 12, 1924 (Houghton), to September 14, 1935.

Black-throated Blue Warbler

Common transient visitor, mid-May, late September; local summer resident, breeds.

Maximum dates—April 26 (Eaton, Rensselaer county) to June 1, 1935 (Havens), and September 7, 1930, to October 9, 1932 (Bedell), plus summer dates.

Myrtle Warbler

Abundant transient visitor, late April through May, August to late October; occasional summer resident.

Maximum dates—April 21, 1932, to June 14, 1931 (Seguin), and August 14, 1932, to November 7, 1932 (Bedell), plus summer dates.

Black-throated Green Warbler

Very common transient visitor, early and mid-May, September and early October; not uncommon local summer resident, breeds.

Maximum dates—April 29, 1929 and 1935, to June 7, 1931, and August 14 (Bedell), to October 16, 1932 (Bedell), plus summer dates.

Cerulean Warbler

Rare transient visitor or straggler. Recorded May 11 to June 30, 1930, by Nichols as summer resident (pair) in back of Rensselaer; May 16, 1933 (Janiec); May 13, 1934 (Ravena); May 12, 1935 (Ravena).

Also May 14, 1906 (Eaton, Albany county); and May 11, 1876 (Eaton, Rensselaer county).

Blackburnian Warbler

Common transient visitor, mid-May, mid-August to late September—local summer resident.

Maximum dates—April 29, 1929 (Nichols) to June 7, 1931, and Au-

gust 9, 1922 (Bedell), to September 30, 1929 (Nichols).

Chestnut-sided Warbler

Common summer resident, breeds—early May to early September.

Maximum dates—April 28, 1929, to September 21, 1932.

Bay-breasted Warbler

Not uncommon transient visitor, late May, mid-September.

Maximum dates—May 6, 1928 (Houghton), to May 30 (various years), and August 12, 1933, to October 2, 1932 (Bedell).

Black-poll Warbler

Fairly common transient visitor, late May, early and mid-September.

Maximum dates—May 11, 1930, to June 8, 1935, and September 5, 1932, to October 9, 1932.

Northern Pine Warbler

Common transient visitor, mid-April to mid-May, mid-August to early October; not uncommon local summer resident, breeds.

Maximum dates—March 27, 1921 (Houghton), to June 5, 1932 (Seguin), and August 6, 1932 (Seguin), to October 20, 1929, plus summer dates.

Northern Prairie Warbler

Few transients May 1 to 17, 1932. No early records.

Western Palm Warbler

Uncommon transient visitor, late April and early May, mid-September. No early record.

Maximum dates—April 22, 1930 (Houghton), to May 16, 1933 (Janiec), and September 11, 1932, to October 6, 1934.

Yellow Palm Warbler

Not uncommon transient visitor, mid-April to mid-May, and early September to mid-October.

Maximum dates—April 12, 1919 (Houghton), to May 12, 1932; and August 26, 1933, to October 29, 1932.

Oven-bird

Common summer resident, breeds: early May to late September.

Maximum dates—April 28, 1931 (Seguin), to October 2, 1932.

Northern Water-thrush

Uncommon transient visitor, May, late August to late September; local summer resident.

Maximum dates—April 25 (Eaton, Schenectady county) to May 30, 1932, and August 14, 1932, to September 23, 1928. Also, one October 25, 1931, plus summer dates.

Louisiana Water-thrush

Not uncommon transient visitor, late April through May, late August; uncommon summer resident, breeds.

Maximum dates—April 6, 1930 (Overstreet), to June 11, 1930 (Nichols), and August 3, 1919 (Houghton), to September 4, 1930, plus summer dates.

Connecticut Warbler

Rare transient visitor, more common in autumn; late May, mid-September.

Maximum dates—May 2, 1930 (Overstreet), to May 30 (Eaton, Saratoga county), and September 4, 1920 (Houghton), to October 5, 1930.

Mourning Warbler

Irregular, uncommon transient visitor; late May, early September; possible local summer resident (known to breed in Catskills and not far to north).

Maximum dates—May 18 (Eaton, Albany county), to June 3, 1917 (Houghton), and September 2 (Eaton, Albany county), to September 8, 1932. Also, July 21, 1918 (Houghton), as summer date.

Northern Yellow-throat
Common summer resident, breeds; early May to late September.

Maximum dates—May 1, 1932, to October 16, 1932. Also, one accidental winter visitor 1931–1932.

Yellow-breasted Chat

Local summer resident, breeds; late May to mid-August.

Maximum dates—May 11 (various years) to August 23, 1931.

Hooded Warbler

Recorded October 11, 1936 (Steele). No early records.

Wilson's Warbler

Uncommon transient visitor, late May, September.

Maximum dates—May 2, 1930 (Overstreet), to May 27, 1929 and 1934, and August 10, 1922 (Bedell), to October 8, 1932.

Canada Warbler

Fairly common transient visitor, mid-May through month, late August to mid-September; uncommon summer resident, breeds.

Maximum dates—May 10, 1922 (Houghton), to May 30, 1931 and 1932, and August 7, 1932, to September 28, 1930, plus summer dates.

American Redstart

Common summer resident, breeds; early May to late September.

Maximum dates—May 2, 1927 (MacAvoy), to October 9, 1932 (Bedell).

WEAVER FINCHES

English Sparrow

Common introduced resident, breeds; formerly abundant.

MEADOWLARKS, BLACKBIRDS

Bobolink

Common summer resident, breeds; early May to early September.

Maximum dates—April 30, 1932, to September 22, 1932 (Seguin).

Eastern Meadowlark

Common summer resident, breeds; irregular, uncommon resident or winter visitor; summer birds early March through October.

Maximum dates—March 1 (Eaton, Saratoga county), to November 9, 1930 and 1935, plus winter dates.

Eastern Red-wing

Abundant summer resident, breeds, early March through October; irregular, uncommon resident or winter visitor.

Maximum dates—February 25, 1930 (Nichols), to November 25, 1933, plus winter dates.

Orchard Oriole

Occasional, rare summer resident, breeds; formerly fairly common summer resident; mid-May to early September.

Maximum dates—May 5 (Eaton, Rensselaer county), to September 25 (Eaton).

Baltimore Oriole

Common summer resident, breeds; early May to early September.

Maximum dates—May 2 (Eaton, Albany county), to September 7 (Eaton, Saratoga county).

Rusty Blackbird

Common transient visitor, late March to early May, mid-October to mid-November.

Maximum dates—March 8, 1922 (Bedell), to May 14 (Eaton, Albany county), and September 30, 1932, to November 24, 1929. Also, until January 7, 1923 (Bedell).

Bronzed Grackle

(It is possible that some grackles observed locally, especially in the Hudson section below Albany, could be classed as Purples; but at least

by far the majority of those examined closely have been Bronzed. Various specimens more or less intermediate between Purple and Bronzed are regularly noted.

Bronzed grackle—Common summer resident, breeds, mid-March through October.

Maximum dates—February 25, 1930 (Nichols), to November 8, 1930.

Eastern Cowbird

Common transient visitor, particularly in autumn; common summer resident, breeds; occasional resident or winter visitor; transient late March to mid-May, mid-September to late October.

Maximum dates—March 12, 1932 (Seguin), to May 25, 1929, and September 12, 1931, to November 10, 1934; plus summer dates. Also, flock of 200 in winter of 1931–1932; and winter records in December, 1935 and 1936 (P. S. Miller).

TANAGERS

Scarlet Tanager

Fairly common transient visitor; uncommon summer resident, breeds; mid-May to late September.

Maximum dates—May 5, 1936 (Janiec), to September 30, 1929 (Nichols).

Summer Tanager

No recent record. Eaton, accidental visitor, May 18, 1880, Rensselaer county.

**GROSBEAKS, FINCHES
SPARROWS, BUNTINGS**

Eastern Cardinal

Independently observed in same general territory May 28 (Getz) and May 30 (Paul Schaeffer), 1934. No recent record.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Not uncommon summer resident, breeds; mid-May to mid-September.

Maximum dates—May 5 (various years), to October 6, 1935 (Janiec).

Indigo Bunting

Fairly common summer resident, breeds; mid-May to mid-September.

Maximum dates—May 6, 1928, to September 29, 1928.

Dickcissel

No recent record. Shown by Eaton as uncommon summer resident, Rensselaer county.

Eastern Evening Grosbeak

Occasional, rare winter visitor, usually in March and April.

Maximum dates—December 23, 1929, to April 18, 1922 (MacAvoy).

Eastern Purple Finch

Common transient visitor, late March to mid-May, mid-September through November; irregular, uncommon (occasionally fairly common) winter visitor; local summer resident, breeds.

Maximum dates—March 4, 1923 (Havens), to May 30, 1932, and August 26, 1933, to December 7, 1929, as transient visitor; plus winter and summer dates.

Canadian Pine Grosbeak

Irregular, rare winter visitor, mid-November through March.

Maximum dates—November 9, 1903 (Eaton, Saratoga county), to April 20, 1932 (Houghton).

Hoary Redpoll

December 8, 1921 (Bedell). No early record.

Common Redpoll

Irregular, fairly common (occasionally common) winter visitor,

late November to mid-March.

Maximum dates—November 6 (Eaton, Rensselaer county) to April 9, 1922 (Houghton).

Holboell's Redpoll

No recent record. Eaton, vol. 2, p. 273: "In New York it (Holboell's Redpoll) has been taken at Kenwood, near Albany, February 15, 1807; a male taken by George Richard, New York State Museum collection, No. 1733."

Greater Redpoll

No recent record. Eaton, vol. 2, p. 274: "The specimen (Greater Redpoll) figured on page 272 was taken at West Waterford January 23, 1899, by Will Richard and is now in the New York State Museum collection, No. 1132."

Northern Pine Siskin

Irregular (occasionally not uncommon) transient and winter visitor, November to early May.

Maximum dates—October 23, 1932, to May 22, 1923 (Bedell).

Eastern Goldfinch

Very common summer resident; breeds; uncommon (occasionally fairly common) winter visitor or resident. Summer birds, late April to mid-November; difficult to assign maximum dates.

Red Crossbill

Occasional, uncommon winter visitor, January to late April.

Maximum dates—December 31, 1933, to May 12, 1934.

White-winged Crossbill

No recent record. Shown by Eaton as rare winter visitor, mid-November.

Red-eyed Towhee

Fairly common (locally common) summer resident; breeds; early May to mid-October.

Maximum dates—April 10, 1931 (Havens) to November 11, 1925 (Houghton).

Eastern Savannah Sparrow

Fairly common summer resident; breeds; mid-April to late October.

Maximum dates—April 1, 1930 (Overstreet) to November 2, 1930.

Eastern Grasshopper Sparrow

Fairly common summer resident; breeds; early May to late August.

Maximum dates—April 23, 1922 (MacAvoy) to October 8, 1929 (Nichols).

Eastern Henslow's Sparrow

Uncommon and somewhat local summer resident; breeds; early May to late August; formerly rare.

Maximum dates—May 1, 1932 and 1934, to October 12, 1935 (Steele).

Nelson's Sparrow

August 28, 1920 (Houghton). No early record.

Eastern Vesper Sparrow

Common summer resident; breeds; early April to late October.

Maximum dates—March 27, 1921 (Houghton) to November 2, 1930.

Eastern Lark Sparrow

December 2, 1929, Rensselaer (Nichols); May 25 to June 20, 1933, Schenectady (Havens, Underwood). No early record.

Slate-colored Junco

Abundant transient visitor, mid-March to early May, late September to late November; uncommon (occasionally fairly common) winter visitor; local summer resident; breeds.

Maximum dates—March 11, 1933

and 1934, to May 19, 1932, and September 15 (Eaton, Saratoga county) to December 2, 1929 (Nichols) as transient visitor, plus winter and summer dates.

Eastern Tree Sparrow

Common winter visitor, late October to late April.

Maximum dates—September 19, 1930, to May 5, 1930 (Nichols).

Eastern Chipping Sparrow

Very common summer resident; breeds; mid-April to late October.

Maximum date—March 28 (Eaton, Saratoga county) to November 13, 1932 (Bedell). Also accidental winter visitor, 1931-1932; one November 28, 1929; one December 15, 1935 (Bainbridge).

Eastern Field Sparrow

Common summer resident; breeds; early April to mid-October.

Maximum dates—March 20, 1930 (Overstreet) to October 29, 1927 (Houghton).

White-crowned Sparrow

'Uncommon (occasionally not uncommon) transient visitor, mid-May to early October.

Maximum dates—April 29, 1930, to May 26, 1935, and September 25, 1925 (Bedell) to October 31 (Eaton, Saratoga county).

White-throated Sparrow

Abundant transient visitor, early April to mid-May, late September through October; local summer resident; breeds.

Maximum dates—March 20, 1930 (Overstreet) to May 30, 1932 (Bedell) and September 7, 1930, to November 12, 1930 (Nichols), plus summer dates. Also accidental winter visitor 1932-1933.

Eastern Fox Sparrow

Fairly common (occasionally common) transient visitor, late March to late April, mid-October to mid-November.

Maximum dates March 8, 1921 and 1922 (Bedell) to April 30 (Eaton, Rensselaer county).

Lincoln's Sparrow

Irregular, rare transient visitor, early May, late September and early October. Not recorded by Eaton but shown by Judd as rare migrant.

Maximum dates—April 27, 1928, to May 22, 1934 (Bedell), and September 8, 1918 (Houghton) to October 9, 1932 (Bedell).

Swamp Sparrow

Fairly common summer resident; breeds; mid-April to early October; occasional, rare winter visitor.

Maximum dates—March 31, 1929 (McAvoy) to November 18, 1934, plus winter dates.

Eastern Song Sparrow

Abundant summer resident; breeds early March to mid-November; uncommon (occasionally fairly common) winter visitor or resident.

Maximum dates—February 22 (various years) to December 2, 1929 (Nichols) plus winter dates.

Laplard Longspur

Rare winter visitor, December to March.

Maximum dates—December 22, 1934 (Janiec and Moore) to March 25, 1933.

Eastern Snow Bunting

Irregular, uncommon (occasionally common) winter visitor, November to early March.

Maximum dates—October 19, 1929, to April 12, 1931.

Seasonal Variation

The birds can be divided roughly into several groups—permanent residents, summer residents, winter visitors, transient visitors, and casual and accidental visitors. Many birds can be assigned definitely to one group or another; but fully as many do not fit exactly into any one group, and have been included in two, or even three, classifications.

PERMANENT RESIDENTS

There are 54 species which, in recent years, have been recorded in each month, but not all of them can really be considered as permanent residents. The species can be classified roughly into four groups, as follows:

Group 1—Those species which are about as common locally in any one month as in any other, and including the true permanent residents.

Group 2—Those which are regular summer residents, and which occur uncommonly, irregularly, occasionally, or accidentally as winter visitors.

Group 3—Those which are regular winter visitors, and which occur uncommonly or only locally as summer residents.

Group 4—Those which are regularly transient visitors; and which occur rarely, locally, accidentally, irregularly, or occasionally as winter visitors or summer residents.

Group 1

Permanent resident, regularly recorded—Ruffed grouse, screech owl, great horned owl, barred owl, hairy woodpecker, downy woodpecker, blue jay, crow, black-capped chickadee, white-breasted nutcracker.

Permanent resident, very uncommon or local—Barn owl, long-eared owl, short-eared owl, saw-whet owl, pileated woodpecker.

Permanent resident, introduced—European partridge, bob-white, ring-necked pheasant, rock dove (feral pigeon), starling, English sparrow.

Group 2

Common summer resident, uncommon but regularly recorded in winter—Sparrow hawk, belted kingfisher, American goldfinch, song sparrow.

Regular summer resident, irregularly recorded in winter—Bald eagle, duck hawk, red-shouldered hawk, marsh hawk, robin, meadowlark.

Regular summer resident, occasional in winter—Sharp-shinned hawk, Cooper's hawk, red-tailed hawk, cedar waxwing, red-winged blackbird, cowbird, swamp sparrow.

Regular summer resident, accidental or exceptional in winter—Killdeer, flicker, red-headed woodpecker, northern yellow-throat, chipping sparrow.

Group 3

More common in winter than in summer—Prairie horned lark, slate-colored junco. (Also the crow, among others).

Group 4

Common as transient visitor, irregular or local in summer and winter—Common black duck, purple finch.

Regular transient visitor, local summer resident, exceptional in winter—White-throated sparrow.

Regular transient visitor, irregular in winter, straggler in summer—Great blue heron, herring gull, red-breasted nuthatch.

Regular transient visitor, rare or irregular in winter, straggler or accidental in summer—Common loon, American merganser.

SUMMER RESIDENTS

Including the 21 permanent residents, there are at least 146 species of birds which have been recorded locally in recent summers. Many of the "summer" birds are also recorded uncommonly, rarely or accidentally in winter, and there also are some which are more common in winter. In the following list no attempt has been made to indicate the winter status of any species. The summer species can be divided roughly into seven groups, as follows:

Group 1—Permanent residents.

Group 2—Common, breeding summer residents.

Group 3—Regular, but uncommon, breeding summer residents.

Group 4—Very uncommon, or local, summer residents.

Group 5—Questionable as summer residents.

Group 6—Summer visitors.

Group 7—Accidental visitors or stragglers.

Group 1

In this group belong the 21 permanent residents as listed in group 1 under that heading.

Group 2

Common summer resident—Green heron, black-crowned night heron, red-shouldered hawk, marsh hawk, sparrow hawk, Florida gallinule, killdeer, woodcock, spotted sandpiper, mourning dove, nighthawk, chimney swift, ruby-throated hummingbird, belted kingfisher, flicker, kingbird, crested flycatcher, phoebe, least flycatcher, wood pewee, bank swallow, barn swallow, house wren, long-billed marsh wren, catbird, brown thrasher, robin, wood thrush, veery, bluebird, cedar waxwing, yellow-throated vireo, red-eyed vireo, warbling vireo, yellow warbler, chestnut-sided warbler, pine warbler, ovenbird, northern yellow-throat, American redstart, bobolink, meadowlark, red-wing, Baltimore oriole, bronzed grackle, cowbird, scarlet tanager, rose-breasted grosbeak, indigo bunting, goldfinch, towhee, Savannah sparrow, grasshopper sparrow, vesper sparrow, chipping sparrow, field sparrow, swamp sparrow, song sparrow.

Group 3

Regular, generally uncommon, summer resident—American bittern, sharp-shinned hawk, Cooper's hawk, red-tailed hawk, Virginia rail, sora, black-billed cuckoo, alder flycatcher, prairie horned lark, rough-winged swallow, cliff swallow, hermit thrush, black-throated green warbler, Louisiana waterthrush.

Group 4

Very uncommon, or local, summer resident—Pied-billed grebe, least bittern, com. black duck, bald

eagle, duck hawk, king rail, upland plover, yellow-billed cuckoo, whip-poor-will, red-headed woodpecker, tree swallow, short-billed marsh wren, black and white warbler, golden-winged warbler, Nashville warbler, magnolia warbler, black-throated blue warbler, myrtle warbler, Blackburnian warbler, northern water-thrush, yellow-breasted chat, Canada warbler, orchard oriole, purple finch, Henslow's sparrow, slate-colored junco, white-throated sparrow.

Group 5

Questionable as summer resident, but recorded occasionally in summer—Great blue heron (see next group), wood duck, broad-winged hawk, Wilson's snipe, Acadian flycatcher, red-breasted nuthatch, migrant shrike, worm-eating warbler, mourning warbler.

Group 6

Summer visitor, following breeding season—Great blue heron, American egret, little blue heron.

Group 7

Accidental visitor, or straggler—Common loon, Leach's petrel, lesser scaup, American merganser, pigeon hawk, solitary sandpiper, semipalmented sandpiper, herring gull, Bonaparte's gull, common tern, black tern, black skimmer, olive-backed thrush, ruby-crowned kinglet, cerulean warbler. (These species have been recorded very few times in summer, and in most cases only once in the past 25 years).

WINTER VISITORS

There are at least 87 species which have been recorded locally in recent winters. The species in some cases vary greatly in numbers from year to year; at times some which regularly are common in winter are unrecorded; sometimes irregular or occasional species are unusually common. In general, those species which also are found locally during the summer are less common in winter, and those which occur irregularly or only occasionally are very uncommon or rare. The winter species can be divided roughly into six groups, as follows:

Group 1—Permanent residents.

Group 2—Common winter visitors.

Group 3—Uncommon winter visitors.

Group 4—Irregularly recorded in winter.

Group 5—Occasionally recorded in winter.

Group 6—Rare or accidental winter visitors.

Group 1

In this group belong the 21 permanent residents as listed in Group 1 under that heading.

Group 2

Common winter visitors—Red-legged black duck, common black duck, American golden-eye, American merganser, prairie horned lark, goldfinch, tree sparrow, snow bunting.

Group 3

Uncommon winter visitors—Mallard, sparrow hawk, herring gull, kingfisher, northern horned lark, brown creeper, northern shrike, golden-crowned kinglet, meadowlark, slate-colored junco, song sparrow.

Group 4

Irregularly recorded in winter—Red-breasted merganser, goshawk, sharp-shinned hawk, red-shouldered hawk, red-tailed hawk, rough-legged hawk, marsh hawk, mourning dove, snowy owl, red-breasted nuthatch, winter wren, robin, red-wing, evening grosbeak, purple finch, pine grosbeak, common redpoll, pine siskin.

Group 5

Occasionally recorded in winter—Holboell's grebe, great blue heron, Gooper's hawk, ring-billed gull, Arctic three-toed woodpecker, Bohemian waxwing, cedar waxwing, cowbird, red crossbill, swamp sparrow, Lapland longspur.

Group 6

Rare or accidental winter visitor—Common loon, horned grebe, black-crowned night heron, Canada goose, canvas-back, hooded merganser, bald eagle, duck hawk, killdeer, flicker, red-headed woodpecker, fish crow, northern yellow-throat, rusty blackbird, hoary redpoll, lark sparrow, chipping sparrow, white-throated sparrow. (These species have been recorded very few times in winter, and in most cases in only one winter in the past 25 years).

TRANSIENT VISITORS

With few exceptions the birds which are summer residents or winter visitors are recorded also as transient visitors; similarly, some records of permanent residents are also of transient individuals. In the following list those birds which are considered as permanent residents (group 1 under that heading), those which are regular summer residents (groups 2 and 3 under that heading), and those which winter regularly (groups 2 and 3 under that heading) have been omitted. This list does, however, include numerous species which may be present in either summer or winter in small numbers or locally.

Some migrants are seen far more commonly in the spring, some others far more commonly in the autumn. Most species are more common as transient visitors than as summer residents or winter visitors. The migrants can be divided roughly into seven groups, as follows:

Group 1—Very common transient visitors.

Group 2—Common transient visitors.

Group 3—Uncommon transient visitors.

Group 4—Very uncommon transient visitors.

Group 5—Irregular transient visitors.

Group 6—Occasional transient visitors.

Group 7—Accidental or exceptional transient visitors.

Group 1

Very common transient visitor—Semipalmented sandpiper, ruby-crowned kinglet, black and white warbler, myrtle warbler, white-throated sparrow.

Group 2

Common transient visitor—Pied-billed grebe, great blue heron, pintail, green-winged teal, coot, lesser yellowlegs, least sandpiper, yellow-bellied sapsucker, tree swallow, pipit, blue-headed vireo, Nashville

warbler, parula warbler, magnolia warbler, black-throated blue warbler, Blackburnian warbler, black-poll warbler, Canada warbler, rusty blackbird, purple finch, fox sparrow.

Group 3

Uncommon transient visitor—Holboell's grebe, horned grebe, Canada goose, baldpate, blue-winged teal, wood duck, lesser scaup duck, white-winged scoter, hooded merganser, red-breasted merganser, broad-winged hawk, osprey, semi-palmented plover, Wilson's snipe, greater yellowlegs, pectoral sandpiper, ring-billed gull, Bonaparte's gull, whip-poor-will, red-headed woodpecker, yellow-bellied flycatcher, olive-backed thrush, golden-winged warbler, Tennessee warbler, bay-breasted warbler, yellow palm warbler, northern water-thrush, Wilson's warbler, Henslow's sparrow, white-crowned sparrow.

Group 4

Very uncommon transient visitor—Least bittern, greater scaup duck, buffle-head, old squaw, duck hawk, king rail, upland plover, common tern, black tern, yellow-billed cuckoo, Acadian flycatcher, short-billed marsh wren, gray-cheeked thrush, worm-eating warbler, western palm warbler, yellow-breasted chat, Lincoln's sparrow.

Group 5

Irregular transient visitor—Common loon, redhead, ring-necked duck, canvas-back, American scoter, ruddy duck, goshawk, rough-legged hawk, bald eagle, pigeon hawk, sandpiper, olive-sided flycatcher, red-breasted nuthatch, migrant shrike, Cape May warbler, Connecticut warbler, mourning warbler, pine siskin.

Group 6

Occasional transient visitor—Double-crested cormorant, gadwall, shoveler, surf scoter, black-bellied plover, Caspian tern, purple martin, Philadelphia vireo, cerulean warbler, orchard oriole, red crossbill.

Group 7

Accidental or exceptional transient visitor—Red-throated loon, whistling swan, American brant, snow goose (greater or lesser), king eider, ruddy turnstone, western sandpiper, fish crow, mockingbird, orange-crowned warbler, prairie warbler, hooded warbler, cardinal, Nelson's sparrow. (These species have been recorded locally very few times, and in most cases only once in the past 25 years).

ARRIVAL DATES

It is true that the arrival dates of the birds differ from year to year; but it is also true that certain general times can be assigned when the different species can be expected to arrive or depart. In the following list the birds have been grouped according to the average date when they arrive—but the list should not be interpreted as meaning that a bird is out-of-season at other times. Averages and maximum arrival and departure dates have already been given in the "Enumeration by Species," which should be consulted for more detailed information about the different birds.

Dates following the names of the birds indicate average departure dates. Some of these dates show

departure of transient visitors; others show the departure dates of the summer residents or winter visitors. Here again the list is not exact, for numerous species indicate in the list to be migrants are known to remain, at least to some extent, as summer residents or winter visitors.

SPRING TRANSIENTS SUMMER RESIDENTS

Late February—Horned grebe, April 25; prairie horned lark, April 10.

Early March—Mallard, April 10; old squaw, April 20; Cooper's hawk, October 15; robin, November 10; bluebird, November 10; meadowlark, October 30; red-wing, October 30; song sparrow, November 20.

Mid-March to March 25—Canada goose, May 15; common black duck, April 20; canvas-back, March 25; greater and lesser scaup ducks, April 30; red-shouldered hawk, October 30; sparrow hawk, October 20; killdeer, October 25; belted kingfisher, November 5; winter wren, April 30; golden-crowned kinglet, April 25; rusty blackbird, May 5; bronzed grackle, October 30; cowbird, October 25; purple finch, May 15; slate-colored junco, May 5; fox sparrow, April 25.

March 26 to April 5—American pintail, April 10; green-winged teal, April 10; wood duck, April 10; redhead, April 5; ring-necked duck, April 10; bufflehead, April 5; hooded merganser, April 15; red-tailed hawk, October 15; woodcock, October 30; mourning dove, October 15; phoebe, October 5.

April 6 to 15—Loon, May 10; pied grebe, April 30; great blue heron, April 20; black-crowned night heron, September 30; bald-pate April 20; blue-winged teal, April 15; sharp-shinned hawk, October 30; broad-winged hawk, May 20; marsh hawk, October 10; ring-billed gull, May 30; flicker, October 25; yellow-bellied sapsucker, May 5; tree swallow, September 30; barn swallow, September 15; brown creeper, May 15; hermit thrush, May 15; ruby-crowned kinglet, May 20; American pipit, May 5; migrant shrike, April 15; savannah sparrow, October 20; vesper sparrow, October 25; field sparrow, October 20; white-throated sparrow, May 15.

April 16 to 25—Holboell's grebe, April 30; American bitttern, October 15; osprey, May 16; Bonaparte's gull, May 5; pine warbler, May 15; yellow palm warbler, May 16; chipping sparrow, October 25; swamp sparrow, October 15.

April 26 to 30—Green heron, October 10; white-winged scoter, May 15; Virginia rail, October 15; sora, October 20; coot, April 30; upland plover, August 30; spotted sandpiper, September 30; greater yellowlegs, May 10; semipalmated sandpiper, April 30; whip-poor-will, August 20; chimney swift, September 20; red-headed woodpecker, September 15; bank swallow, September 10; red-breasted nuthatch, May 15; blue-headed vireo, May 25; black and white warbler, May 25; myrtle warbler, May 30; western palm warbler, May 5; Louisiana water-thrush, May 30; goldfinch, November 15.

May 1 to 5—Florida gallinule, October 10; Wilson's snipe, May 15; solitary sandpiper, May 30; lesser yellowlegs, May 10; rough-winged

swallow; August 10; cliff swallow, September 10; house wren, September 25; catbird, October 15; brown thrasher, October 5; wood thrush, September 30; veery, September 30; yellow-throated vireo, September 25; Nashville warbler, May 30; black-throated green warbler, May 30; northern water-thrush, May 25; red-eyed towhee, October 20; grasshopper sparrow, August 30.

May 6 to 10—Surf scoter, May 10; king rail, September 15; sanderling, May 10; kingbird, September 5; crested flycatcher, September 15; least flycatcher, September 15; long-billed marsh wren, October 10; warbling vireo, September 15; golden-winged warbler, May 30; yellow warbler, September 20; magnolia warbler, May 25; chestnut-sided warbler, September 5; ovenbird, September 25; northern yellow-throat, September 25; American redstart, September 30; bobolink, September 10; Baltimore oriole, September 3; Henslow's sparrow, August 20; Lincoln's sparrow, May 10.

May 11 to 15—Pectoral sandpiper, May 15; common tern, May 20; nighthawk, September 10; ruby-throated hummingbird, September 5; olive-backed thrush, May 30; cedar waxwing, October 25; red-eyed vireo, September 25; Philadelphia vireo, May 15; worm-eating warbler, May 15; Tennessee warbler, May 20; parula warbler, May 20; black-throated blue warbler, May 20; Blackburnian warbler, May 25; scarlet tanager, September 20; rose-breasted grosbeak, September 10; white-crowned sparrow, May 20.

May 16 to 20—Semipalmated plover, May 25; least sandpiper, May 25; black tern, May 30; black-billed cuckoo, September 30; alder flycatcher, August 30; purple martin, May 25; short-billed marsh wren, September 15; gray-cheeked thrush, May 25; Cape May warbler, May 20; bay-breasted warbler, May 25; black-bellied plover, May 25; Connecticut warbler, May 25; mourning warbler, May 30; Wilson's warbler, May 25; Canada warbler, May 30; indigo bunting, September 15.

May 21 through early June—Least bittern, September 5; black-bellied plover, May 30; yellow-bellied flycatcher, June 5; Acadian flycatcher, June 5; wood pewee, September 25; olive-sided flycatcher, May 30; yellow-breasted chat, August 15.

AUTUMN TRANSIENTS WINTER VISITORS

Late July—Great blue heron, November 30; American egret, September 15 (as summer visitor); solitary sandpiper, September 30; lesser yellowlegs, September 30; pectoral sandpiper, October 5; least sandpiper, September 30; semipalmated sandpiper, September 20; semipalmated sandpiper, September 20; sanderling, September 15.

Early August—Little blue heron, September 15 (as rare summer visitor); pine warbler, October 10.

Late August—Blue-winged teal, September 30; semipalmated plover, September 25; greater yellowlegs, September 30; eastern dowitcher, September 15; stilt sandpiper, September 10; common tern, September 20; black tern, August 30; yellow-bellied flycatcher, September 20; Acadian flycatcher, August 30; olive-sided flycatcher, August 30; purple martin, August 30; black and

white warbler, September 15; Nashville warbler, October 15; myrtle warbler, October 20; Blackburnian warbler, September 15; northern water-thrush, September 20; Louisiana water-thrush, September 5; Canada warbler, September 15.

Early September—Pied-billed grebe, November 10; osprey, October 15; yellow-bellied sapsucker, October 15; red-breasted nuthatch, October 30; magnolia warbler, September 30; black-throated green warbler, October 10; black-poll warbler, September 20; yellow palm warbler, October 15; mourning warbler, September 5; Wilson's warbler, September 25.

Mid-September—Common black duck, October 30; broad-winged hawk, October 30; blue-headed vireo, October 25; Philadelphia vireo, September 20; worm-eating warbler, September 15; Tennessee warbler, September 25; parula warbler, September 30; Cape May warbler, September 15; bay-breasted warbler, September 20; western palm warbler, September 30; Connecticut warbler, September 20; purple finch, November 25.

Late September—Gadwall, September 25; baldpate, November 15; American pintail, October 20; wood duck, October 20; coot, November 10; black-bellied plover, September 30; Wilson's snipe, November 15; hermit gull, May 10; prairie horned lark, November 25; brown creeper, November 30; winter wren, November 10; olive-backed thrush, October 15; gray-cheeked thrush, November 30; American pipit, October 25; black-throated blue warbler, September 30; slate-colored junco, November 25; white-throated sparrow, October 30; Lincoln's sparrow, October 5.

Early October—Double-crested cormorant, October 15; mallard, November 30; green-winged teal, November 15; surf scoter, October 25; American scoter, November 15; red-backed sandpiper, October 30; ring-billed gull, November 30; hermit thrush, November 5; golden-crowned kinglet, November 30; ruby-crowned kinglet, October 30; white-crowned sparrow, October 20.

Mid-October—Common loon, November 30; horned grebe, November 30; redhead, November 10; hooded merganser, November 20; Bonaparte's gull, November 15; rusty blackbird, November 15; fox sparrow, November 20.

Late October—Holboell's grebe, November 20; Canada goose, November 10; greater and lesser scaup ducks, November 20; white-winged scoter, November 15; ruddy duck, November 20; tree sparrow, April 25.

Early November—Buffle-head, November 20; old-squaw, November 30; American merganser, April 20; migrant shrike, November 15; pine siskin, May 10; snow bunting, March 15.

Mid- or late November—Ring-necked duck, November 20; canvasback, November 15; American golden-eye, April 10; goshawk, February 15; rough-legged hawk, March 30; snowy owl, February 28; northern horned lark, March 15; northern shrike, March 20; pine grosbeak, March 30; common redpoll, March 15.

December—(All rare) Fish crow, March 30; Bohemian waxwing, March 20; evening grosbeak, April 10; red crossbill, April 25; Lapland longspur, March 20.

FEATHERS

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BIRDS OF THE MOOSE

P. Schuyler Miller

The South Branch of the Moose River is probably as well known today, by name at least, as any stream in the Adirondacks, thanks to the valiant struggle which sportsmen, hikers, nature lovers, and conservationists are making to prevent the flooding of 8,000 acres of forest in the heart of the largest unbroken wild area in the state. Most people have by now heard or seen pictures of the gigantic virgin pines and spruce along the Indian River, the mile after mile of magnificent hardwood forest, the lakes and forest streams which will be destroyed if the Higley and Panther Mountain reservoirs are constructed. The story of the great deer herd which winters in the valley of the Moose, and of the otter, marten, fisher, and other rare wild animals which may still be found there, has been told and told well, but little has been said about the birds of the Moose.

The Moose is one of the largest tributaries of the Black River, which drains much of the western Adirondacks. Its Middle Branch empties the famous Fulton Chain of Lakes, and the South Branch is at once the entrance and the outlet of a great wild region which has no equal in this part of America. Thirty-five miles east and west from Indian Lake to McKeever -- twenty-five miles north and south from Inlet to Piseco -- a region which can be entered only by wood roads, trails -- or from the air, with the birds.*

On the weekend of September 14-15 a group from the Bouquet River Lodge Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club set out to see the Moose River country for themselves. An invitation from Allan Wilcox of Inlet, a driving power in the fight to save the region, to use his comfortable lodge at Beaver Lake as a base saved carrying tents. Unfortunately, a late start and bad weather offset this advantage.

The usual route to Beaver Lake and the upper waters of the Moose begins at Limekiln Lake. From Limekiln over Fawn Lake Mountain, down into the upper valley of the Red River, and up over a nameless ridge to the final descent into the Great Plains of the Moose, the trail winds for twelve miles through fine open hardwood forest with occasional clumps of

(* For details of this Herkimer-Hamilton counties area, consult U. S. Topographic Survey maps of eight quadrangles: Blue Mountain, Indian Lake, Raquette Lake, West Canada Lakes, Big Moose, Old Forge, Number Four, and McKeever.)

March, 1947



spruce and hemlock, which must be a haven for wildlife of all kinds, at all seasons. In spite of rain and lowering skies, the woods were a blaze of color.

Birds in Variety

The birds appeared from the moment we left the cars at Limekiln. There were Gulls over the water. Juncos, White-throats, and Chickadees bounced and chattered in the bushes along the lake shore. Small birds -- apparently warblers for the most part -- were busy in the treetops, although the weather made it impossible to identify them. The "cock of the woods" -- the Fileated Woodpecker -- thumped and called half a dozen times along the route, and his work was evident on all sides.

Where the trail crosses the Red River over an old logging dam, a long, narrow meadow opens to the southwest. Here the birds of the open appeared; a Pewee near the water, a Duck going up, a Cooper's Hawk circling over the deep grass. In fine weather and in spring the open woods along this meadow should be full of the birds associated with border-country.

Like Our Pine Brush

Grouse had been seen and heard in the hardwoods, and they appeared again as the trail circled over a ridge down to the famous Plains of the Moose. Dropping through giant yellow birches which gave way to equally huge poplars, and then to spruce and balsam, the trail comes out suddenly into rolling meadowland covered with waist-high grass, aromatic shrubs, and clumps of scarlet sumac which was utterly strange to anyone whose acquaintance with the Adirondacks has been made in the high peaks or on Lake George. The trail rises and falls over hillocks and winding ridges much as it does in the Pine Bush, and there is indeed a great similarity between the two regions which suggests a possible similarity in their birds. Verplanck Colvin, visiting the Plains in 1877, thought that they were burned land. This may be true, but at a quick glance they have the appearance of a post-glacial lake bed, like the Lake Albany bottom which gives Schenectady its pine plains, over which dunes and sand ridges wandered until the slow patience of nature sealed them over with grass and scrub.

Where the Pine Bush is overgrown with scrub oak and pines, the Plains of the Moose have tongues of spruce, balsam, and towering white pine, for they stand 1855 feet above the sea. They are dotted with sinks where the evergreens grow tall and dense, ideal shelter for deer and other game in the bitter winters. Icehouse Pond and Helldive Pond, two miniature lakes which we unfortunately missed, are havens of wildlife.

Deer Aplenty

Fresh deer tracks -- many of them quite large -- had been seen all along the trail. They grew more abundant as we came

down into the Plains, and in the tall grass we found fresh forms where deer had been bedded down. The rain had driven them back into the thickets for shelter, and kept them there the next day, but there was plenty of evidence of their presence in scores.

Beyond the Plains the trail crossed the still, dark waters of the Moose and swung west through mixed hardwoods, this time with an ever-increasing proportion of evergreens. One by one the giant pines began to appear -- four and five feet in diameter, reaching clear of the highest birches and maples before they branch. The Pileateds were rattling again, Chickadees and other small fry were in the treetops -- and it was still raining.

Prowling Lynx

Warren Meaker, caretaker at the Beaver Lake lodge, is an old-time Adirondacker who made us at home in record time. We heard of the bay lynx which had been prowling along the sand beach at the inlet of the lake, like a big rusty colored dog with a swollen face. Colvin shot a panther on the mountain north of the Plains in 1877. We were told how the deer waded into the shallow water after lily pads, only their ears and antlers showing in the telescope on the porch. And we found that that morning's New York Herald Tribune had arrived before us by plane.

Sunday morning dawned even greyer than Saturday, although the rain had stopped. One early riser, hoping for fish, saw the flock of Canada Jays which had been scrounging pancakes at the kitchen door up until a few hours before we arrived. Ducks had moved in from the stillwaters along the Moose, and their quacking, with the occasional laughter of a Loon, had sent us to sleep the night before, but they were gone again by daybreak.

Some Crossbills, and Grosbeak

Warren Meaker's pancakes and woods coffee for Sunday breakfast kept us late at the table. That was lucky, for it meant that we were there when a large flock of White-winged Crossbills, unbelievably vivid red to one who was seeing them for the first time, swarmed through the trees along the lake shore. One brilliantly colored male darted from a low cedar to the ground, barely five feet from us, and back again, several times, giving everyone a chance to admire him. A lone male Evening Grosbeak in unmistakable yellow and black plumage was with the Crossbills.

Birds were everywhere that morning when we went to the inlet of the lake to get pictures of some of the big pines. White-breasted Nuthatches were rioting and there were a few differently toned "yanks" which may have been Red-breastededs. Chickadees, Juncos, Downies, and a few Hairies were tame enough to be identified over and over again, but in the gray

light, against the morning glare, a host of Warblers and Sparrows, a Wren which was apparently not the same Winter Wren we had heard earlier on the trail, Flycatchers, and Thrushes went unidentified. There were Robins; there were more White-throats and at least one White-crowned Sparrow; there were Waxwings, Goldfinches, and Kinglets; and there were -- others.

The sun had come out when we started back, and made it possible to get Kodachromes of the Plains, and along the trail. More Grouse, a Pileated, and the smaller birds were active, and a very large, very dark hawk stole through the trees as silently as an Owl as we stopped by a spring.

Most Primeval of Today

A week or a full weekend on the Moose, in that period of balance in the spring when the birds are reaching their height and the insects aren't, would beyond a doubt be rewarding. The terrain is immensely varied; open hardwoods -- thickets of evergreens -- the Plains with their forest oases -- the meandering streams with their long stillwaters -- the many lakes -- the ledges of a high ridge overlooking the Plains. If birds teemed as they did on that dull September day at Beaver Lake, they undoubtedly teem during the spring migrations and through the breeding season, for they have food and cover of every kind at their disposal.

The Moose River country is probably closer to the primeval forest which once covered all eastern America than any we are likely to see. If commercialism and plain greed have their way, eroded shorelines and toppled skeletons of trees will soon reach far up the valley of the Red River, and the Plains of the Moose will be fifty feet under water. The great deer herd, which will not feed at higher altitudes than 1900 feet, the bear, otter, fisher, and the lynx must move out or die. The big trees, the Plains, the secret lakes and quiet backwaters and marshy swales will be gone, and the birds which they now support will go with them. There is not much time left in which to visit the Moose -- or to save it.

FIELD TRIP RECORDS - 1946

G. M. Andrews, Chairman, Field Activities

The past year, with its return of our country to a more "normal" way of life, brought increased opportunities to bird students, in that release of gas rationing restrictions made trips to more distant bird centers possible; and the elimination, in the most part, of Saturday as a working day made week-end trips again a reality.

This return to pre-war privileges was immediately reflected in the scheduling of some eighteen trips by the S B C in the folder issued last March. Fifteen of these trips were ac-

tually held, the remaining three failing to materialize for various reasons, including a New York City maritime strike, which necessitated cancellation of our annual Stoner Boat trip down the Hudson to Kingston and return.

As predicted in an article in March, 1946, FEATHERS, we were able last year to go as far afield as Mt. Greylock in June and Hawk Mountain, Pa., in October. These two distant trips were well attended and had their participants well occupied with numerous species not usually found in the Schenectady area.

140 Species Locally

The total tabulation for the year's fifteen trips came to 155 species, fifteen of which were seen on the Greylock and Hawk Mountain trips only. The remaining 140 species were recorded on the thirteen nearby area trips, as well as the two distant ones.

An obliging Snowy Owl was seen by all near Watervliet Reservoir on the March 24 trip. The April 7 jaunt to Saratoga Lake netted several unusual ducks, including Green-winged Teal, Canvasback, Bufflehead, Hooded and Red-breasted Mergansers. Those who braved the bad weather on the Big Nose trip May 12 were rewarded by the sight of the rare Cerulean Warbler among the other eleven species of warblers seen that day.

The large crowd that made the June 22-23 weekend trip to Mt. Greylock were able to find such species as the Turkey Vulture, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Bicknell's Thrush, and Mourning Warbler, all of which are seldom recorded in the Schenectady area. They were also rewarded by hearing the songs of the Winter Wren and several species of Thrushes from the summit of the mountain.

Not being able to make the Hudson Boat trip last year, we had to be satisfied with the two American Egrets seen on the mud flats at Watervliet Reservoir on August 25. The Hawk Mountain trip October 12-13 was favored with good hawking weather, and so those who made the trip were able to see the rare (in most other places) Golden Eagle, the Pigeon Hawk, and, on the mountainside, the Cape May Warbler.

The Christmas Count on December 22 produced more than its share of the unusual. A lone Phoebe was the most unexpected. A Greater Redpoll was found among the wave of Common Redpolls on that date. Also new to the total count list was a Cooper's Hawk.

This Year's Plans

Among trips being considered for this year's schedule are one to the Montezuma Marshes or Sandy Point on Lake Ontario, and a Century Run in May in which observers over a wide area will be asked to participate. These are in addition to the

many excellent local-area trips which are practically a tradition with the Club.

The following table shows the fifteen S B C trips of 1946 with the page numbers in parentheses indicating reports published in FEATHERS during 1946 or 1947.

FIELD TRIP RECORDS - 1946

A	Sunnyside Road, Scotia (p.36)	Mar.	9	-	25	species
B	Campbell Rd.; Watervliet Rsvr. (p.37)		24	-	37	species
C	Saratoga Lake (p.38)	Apr.	7	-	37	species
D	Watervliet Reservoir (p.39)		13	-	39	species
E	Vischer Ponds; Central Park (p.47)		28	-	42	species
F	Central Park (p.45)	May	5	-	39	species
G	Big Nose (p.45)		12	-	49	species
H	Indian Ladder Ravine (p.46)		18	-	54	species
I	Karner's Sand Barrens (p.60)		30	-	59	species
J	Indian Ladder Ravine (Evening) (p.61)	June	5	-	27	species
K	Mt. Greylock, and Valley (p.57)		22.23	-	78	species
L	Watervliet Reservoir (p.71)		Aug.25	-	48	species
M	Karner's Sand Barrens (p.87)		Sep.29	-	23	species
N	Watervliet Reservoir (p.87)		Oct. 6	-	36	species
O	Hawk Mountain, Pa. (p.90)		12.13	-	33	species
P	Saratoga Lake (p.5, 1947)		Nov.10	-	28	species
Q	Christmas Count (p.1, 1947)		Dec.22	-	33	species

SPECIES	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q
Common Loon					x										x		
Horned Grebe														x		x	
Great Blue Heron					x						x		x				
American Egret											x						
Green Heron										x	x						
Black-crowned Night Heron					x	x									x		
American Bittern						x				x							
Mallard		x	x												x		
Black Duck	x	x	x	x	x					x	x			x	x		
Green-winged Teal	x												x		x		
Blue-winged Teal		x	x	x													
Wood Duck		x	x	x							x	x			x		
Ring-necked Duck		x	x													x	
Canvasback		x															
Greater Scaup Duck	x																
Lesser Scaup Duck		x	x	x									x				
American Golden-eye	x	x	x										x				
Bufflehead		x															
White-winged Scoter														x			
Hooded Merganser	x												x				
American Merganser	x	x	x	x									x				
Red-breasted Merganser	x												x				
Turkey Vulture									x			x					
Eastern Goshawk															x		
Sharp-shinned Hawk									x		x						
Cooper's Hawk										x	x	x	x				
Red-tailed Hawk									x	x	x	x					

SPECIES	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q
Red-shouldered Hawk	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				x				
Broad-winged Hawk									x				x				
Rough-legged Hawk		x						x								x	
Golden Eagle																x	
Marsh Hawk	x		x			x	x	x	x				x			x	
Osprey			x	x		x	x	x	x								
Pigeon Hawk													x			x	
Sparrow Hawk	x	x	x							x		x	x			x	
Ruffed Grouse			x										x			x	
Pheasant	x	x	x	x			x			x	x	x	x			x	
Semipalmated Plover												x					
Killdeer	x	x	x	x		x		x	x	x			x	x	x	x	
Woodcock										x							
Spotted Sandpiper										x		x			x		
Greater Yellow-legs												x			x		
Lesser Yellow-legs											x		x		x		
Pectoral Sandpiper											x		x		x		
Least Sandpiper											x		x		x		
Semipalmated Sandpiper										x							
Herring Gull	x	x	x		x								x	x	x	x	
Ring-billed Gull	x													x			
Mourning Dove	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo									x								
Snowy Owl	x																
Nighthawk										x							
Chimney Swift						x	x	x	x								
Ruby-throated Hummingbird			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x							
Kingfisher	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Flicker	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Pileated Woodpecker					x		x										
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	x				x					x	x			x			
Hairy Woodpecker	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Downy Woodpecker	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Kingbird						x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Crested Flycatcher					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Phoebe	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Alder Flycatcher						x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Least Flycatcher						x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Wood Pewee							x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Olive-sided Flycatcher							x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Prairie Horned Lark						x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Tree Swallow	x	x	x							x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Bank Swallow										x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Barn Swallow					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Cliff Swallow						x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Blue Jay	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Crow	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Black-capped Chickadee	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
White-breasted Nuthatch	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Red-breasted Nuthatch		x			x					x		x	x	x	x	x	
Brown Creeper	x				x				x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
House Wren					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Winter Wren										x		x	x	x	x	x	
Long-billed Marsh Wren							x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Catbird							x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	

SPECIES	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q
Brown Thrasher					x	x	x	x									
Robin	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Wood Thrush						x	x	x	x								
Hermit Thrush		x	x	x					x	x			x				
Olive-backed Thrush						x			x								
Bicknell's Thrush										x							
Veery						x	x	x	x	x							
Bluebird	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	x								x		x		x	x	x	x	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet					x	x		x					x				
Pipit		x												x			
Cedar Waxwing										x	x	x					
Starling	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Blue-headed Vireo			x	x	x	x	x	x	x				x				
Red-eyed Vireo					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Warbling Vireo										x	x						
Black and White Warbler						x	x	x	x	x	x						
Worm-eating Warbler							x										
Golden-winged Warbler							x	x									
Nashville Warbler								x	x								
Parula Warbler						x	x										
Yellow Warbler							x	x	x	x							
Magnolia Warbler						x	x		x				x				
Cape May Warbler							x		x				x				
Black-throated Blue Warbler						x	x	x									
Myrtle Warbler						x	x	x		x			x				
Black-throated Green Warbler						x	x			x							
Cerulean Warbler						x											
Blackburnian Warbler						x	x			x							
Chestnut-sided Warbler						x	x	x	x	x	x						
Black-poll Warbler									x	x	x		x	x			
Pine Warbler								x									
Prairie Warbler									x								
Yellow Palm Warbler		x											x				
Oven-bird						x	x	x	x	x	x	x					
Louisiana Water-thrush						x											
Mourning Warbler							x				x						
Northern Yellow-throat							x		x	x	x	x					
Yellow-breasted Chat							x										
Canada Warbler						x		x	x	x	x	x					
American Redstart						x	x	x	x	x	x	x					
English Sparrow	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Bobolink							x			x							
Meadowlark	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Red-wing	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Baltimore Oriole						x	x	x	x	x	x	x					
Rusty Blackbird														x			
Bronzed Grackle	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Cowbird	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x					
Scarlet Tanager						x		x	x	x	x	x					
Rose-breasted Grosbeak							x	x		x	x						
Indigo Bunting	x	x						x						x			
Evening Grosbeak							x	x							x		
Purple Finch								x		x					x		
Common Redpoll									x						x		

SPECIES	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q
Greater Redpoll																x	
Pine Siskin																x	
Goldfinch	x				x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Towhee					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Savannah Sparrow										x		x	x	x	x	x	
Grasshopper Sparrow								x	x	x							
Henslow's Sparrow								x	x	x							
Vesper Sparrow			x	x	x		x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	
Slate-colored Junco	x	x	x	x	x					x		x	x	x	x	x	
Tree Sparrow	x	x													x	x	
Chipping Sparrow			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Field Sparrow		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
White-crowned Sparrow													x	x	x	x	
White-throated Sparrow						x	x			x		x	x	x	x	x	
Fox Sparrow	x	x	x												x		
Swamp Sparrow				x			x										
Song Sparrow	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Snow Bunting															x		

NEWS & NOTES IN BRIEF

EVENING GROSBEAKS

Evening Grosbeaks were seen locally in small numbers during early winter, but seemed to have vanished before the end of December. None was seen on the Christmas Count. And then they reappeared early in January in Scotia, with a flock of more than a dozen along Riverside in the box elders January 4.

Others appeared at the feeder of Mrs. W. L. Butler, Algonquin Road, January 24 and continued there. Mrs. R. M. Brockway, Rosa Road, had some on and after January 30. Then in February the reports became numerous and widespread.

SELDOM-SEEN VIREO

It was my good fortune on October 4, 1946, to discover the seldom-seen Philadelphia Vireo in the woods along a brook a few minutes' walk back of my Loudonville home. I instantly recognized the bird as something new to me, and that its build and actions were those of a vireo. The Philadelphia being the only one of the eastern vireos I did not know, I looked for the identifying points of that bird. Upper parts entirely olive, with no wing bars or markings? Yes! Entire under parts clear, even, unstreaked light yellow? Yes again. Pale yellow line over eye? Not conspicuous, but easily distinguishable.

I followed the bird about for over an hour and a half, losing it, then finding it again. In the course of such repeated check-ups I noticed that in certain lights the upper parts appeared positively green, almost like the patch in the middle of a Parula Warbler's back. Peterson describes the back of a Philadelphia as more olive than a Warbling Vireo's.

An old book "The Birds of Albany County" by Judd states that the upper parts show "greenish in right lights."

I can report nothing about its note, for it remained perfectly silent while it explored the foliage in true vireo fashion. It remained at about middle levels, so that it was very easy to observe.

The date seems a trifle late, but I find from Cruickshank's "Birds Around New York City" that this vireo has been reported from Westchester County as late as October 20. Also, as is often the case with rare species, this one occurred on a day when other migrants were plentiful. There were twenty species in this group about the brook, with several more only a few hundred feet away. They included two Gray-cheeked Thrushes, two Blue-headed Vireos (singing), one each of Parula and Magnolia Warblers, and one female Scarlet Tanager.

-- Lable W. French

WINTERING SAPSUCKER

Too late for inclusion in the Christmas Count was a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker seen at the feeding station of Mrs. W.L. Butler, Algonquin Road, starting on December 24. The record, incidentally, is the first local winter date for the species.

The Sapsucker fed regularly through the rest of the winter, on a feeding stick suspended from a low pine in the front yard. The bird was tame and permitted photographs, even with the photographer within four or five feet.

JANUARY GEESE

There were two reports of numbers of Canada Geese seen locally during January. Residents in the Clifton Park Road area reported a flock of several hundred in flight on January 19. The Union Star reported a flock of 36 seen in V formation at 10 a.m. on January 24, about 200 feet above the ground and headed due north. The report was by Stephen Angle, Curry Rd.

SNOW GEESE

Duck hunters undoubtedly could add a great deal of information about our rarer water birds to SBC records, if the proper contacts could only be established. For example, Kenneth Brate of 824 Union Street, duck hunting with two companions on the western side of Saratoga Lake last December 1, had an experience few of us have equalled. The day had been overcast and gloomy and the shooting poor, when a sudden gap appeared in the clouds over Snake Hill, letting through a shaft of brilliant sunlight, almost like a theatrical spotlight. Caught in the shaft of light for a few seconds was a flock of 40 to 60 "snowies", Snow Geese, winging its way south. The sun-break vanished, the flock merged with the clouds, and another unique experience was over. ... Before going into the Army, Ken had begun work on an unusual collection of Kodachrome slides of local mushrooms, a branch of natural history which has been thoroughly neglected hereabouts.

-- P. Schuyler Miller

TWO UNUSUALS

Had the good fortune to see a Hermit Thrush at our feeding station on January 4.

Another unusual note of interest is the fact that there has been a Pintail among the hundreds of Black Ducks, a few Mallards, Golden-eyes, and American Mergansers at the state dam on the Green Island side. I have seen the Pintail there at least three different times.

-- Ernest Geiser, R.D. 4, Troy

TWO MORE UNUSUALS

A Red-winged Blackbird perched in a shrub near the house for a short time in the morning on February 7. It had probably followed Jays or Starlings in, but it did not go to the feeding stations.

A Cedar Waxwing was in the yard on February 13, feeding on small rose hips and mingling with the other birds.

Evening Grosbeaks -- about twenty of them -- have been in the yard regularly since January 30 (Report dated February 17). -- Krs. R. M. Brockway

WREN AT GUILDERLAND

A Winter Wren was seen in Guilderland between December 20 and January 15. It was observed on numerous occasions about the houses in the town, and at the deserted foundry on the Hunger Kill. The bird gave its familiar "chip-chap" call only infrequently, and thereby eluded detection on the annual Christmas Census. -- Lt. Franklin H. West, U.S.N.

GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE IN MASS.

On December 31 there appeared at a feeding station on Fort Hill, Northampton, Mass., an unfamiliar bird, later identified by Ludlow Griscom and other visiting ornithologists as a Green-tailed Towhee, the first record for New England.

Fort Hill is an estate recently taken over by Smith College. Cutting out old trees has left brush piles, the haunt of the visiting westerner. Here he associates with some Juncos. When the two are feeding together on the ground the Towhee looks slightly larger, but not when the bird is in flight. Its actions are different also, more like a Tree Sparrow's, and the red crown also suggests that bird.

This bird is an adult and a much darker grey above and below than the plate in Pough's recent book, Audubon Bird Guide, would lead you to expect, thus making the contrast between the white throat and dark breast very marked. The white throat can be seen only from the front, for it is smaller than in the plate.

As the bird flies up into the low branches of small trees near the feeding station, the under tail feathers of light yellow-green are easily seen. Just the same, the name Green-tailed is misleading. Subconsciously you picture a more colorful bird than you will see.

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

Central Park Junior High School
8 P.M.

**MAR. 5—DR. OLIN S. PETTINGILL, JR.,
“WILDLIFE IN ACTION”**

Dr. Pettingill's gorgeous films of Mexican bird life were a highlight of last year's program. For this new film of North American animals and birds he has spent four years in travel, covering 20,000 miles and exposing six miles of film to show familiar and unfamiliar birds and animals at home in their natural haunts.

The bird is of a nervous type, erecting his crown feathers, twitching his tail, moving about, tilting its head, disappearing into the brush piles. But, even so, most of its many visitors have had very satisfactory views.

-- Caroline Hamilton, Greenfield, Mass.

AT LEAST ONE WINTER ROBIN

There were plenty in school who looked out and saw one of the very few wintering Robins of this season when one of the birds appeared outside Jefferson School on January 10.

ANOTHER S B C EAGLE SCOUT

Glen H. Wilson recently became SBC's second Eagle Scout; James Suits also has attained this high rank.

SAW-WHET

There was a Saw-whet Owl at Ballston Lake in late January, R. K. Lepper has reported. He also recorded a flying squirrel there the same evening.

FEEDER HINT

Quoting from an item by Florence T. Matteossian in The Wood Thrush, Washington, D.C.: "At our feeders we use millet, finely cracked corn, wild bird seed, and much sunflower. We make cakes for our suet racks as this seems to be the easiest way to handle and store such material. We usually get about three pounds of suet which is ground, adding whatever waste fat has collected, and this is thoroughly melted over low heat. When partly cool, ground apples, carrots and raisins, together with some bird seed and peanut butter, are added with enough corn meal or flour to thicken. It is then poured into shallow pans and when cold, cut to size of racks. Result, about six pounds of a combination that seems to appeal to all the birds coming into the yard."

FEATHERS

Published by the Schenectady Bird Club

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER, DEPENDABLE

Dr. Minnie B. Scotland

Chapman has spoken of the "gayly colored Red-headed Wood-pecker" as being "as erratic in his goings and comings as he is striking in dress", and Cruickshank has referred to "this flamboyant woodpecker" as "absolutely unpredictable in any one area for any one year."

The bird is claimed by Hausman to be a "bird of erratic migratory movements" and by Eaton to be "somewhat irregular in manner of occurrence."

Vermont Experience

Despite these statements on the habits of the Red-headed Woodpecker, the following experience can speak for the dependability of the bird. For several years prior to 1940 the Red-heads were observed in a particular group of hickory trees in northern Vermont, on the south side of Route 17 a mile and a half west of the town of Addison.

Because of the limitations on travel during the war, trips to check up on these woodpeckers were not possible. However, on June 30 of last year the region was again visited.

The first Red-head observed emerged from the top of a dead tree about a hundred yards from the previously mentioned trees. The next one seen was on the old stamping ground, just where he was expected. Five birds in all were found, a smaller number than when the counts were begun in 1936.

Is their food becoming scarce? Are enemies more numerous? Or is the number of birds that return to this area each year "unpredictable"?

Flycatcher Habits

One of the woodpeckers was observed leaving his perch in the direction of an insect and then, returning, to repeat the performance.

Taverner writes this thought about which one can ponder: "The Red-headed Woodpecker has rather less of woodpecker habits than other woodpeckers, or it has evolved other flycatcher-like traits in addition to its ancestral ones."

ON FEEDING STATIONS

B. D. Miller

Nearly all of us who feed the birds would like to exclude from them a few "uninvited guests" -- guests that often take more than their shares of the food offered. English Sparrows, Starlings, and gray squirrels are probably the most troublesome in this respect; but occasionally a Blue Jay or a bold Crow will empty your feeding station with two or three visits.

To exclude these robbers I have seen several "inventions" in which ingenious inventors incorporated features that would allow (the "inventor" claimed) only Chickadees, Creepers and Nuthatches to reach the feed. One such design uses a grille or lattice work, with bars spaced about 1-1/16 inches apart, across the open end of a box or feeding station six inches or more deep. Another, simpler idea -- one that will include the Woodpeckers -- is to cover a board at least one foot square with burlap, hanging it upright or vertically, and fastening in the center of this burlap, by stitching, a piece of suet or cake of feed.

Wasted Efforts

Both these ideas have some merit, but if gray squirrels are in the neighborhood you may be just wasting your efforts. I was told only a metal pole six or eight feet long, set vertically in the ground with your feeding station at the top, was all one needed to eliminate the squirrels. But if your squirrels are as cunning as ours, a pipe will not even delay them in reaching the top.

After seeing a few squirrels climb our metal pole as easily as a wooden one, I "invented" a baffle to go around the pipe. I can't make any prior claims for originating this idea because farmers for many years have used it to exclude rats and mice from their granaries, and seamen their hawsers when ships are moored to piers where rats could come aboard on the ropes.

Unbaffled

My experimental work with this idea cost me one good bucket, a dish pan, and a piece of galvanized steel about two feet square. The bucket and dish pan probably exclude some of the young and inexperienced squirrels, but not the old ones; not even the piece of steel accomplished all I predicted it would. I finally hung the feeding station on a metal wire strung horizontally from a tree to the house.

"There is the answer," said I, and it did work perfectly for a few days. But imagine my amazement, and feeling of complete defeat, when I saw a squirrel walking along my support-

ing wire toward the feeding station. Instead of walking along the top of my wire, as a tight-rope walker should, these clever little animals suspended themselves from the underside of the wire, as a monkey or sloth does. Instead of a barrier, I had provided a runway.

After actually watching these little fellows studying my "inventions" from various angles, and usually finding ways of beating them, I quit designing against them. Sometimes it took them several days to find the answer. I finally decided, as has been said about training a dog, in order to beat the squirrels one must know more than they do.

A Bag Does It

After several years of trials and errors -- mostly errors -- I decided a coarse meshed bag makes the best feeding station anyway. Small onion bags with about a 1/4-inch mesh are what we use now, dumping in them suet, sunflower seeds, peanut butter, etc. When hung from the clothesline by a wire, and eight or ten feet from neighboring walls or trees, your visitors will be almost restricted to Chickadees, Nuthatches, and Woodpeckers.

I can't claim anything new or novel about this idea, but can recommend it as being both simple and effective. Late in January I watched for several minutes a Red-breasted Nuthatch perching and eating from our feed bag.

BIRDS OR BEAVERS

J. M. Hollister

Which are the more interesting to watch, birds or beavers? The answer by a large majority is "Birds." But all good rules have exceptions. Many bird students will say that they are so different a comparison is impossible.

At Lake Mansfield, in northern Vermont, I was fortunate in being able to study the Merganser, the Loon, and the beaver. All are good swimmers and divers, and all are awkward on land. After a dive by the beaver, the point of his next appearance was as uncertain as the Loon's. While the Loon would surface among the cat-tails, the beaver might choose the overhanging willows near the shore of the lake. He might stay under water a couple minutes, although this is not his limit.

Engineering Skill

As for workmanship, while not as delicate as the Oriole, I am of the opinion that the engineering skill of the beaver is of a higher order than that of the birds. One observation was in the felling of an eleven-inch poplar tree. The tree was on the edge of the lake, allowing standing room on one

April, 1947

side only. After the scarf came to a point, four inches were left and the tree did not fall. Then a platform was built of sticks, stones and mud from the lake, of sufficient height to serve as a platform, on which the beaver stood to finish the job. This had the appearance of intelligence.

Birds preen their feathers, while the beaver combs his fur. He has a split toe-nail on each hind foot which is used like a comb in cleaning each strand of the long hairs which cover the real fur.

Not Too Busy

Yes, they build nests also, but not for the young. The one I found was fully a quarter of a mile from the beaver house. It might be called a "sun parlor" as it was lined with dried grass, next to a stump on swampy land extending into the lake. It was in full sun in the forenoon and was occupied at that time, and only when the sun was shining.

Don't think that the expression "busy as a beaver" means work all the time. My observations indicated that the beaver is a good loafer -- and interesting to watch, day or night.

AUGUST VACATION NOTES

Mabel W. French

Three almost unprecedently cold, wet weeks of last August spent at East Marion, Long Island, were not as productive nature-wise as was hoped for, but there were some items of interest.

On August 11 I believe I made a record for the area. Six swans were noted on a salt-water pond across the highway from the bay. In summer, swans on Long Island are supposed to mean Mute Swans, which were introduced there many years ago and now breed regularly as wild birds, particularly on the South Shore. I have on three occasions studied these Mute Swans at close range at Hempstead Lake and Carman River, two water-fowl concentration points at the west end and south side of the Island. There I learned the bright orange bill with the black tubercle of the mature white bird, and the darkish bill of the grayish brown immature.

Black-billed, Yellow-spotted

These East Marion birds, all pure white adults, had black bills with a yellow spot at the base. This fact was very distinctly seen through binoculars. That is generally conceded to be the main distinguishing mark of the Whistling Swan. I reported the matter to Roy Latham, the local bird authority.

He replied that Whistling Swans had never been reported from Long Island earlier than November but that he accepted my identification, adding "We bird people know that most anything could happen in the bird world."

Accidents Will Happen

Two incidents belong in the "Accidents Will Happen" category. One afternoon my husband and I rowed along the bay shore following a duck for some time before I recognized it as the familiar Old Squaw. This individual was so heavily oiled that its identity was all but concealed. The bird appeared sluggish and apathetic, moving just fast enough and far enough to keep out of arm's reach.

The morning of August 20 my husband, daughter and I were crossing an arm of Gardiner's Bay, when he called our attention to a Double-crested Cormorant that had become caught in the meshes of a fishing net that the fishermen had drawn up on the trap stakes and left to dry. We immediately shut off the outboard motor and went to the bird's relief. It took the three of us to rescue the bird. Dorothy held the boat steady against the stakes while her father and I worked. The Cormorant's legs, feet and wings had become entangled in an unbelievably intricate snarl, but its head and neck were free. It evidently regarded us as just another menace and struck out with all the force of a very efficient beak. My husband was forced to throw a piece of bagging over its head before we could do anything toward its release. Then I held its neck as he, inch by inch, unwound its fetters. When the captive was finally cleared, he dropped it into the water, whereupon it sank like a stone.

Late Lamented

We began to mourn the poor creature's fate, but our lamentations ended in a laugh. There was our dying Cormorant about fifty feet from the boat, swimming away from us with all speed and agility! Upon being dropped, it had simply swam under water and come up when a safe distance had been put between it and the scene of its peril.

While we were freeing the Cormorant I counted over eighty Common Terns, many in the plumage of the season's young, perched on the trap or flying over it. Later, near Orient, I raised the count to over 150. The colony at Long Beach seems to be picking up again.

Ospreys at Home

Later in the day we were on this same Long Beach, a part of the Orient State Park lands. That is a noted nesting site for Ospreys, as well as Terns. I counted over twenty of their nests on less than a mile strip of beach, plus several on a neck of land across the channel. If we had covered the park we could probably have tripled the count. It is doubtful,

however, if all the nests were in use. One built on top of a group of three piles marking a channel was in a particularly dilapidated condition. Most of the nests were located in stunted oaks or sprawling red cedars. The largest was on a low, dead stub of a tree much bolstered with surrounding vegetation and heaped-up drift wood. It was a huge, bulky affair, ten feet or more across and containing weather-beaten branches so large it did not seem as though even a bird the size of an Osprey could have carried them.

Other Records

Three other pleasing records of the vacation were two Bonaparte's Gulls, one adult and one immature seen while crossing Long Island Sound on the Bridgeport-Port Jefferson ferry; an American Egret present at East Marion August 14-17; and a flock of 14 Ruddy Turnstones, all in full adult plumage, at Montauk Point on August 22.

The Blue-winged Warbler, which I have yet to see in the Albany-Schenectady area, was noted on August 11 and 25. It is a fairly common May and August migrant on eastern Long Island, and occasionally nests there.

THREE HUDSON RIVER TRIPS

January 19

EAGLES

Nelle Van Vorst

The Upper Hudson usually holds some reward for the January trip, held this year on the 19th. This year was no exception, for two full-plumaged Bald Eagles were sunning themselves in a tree on the west shore of the river.

There was considerable open water, so the large concentration of ducks was missing. The usual wintering ducks -- American Mergansers, Golden-eyes, and Scaup -- were there, but not the huge raft of Blacks sometimes seen.

Strange as it may seem, there was not one gull to be seen. They had been seen earlier in January, as well as later, but none on the 19th.

It was somewhat windy, so few land birds were recorded.

February 2

BALDPATE

Dr. Minnie B. Scotland

George Washington wrote "Between breakfast and dinner I went a ducking and killed five Mallards and two Bald-faces."

On February 2, also "between breakfast and dinner," SBC members made a "killing" in spotting, among Mallards, Golden-eyes and American Mergansers, a lone Baldpate, or Baldface as

Washington called the bird -- there are many other common names, including California Widgeon, White-belly, and Norwegian Poacher.

The bird seen in the Mohawk River near Ford Park, Green Island, was a male, which made identification rather easy. Inasmuch as the sun was shining on the bird as he sat on the quiet water, all his colors shone clearly. There was the bright green area on each side of his head, and between the eyes the clear white crown. Stretching along the body was a wash of purplish pink. An added color was that of the bill, which was grayish blue.

This stranger among the river ducks has never been reported in this area previously for January. It is usually an uncommon transient visitor in April and from late September to mid-November.

February 15

PINTAIL

G. Malcolm Andrews

The second of the Club's scheduled winter trips along the upper Hudson River above Cohoes, on Saturday, February 15, featured a Pintail. These trips are made each year to observe the ducks which are usually found congregated on the ice along the river, or at whatever open water areas are available.

Most of the river between Cohoes and Mechanicville was entirely open, because of the recent spells of unseasonably mild temperatures. This did not affect the total numbers of wintering ducks, but did cause them to disperse more widely over the area; usually they are found at a few spots only, such as at the rapids below the several dams along the route.

The Green Island area was the first covered this time. Guided by Ernest Geiser, familiar with the territory, we were able to see a lone Pintail along with the more common Black Ducks, Mallards, American Golden-eyes, and American Mergansers. A flock of Evening Grosbeaks, including several handsome males, were feeding in some box elders nearby. Here we also noted a Chickadee, Sparrow Hawk, and heard a Crow in the distance. A flock of Redpolls was watched feeding on weed seeds in a field.

We then drove along the road on the east side of the Hudson between Cohoes and Mechanicville, instead of along the usually followed west-side route. This east road follows the bank of the river most of the way, affording much closer views of the ducks than is possible from the more heavily travelled road on the opposite side. It was on this part of the trip we recorded a compact flock of about 30 Cedar Waxwings in flight, with their call note the determining feature.

With the several telescopes and binoculars taken along, we were able to obtain excellent views of the several species of ducks mentioned above. Also seen along the river were Herring Gulls, the usual Starlings, English Sparrows and Crows.

BOHEMIAN WAXWINGS IN ALBANY

Lillian C. Stoner

Miss Alice Pauline Schafer telephoned me that Dr. and Mrs. Emerson C. Kelly, 269 South Main Avenue, Albany, reported a brief visit of Bohemian Waxwings to the poplar tree which holds their bird feeding trays.

Mrs. Kelly later told me that the record for their appearance was about December 15, 1946. She first saw the estimated flock of 75 birds coming toward their home; even though she was seated inside the house by the window she heard the buzz of many voices as they approached and settled in the tree.

Not at Feeder

The birds did not feed on the suet or sunflower seeds which were on the feeding shelves; however, they kept up this loud chatter as they perched for only a few minutes in this rather low and small poplar tree which is only twelve feet from the window.

The large size, crest and reddish under tail-coverts were the distinguishing points observed and upon consulting her bird book Mrs. Kelly decided they were the Bohemian Waxwings and not the Cedar Waxwings.

There are very few records at the New York State Museum of this larger Waxwing; however, Eaton in "Birds of New York" (p. 355) gives various dates from January to April for their appearance in the state.

Sporadic, Unpredictable

Pough in "Audubon Bird Guide" (p. 131) says in regard to some of the mysteries of this bird:

"Its appearance in civilized areas is sporadic and unpredictable. Few breeding areas are known but the flocks which invade the United States in winter are frequently enormous. . . Like other fruit eaters, they can be brought to feeding shelves by raisins and cut pieces of other dried fruit."

The Kellys were fortunate to have a glimpse of this very rare winter bird visitor.

Beginning about the middle of January and on through the present date (March 5) Dr. and Mrs. Kelly have been entertaining other winter bird visitors. A flock of Evening Grosbeaks, varying in size from a few to 39 individuals come more or less regularly to feed upon the provided sunflower seed and other food.

RED CROSSBILLS

Dr. Minnie B. Scotland

Not since the 7th of March, 1941, had Red Crossbills been seen by me or my Ornithology Class at State College; on that occasion they were observed on Oxford Road in Albany. Consequently it gave us great satisfaction this year to find Red Crossbills on a field trip to Fuller Road, which is west of the area visited in 1941.

On Friday morning, February 28, seven Red Crossbills were spotted feeding on the cones of a low branch of a pine tree. In the group there were two mature males, two immatures, and three females. The light was good enough for every member of the class to get the colors. One student remarked that the Crossbills blended in with the cones so well that the birds were not noticeable at first.

The "high-pitched, thin, twittery trill" described by Pough was heard very well as the birds continued their feeding. Then, with a chirp they suddenly lifted themselves as a group and flew across the road, and were not seen again that morning.

The following day, however, Red Crossbills were hunted by S B C members and successfully located more than a mile west of Fuller Road, at a trailer camp off Western Avenue.

1946 AT PITTSFIELD

Bartlett Hendricks

The Hoffman Bird Club of Pittsfield, Mass., on 14 scheduled field trips in 1946, had about the same results as the members of the Schenectady Bird Club (FEATHERS, March, p.24). One hundred and forty-eight species were identified, plus a few seen by only one observer and not included. One hundred seventeen plus species were found on the Club's annual mid-May southern Berkshire trip. Altogether in Berkshire County 219 forms were reported, two more than the record set in 1943 and equalled in 1945.

The observations included two birds new to the county all-time records: a European Little Gull at Onota Lake, seen by Ludlow Griscom, Miss Scotland, Miss Van Vorst and others on April 20; and seven Knots, found at the Pittsfield Sewer Beds August 27th by Mrs. Ruth I. Derby and S. W. Bailey. Other good discoveries during 1946 included: Barrow's Golden-eye, King Rail (twice), Stilt Sandpiper, Barn Owl, Acadian Chickadee, White-eyed Vireo, Worm-eating Warbler, Cerulean Warbler,

Cardinal (with three different reports for this species) and Blue Grosbeak.

Members of the Schenectady Bird Club are welcome on any Hoffman Bird Club trips. A 1947 schedule may be had by writing the Berkshire Museum at Pittsfield.

The third annual Berkshire Camp-out of the Massachusetts Audubon Society will be held June 13, 14 and 15. The Berkshire Museum will again sponsor overnight trips to Mt. Greylock on June 20-21, 27-28, and July 5-6.

NEWS & NOTES IN BRIEF

SNOW BUNTINGS IN ALBANY

Two Snow Buntings appeared February 28 and March 1, about 10 a.m. on each day, at a feeding station which is maintained by Mr. and Mrs. Ernest V. Hoit, 820 Park Avenue, Albany. Mrs. Hoit, who observed the two small white birds, said they flew to the grain which was on the ground. Evening Grosbeaks were feeding on the upper feeders at the same time. The Snow Buntings were very nervous and would only fly in and pick up a seed and then hurry away to eat it. One bird appeared to have a few more, darker spots on it than the other one, so this probably was a male and female.

While the houses in this section of Park Avenue are fairly close together there is a little open space back of them, but even then it is rather unusual for these more or less open country birds to appear at a feeding station in a city.

Perhaps these birds were attracted to the grain by following the sizeable flock of Evening Grosbeaks which had been feeding there regularly for some time. Then, too, the ground was covered with snow. The "Snowflakes" as they are sometimes called are said to depend upon grass and weed seeds for their winter food.

Mr. and Mrs. Hoit have an excellent view of all of their bird visitors from a large window which is only 20 feet distant from these several feeding areas. The mixed seed which they have distributed here for the past two winters has attracted other species for a variable length of time, but the two Snow Buntings spent only about ten minutes here on their two dated appearances.

-- Lillian C. Stoner, Albany

WINTER BLUEBIRDS

The Knickerbocker News of February 19 contained a report from Gardiner Bump of the Conservation Department that four Bluebirds were seen in their yard in Delmar.

These were possibly the same birds seen by Julia A. Thompson of Slingerlands on January 5. The birds were in bright plumage, sat on wires or branches together, and flew together. They were at the feeder there and in the neighbor-

hood for ten days, and were not seen again.

On January 13 a Pileated Woodpecker alighted on an electric pole near the house, but did not remain in the vicinity.

PINTAIL AGAIN

A visit to the Mohawk and Hudson Rivers at Green Island on March 1 showed less open water, with the Mohawk mostly closed, but with the ducks still present. Again the Pintail was seen, this time in plain view on the ice beside a patch of open water in the Hudson.

-- N.V.W.

SCOTIA'S BUNTINGS

At least a thousand Snow Buntings were seen at noon on February 28, feeding in the fields of the islands and river edge off Sanders Avenue, Scotia.

-- N.V.V.

ANOTHER WINTER ROBIN

A robin was reported by Elmer Daley, 2859 Broadway, on February 15, in an item in that day's Union Star.

GROSBEAKS APLENTY

A record number of Evening Grosbeaks visited a tree out back on February 27 -- sixty-five of the birds. They have been here in lesser numbers -- a flock of about 25 -- for about four weeks. The next-door neighbor feeds them; their call notes (for feed?) are like a chorus of robins.

-- Everett G. Ham, Troy

AT BUFFALO

Reporting in The Prothonotary of The Buffalo Ornithological Society in February, C. S. Beardslee reports, "The Noteworthy Records (for Buffalo) are so full of remarkable observations that no previous January list can even approach them. The standout record was the Arctic Horned Owl, a beautiful specimen which now graces our museum collection, but hardly less notable were such species as King Rail, Gallinule, Saw-whet Owl, Hudsonian (?) Chickadee, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Orange-crowned Warbler, Water-thrush, Hoary Redpoll, Killdeer, and Towhee."

AT ROCHESTER

Rochester Bird Notes for January, reported by W. L. G. Edson, included the Cardinal, Hermit Thrush, Bohemian Waxwing, Myrtle Warbler, Pine Grosbeak, Catbird, Cowbird, Robin, and White-throated Sparrow.

GROSBEAKS ON SCHEDULE

How would you like to have a flock of Evening Grosbeaks visiting you for about five hours every day? The thought is exciting, isn't it? Mrs. Nicholas J. Walsh feels that way

too. All winter a group of about twenty Evening Grosbeaks arrived at an elm tree in her yard at 7:30 o'clock in the morning and stayed as late as 1:30 in the afternoon. As the sunrise became earlier, the birds arrived earlier. There is a bird feeder ten feet from Mrs. Walsh's kitchen window so that, although she was inexperienced, she was able to identify the birds with the help of a library book.

At first she attempted to feed the Grosbeaks with wild bird seed, but as she investigated she substituted sunflower seed. This of course suited the Grosbeaks much better, and they have eaten one-half to three-quarters of a pound of sunflower seed every day. The flock has had about the same number of the sexes, but the males have made themselves more noticeable by their spirited air battles over a coveted seed.

Mrs. Walsh lives near the Saratoga Road airport, on Sheffield Road, Route 72, Mayfair. -- Mrs. Albert G. Guy

REDPOLLS -- GREATER, HOARY

On a field trip in Massachusetts early this winter Dr. Scotland and I were shown study specimens of the Hoary and Greater Redpolls by Ludlow Griscom, prominent ornithologist who was making a study of Redpolls.

What we learned then was put to good use on Sunday, March 9, when we encountered several hundred of the birds feeding along a local roadway.

The flock was a challenge to us, and to work we went. The birds were close, and the light was good. It was fairly easy to find a Greater, as the size is conspicuous (It will be recalled that a Greater was also found locally on the Christmas Census trip by other observers, likewise as a roadside feeder). The Hoary, too, was soon found as the color is so much lighter -- almost no streaks on the breast, and a white rump patch.

This season's Redpoll wave has been far heavier than usual, so it may be only fair to expect at least a few of the rare varieties.

-- N.V.V.

<p>AUDUBON SCREEN TOURS PRESENTED BY THE SCHENECTADY BIRD CLUB AND THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY</p>
<p>Central Park Junior High School 8 P. M.</p>
<p>APRIL 16—CARL W. BUCHHEISTER, “OUT-OF-DOORS IN NEW ENGLAND”</p>
<p>Mr. Buchheister, Vice-President of the National Audubon Society, has covered New England with his color camera, from the Maine coast with its nesting cormorants and tide pools to the mountain forests with their warblers, mink, “porkies,” and other familiar animals and birds.</p>

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FEATHERS

Published by the Schenectady Bird Club

1946 IN REVIEW

John L. Voght, 1946 Records Committee Chairman

There were several new end dates as well as unusual observations in the Schenectady Bird Club composite summary of local records for 1946. Among the rarities in the 194 species of the year were the Red-throated Loon, Little Blue Heron, Gadwall, Turkey Vulture, Bob-white, Short-eared Owl, Fish Crow, Bohemian Waxwing, White-eyed Vireo, Cerulean Warbler, and the Greater Redpoll. There were such out-of-season birds as wintering Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Phoebe. In addition there were several species with particularly early arrival or late departure dates. In the following tabulation such records have been underlined, if the dates are beyond those in the Club's files for previous years.

Records not otherwise credited are from the SBC field trips of the year (summarized by G. M. Andrews in March, p. 24), but the Mt. Greylock, Hawk Mountain or other non-local trips are not included. In the tabulation the reporters shown are:

A - G. Malcolm Andrews	Sc - Dr. Minnie B. Scotland
B - Guy Bartlett	St - Mrs. Lillian C. Stoner
Bn - George H. Bainbridge	V - Nelle G. Van Vorst
Br - Cora T. Brockway	
C - Dorothy W. Caldwell	X - Dr. Scotland & Miss Van Vorst
F - Mabel W. French	Z - Andrews, Bartlett, Dr. Scotland and Miss Van Vorst for
G - Ernest Geiser	Saratoga Lake, March 31; or
Gf - Chester Griffith	Century Ruh, May 12
H - Esly Hallenbeck	

1946 - 194 Species

Common Loon - March 31 (Z), April 7, Oct. 20 (H), and Nov. 10

Red-throated Loon - Two Dec. 1, Saratoga Lake

Holboell's Grebe - April 6 (X)

Horned Grebe - Transient May 12 (z), Nov. 10

Pied-billed Grebe - Summer resident, arrived April 6 (X)

Double-crested Cormorant - March 31 (Z), May 30 (A), July 9
at Schuylerville (C), July 25 from Kingston boat (C), July
27 from Kingston boat (St)

Great Blue Heron - First record April 15, last on Nov. 10 (X)

American Egret - July 12 (St) to Nov. 14 at Collins Lake, Scotia (H). Records widespread through area. More than 100 by Dorothy W. Caldwell from Kingston boat July 25; 108 by Mrs. Lillian C. Stoner from same boat Sept. 10; many along Hudson to Stockport on auto trip Sept. 15 (X)

FEATHERS

May, 1947

- Little Blue Heron - Two near Stockport July 23 (B); Aug. 31 (Sc); four near Stockport Sept. 15 (V)
Green Heron - May 12 (Z) to Sept. 2 (H)
Black-crowned Night Heron - Summer resident, arrived April 13
American Bittern - March 30 (B,V) to Sept. 22 (H)
Least Bittern - Recorded July 28 (V)
- Canada Goose - March 13 (X); 200 March 14 (Gf); Oct. 28 (W)
Mallard - March 13 (X) to April 13; Nov. 10
Black Duck - Recorded each month
Gadwall - April 6 (G)
Pintail - March 20 (Gf); three over Central Park, Schenectady, May 12 (Z); one at Niskayuna Bay May 30 (A,B)
Green-winged Teal - April 4 (V) to April 7; Nov. 10
Blue-winged Teal - Arrived March 17; few pairs May 30 (A,B); one at Watervliet Reservoir July 27 (C)
Wood Duck - Summer resident, bred; arrived March 17
Ring-necked Duck - March 17 to April 7; Nov. 10
Canvas-back - April 7, December 1
Greater Scaup Duck - Definite record April 7; general records considered next species
Lesser Scaup Duck - February 9 (V) to April 13; one July 25 from Kingston boat (G); Nov. 10 to Dec. 1
American Golden-eye - Departed April 7; arrived Nov. 10
Bufflehead - March 31 (Z) to April 7
Old-squaw - March 31 (Z); also pair in Mohawk River in February (Gf)
White-winged Scoter - Nov. 10
Hooded Merganser - April 5 (V) to April 13; Nov. 10 to Dec. 1
American Merganser - Winter visitor; departed April 13
Red-breasted Merganser - March 31 (Z) to April 7
- Turkey Vulture - July 13 (V); one near Kingston July 25 (G)
Goshawk - One Dec. 22
Sharp-shinned Hawk - April 14 (F) to Oct. 20 (F)
Cooper's Hawk - April 17 (V) to Oct. 6; also one Dec. 22
Red-tailed Hawk - Dec. 22 as winter visitor; July 25 from Kingston boat (G); transient March 8 (X) to March 23 (A)
Red-shouldered Hawk - Summer resident, arrived March 17
Broad-winged Hawk - April 6 (X) to May 30
Rough-legged Hawk - March 6 (X) to May 30
Bald Eagle - One July 25, Kingston boat (G); two July 23 near Stockport (B); two, Kingston boat, Sept. 10 (St); Sept. 15 (V)
Marsh Hawk - Summer resident, arrived March 17; also Dec. 22
Osprey - April 27 (X) to May 30; Aug. 25
Duck Hawk - One March 3 (A,Sc,V)
Pigeon Hawk - One at Indian Ladder April 22 (Bn)
Sparrow Hawk - Resident
- Ruffed Grouse - Resident
Bob-white - Heard May 30 at Karners, Mary Kerley
Ring-necked Pheasant - Resident
- King Rail - Recorded June 8 (V)
Virginia Rail - July records (Sc,V); May 12 (B)
Florida Gallinule - Summer resident, arrived May 12 (Z)

- Semipalmated Plover - Aug. 6 (X) to Sept. 22 (H)
 Killdeer - March 6 (V) to Nov. 10
Woodcock - March 14 (Gr) to Oct. 6 (F)
 Upland Plover - May 12 (Z) and June 2 (H)
 Spotted Sandpiper - April 22 (X) to October 6
 Solitary Sandpiper - May 5 (X) and Sept. 22 (H)
Greater Yellow-legs - May 12 (X) to May 30 (A,B); Oct. 6 to Oct. 13 (F)
 Lesser Yellow-legs - May 3 (Sc); July 27 (V) to Oct. 13 (F)
 Pectoral Sandpiper - Aug. 20 (X) to Oct. 13 (F)
 White-rumped Sandpiper - Aug. 11 (X)
 Least Sandpiper - Aug. 20 (Sc) and Aug. 25
 Red-backed Sandpiper - Aug. 20 (B,V)
Semipalmated Sandpiper - July 4 (H) to Sept. 2 (H)
Sanderling - July 4 (H)
Herring Gull - Winter visitor and common transient to May 12; one July 25 at Albany (G); three at Cohoes Aug. 27 (Sc); arrived in numbers Oct. 5
Ring-billed Gull - March 9; May 30 (A,B); Nov. 10 to Dec. 1
Bonaparte's Gull - Five July 25 from Kingston boat (C)
- Mourning Dove - March 17 to Oct. 6; also Dec. 22
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo - May 30 to Aug. 11 (Sc)
 Black-billed Cuckoo - June 13 (X) to July 22 (F)
- Barn Owl - Two Albany records: March 19, A. G. Whitney; Nov. 17, injured bird recovered
Screech Owl - Resident
Great Horned Owl - Resident
Snowy Owl - Unusually common 1945-1946, to March 24 (H); no 1946-1947 records
Barred Owl - Resident
Short-eared Owl - Recorded March 5 (G) and July 27 (C)
- Whip-poor-will - Arrived May 12 (Z)
Nighthawk - May 15 (H) to Sept. 10 (B)
Chimney Swift - May 2 (V) to Oct. 6 (V)
Ruby-throated Hummingbird - May 10 (V) to Aug. 25
- Belted Kingfisher - Summer resident and winter visitor; arrival date March 17
Flicker - March 13 (H) to Oct. 6
Pileated Woodpecker - Resident
Red-headed Woodpecker - May 15 (Br) to Aug. 27 (Br)
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - April 14 (V) to Apr. 23 (Sc); Oct. 6 and Oct. 8 (F); also winter visitor at feeder on and after Dec. 24, Mrs. W. L. Butler
Hairy Woodpecker - Resident
Downy Woodpecker - Resident
- Kingbird - May 10 (V) to Aug. 25
Creasted Flycatcher - Arrived May 12
Phoebe - March 17 to Oct. 1 (F); also one Dec. 22, B.R. Seguin
Alder Flycatcher - May 12 to May 30
Least Flycatcher - Arrived April 21 (H)
Wood Pewee - May 13 (H) to Aug. 25

FEATHERS



Northern Horned Lark - Mar 9 (H) to Mar 17
Prairie Horned Lark - Resident

Tree Swallow - Arrived April 6 (X)
Bank Swallow - Arrived April 28

Rough-winged Swallow - Arrived April 28

Barn Swallow - Arrived April 19 (G)

Cliff Swallow - Arrived April 19 (G)

Purple Martin - Saratoga colony arrived April 17 (Sc); near
Troy April 19 (G)

Blue Jay - Resident

Crow - Resident

Fish Crow - One near Stockport July 23 (B)

Black-capped Chickadee - Resident

White-breasted Nuthatch - Resident

Red-breasted Nuthatch - Winter visitor, to May 18

Brown Creeper - Winter visitor, left May 5, arrived Sep. 14 (F)

House Wren - Arrived April 24 (Bn, F)

Winter Wren - Departed April 21; recorded June 30 (H); Dec. 20
and later, F. H. West

Long-billed Marsh Wren - Summer resident

Catbird - May 8 (H) to Oct. 6

Brown Thrasher - Arrived April 22, Laura S. Beck

Robin - March 7 (H) to Oct. 6

Wood Thrush - Arrived May 4 (H)

Hermit Thrush - April 2 (F) to Oct. 20 (F)

Olive-backed Thrush - May 12, May 17 (V), June 5, Oct. 13 (Bn)

Gray-cheeked Thrush - Recorded Sept. 25 (F)

Veery - Arrived May 4 (V)

Bluebird - March 7 (G) to Nov. 3 (F)

Golden-crowned Kinglet - Departed April 13; arrived Oct. 4 (F)

Ruby-crowned Kinglet - March 28 (Sc) to May 30; Oct. 4 (F) to
Nov. 3 (F)

American Pipit - March 31 (Z) to April 13; Oct. 13 (F)

Bohemian Waxwing - Flock in Albany Dec. 15, Pauline Schafer

Cedar Waxwing - Summer resident

Northern Shrike - March 8 (G)

Starling - Resident

White-eyed Vireo - Aug. 31 (F)

Yellow-throated Vireo - Arrived May 8 (V)

Blue-headed Vireo - Apr. 21 (Bn) to May 30; Oct. 4 (F), Oct. 6 (F)

Red-eyed Vireo - Arrived May 12 (X)

Philadelphia Vireo - Oct. 4 (F)

Warbling Vireo - Arrived April 30 (H)

Black and White Warbler - April 24 (V) to Aug. 25

Worm-eating Warbler - Summer resident, arrived May 12 (Z)

Golden-winged Warbler - Summer resident, arrived May 12 (Z)

Nashville Warbler - May 10 (Sc) to June 5; summer resident ?;
October 6 (F)

Parula Warbler - May 12 to May 18; Oct. 4 (F)

Yellow Warbler - May 12 (Sc) to Aug. 25

Magnolia Warbler - May 12 to May 18; Oct. 4 (Sc) to Oct. 6
Cape May Warbler - May 10 (Sc) to May 20 (H); Sept. 25 (F)
Black-throated Blue Warbler - May 12 (Sc) to May 30
Myrtle Warbler - Apr. 21 (H) to May 12; Sept. 29 to Nov. 3 (F)
Black-throated Green Warbler - May 9 (V) to Oct. 10 (F)
Cerulean Warbler - May 12 at Big Nose
Black-poll Warbler - May 19 (H) to 30; Sep. 29 to Oct. 6 (F)
Pine Warbler - Summer resident, arrived April 21 (F)
Prairie Warbler - Summer resident, arrived May 12 (Z)
Yellow Palm Warbler - April 19 (G) to April 28; Sept. 29
Oven-bird - Arrived May 5 (X)
Northern Water-thrush - Recorded August 1 (F)
Louisiana Water-thrush - Arrived May 2 (H)
Mourning Warbler - Recorded June 2 (F)
Northern Yellow-throat - May 3 (Sc) to Oct. 4 (F)
Yellow-breasted Chat - Arrived May 12 (Z)
Wilson's Warbler - May 10 (Sc) and Sept. 12 (F)
Canada Warbler - May 12 (Z) to August 25
American Redstart - Arrived May 10 (F,H,V)

English Sparrow - Resident
Bobolink - Arrived May 10 (V)
Meadowlark - March 8 (X) to Oct. 6
Red-wing - March 4 (V) to Oct. 14 (H)
Baltimore Oriole - May 5, Laura S. Beck, to Aug. 25
Rusty Blackbird - March 31 (Z)
Bronzed Grackle - March 5 (F) to Dec. 15 (F)
Cowbird - Arrived March 9
Scarlet Tanager - May 11 (Bn,H) to Oct. 4 (F)

Rose-breasted Grosbeak - Arrived March 12 (Z)
Indigo Bunting - Arrived May 11 (B)
Evening Grosbeak - Common both winters, several May flocks, to May 11 with Mrs. W.E.R.Moore, Keyes Ave., and May 23 with Joseph Pollak, Rosendale Rd; arrived Nov. 9 (Br)
Purple Finch - April 18 to May 12; Oct. 4; winter visitor
Common Redpoll - Feb. 21 (A); abundant 1946-1947, arrived Dec. 1
Greater Redpoll - One Dec. 22
Pine Siskin - May 4 (Sc) to May 12 (V); arrived Dec. 1
Eastern Goldfinch - Resident
Savannah Sparrow - April 13 (H) to Oct. 6
Grasshopper Sparrow - Arrived April 28 (H)
Henslow's Sparrow - Arrived May 12 (Z)
Vesper Sparrow - March 28 (F) to Oct. 6
Slate-colored Junco - Recorded every month
Tree Sparrow - Left Mar. 17; arrived Nov. 2, Laura S. Beck
Chipping Sparrow - April 13 to Oct. 24 (F)
Field Sparrow - April 4 (Sc) to Oct. 6
White-crowned Sparrow - May 6 (F) to 12 (V); Oct. 4(F) to 6
White-throated Sparrow - Apr. 18(Bn) to May 12; Sep. 29 to Nov. 10
Fox Sparrow - March 8 (X) to April 7; Nov. 3 (F) to Nov. 10
Lincoln's Sparrow - Sept. 1 (V)
Swamp Sparrow - April 21 (X) to Oct. 27 (F)
Song Sparrow - Resident, transients arrived March 6 (F, Sc)
Snow Bunting - Recorded Dec. 22

A WINTERING GRAY-CHEEKED

Gertrude S. Blowney

Just after the ice storm which came near the first of the year he appeared. Our feeding station is against the south side of our house. We first saw him on a branch about four feet from the window. His spotted breast feathers were ruffled out in defense against the cold. He was facing us and, except for the absence of the wayward tuft of down, his resemblance to a very young Robin was striking, but because of the time of the year quite unbelievable.

Although a tray of grain and suet was beside him he took no interest in it, but drew one foot up under him, looking utterly cold and miserable. Later he was seen in a more lively mood eating the black berries on a shrub (*Cotoneaster*) near the foundation. His likeness to a Robin hinted at his real identity.

His back, head and tail were a fairly even olive brown. At very close range a faint suggestion of an eye ring was present. His cheeks were not conspicuously different in color from his back and head, but slightly more gray. His rump was olive brown, but slightly more brown and less olive than his tail and back. His breast was light gray with conspicuous spots extending onto his throat close to his bill. The only warm color he had was on his legs. They were the color of human flesh when slightly flushed with a newly acquired suntan. He was a Gray-cheeked Thrush.

Many times he was seen, and often at close range, between January 1 and February 17, feeding on the blue berries of the vine which climbs on the bricks of the house and the red berries of the euonymus bush. He was last seen on March 7, at which time he was finding more interesting food. The flies were becoming active on the sunny side of the house and he was in hot pursuit.

THREE SNOW GEESE RECORDS

About 25 years ago -- in the autumn of 1921 or 1922 -- a flock of white geese visited a small pond in the Mont Pleasant section of Schenectady. Some of the flock were shot by residents of the neighborhood and eaten.

There seem to have been no more local records of Snow Geese until the report of Kenneth Brate of a flock of 40 to 60 of the birds in flight over Saratoga Lake last December 1 (See FEATHERS, March, 1947, page 30). Then, this April, there were three reports of the birds.

The first report received by SBC was by Mrs. W. E. Blowney, St. David's Lane. At 10:50 a.m. on April 9, during a sudden, blinding snowstorm, she and her daughter, Susan, saw a flock of 18 to 20 of the birds in flight, coming from a south-by-east and veering away in a northeast direction. They flew slowly, rather high, and in line. Once there was a hint of "v" formation, and once a honk was heard. All showed up white with black-tipped wings.

The second report came in the next day, as a copy of a news item forwarded by Alvin G. Whitney, State Museum, Albany. The item, released by the Conservation Department, said:

"Albany, April 9 -- In the minds of the boys at the Conservation Department's Delmar Game Farm, outside this city, the old expression 'silly as a goose' is in slight need of revision.

"Knowing a good thing when they see it, 19 Greater Snow Geese, a bird rare to the inland part of the State, dropped in at the farm this morning, spent an hour gobbling up corn reserved for Delmar's resident waterfowl, and then took off on their way north.

"It was the first time these handsome birds had been seen at the farm and possibly, for that matter, in the Albany area. 'Snows' ordinarily winter in coastal waters from Chesapeake down and summer in northern Canada. Conservation Department authorities believe the storm which hit the state today threw them off the beam, and the sanctuary at Delmar did the rest."

Delmar observers were able to compare the Snow Geese with the resident Canadas. That place is just about south-by-east from Schenectady; and those birds left considerably before the Schenectady ones were seen. They were probably the same birds.

Early on the morning of April 18, while in Vale Cemetery, Nelle Van Vorst looked skyward just in time to put her glasses on the unexpected. She reported:

"Several small birds flitting about in a tall oak caused me to look skyward. Much to my surprise I saw three large birds flying north against a brilliant blue sky. Their glistening white bodies with broad black-tipped wings beating slowly certainly presented a perfect picture of Snow Geese."

EARLY SPRING RECORDS

March 9

Obliging Owl

G. M. Andrews

SBC's first Early Spring trip showed the birds a little behind schedule. Only two Bronzed Grackles were on hand as harbingers of the not-distant spring. However, the day was saved by the unexpected appearance of a Great Horned Owl, and a very obliging one at that! The bird was perched in an evergreen along the top of the bank between Sunnyside Road and

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frozen Collins Lake. It remained on its perch for quite some time, allowing a close look by all. For some it was their first look at this powerful owl "in the flesh". As might be expected, it was finally discovered by Crows, who lost no time in assembling a group of screeching hecklers. When last seen, the Owl was taking the situation rather calmly.

Included in the 19 species for the trip were: Sparrow Hawk, Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, Blue Jay, Chickadee, Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatches, Brown Creeper, Starling, English Sparrow, Evening Grosbeak, Redpoll, Goldfinch, Junco, Tree Sparrow, and Song Sparrow.

March 23**Spring Arrivals****Esy Hallenbeck**

Again this year the Campbell Road trip was stretched to include a visit to Watervliet Reservoir. The first part included a Bluebird perched atop a fence post so all could see him and hear his beautiful song. In a tree were 35 Cedar Waxwings. The Robin, Mourning Dove, Song Sparrow, Killdeer, Meadowlark, Flicker and Brown Creeper were the Campbell birds.

The only open water at the reservoir was west of the bridge. A pair of American Mergansers took off. Three hawks were seen soaring in the sky; as they came nearer they gave the "kee-you" call of the Red-shouldered. On the way home there was a Sparrow Hawk and a flock of 200 Redpolls. Total count for the trip was 21 species, also including the Herring Gull, Blue Jay, Crow, Starling, Red-wing, Bronzed Grackle, Tree Sparrow, and Downy Woodpecker.

April 5**Ring-necks Common****Guy Bartlett**

The report the night before was that the lake was not yet open, so the five automobiles of the April 5 trip visited the river at Niskayuna, found it cold and windy but open, and accounted for 27 species: Great Blue Heron, Canada Goose, Mallard, Black Duck, Ring-necked Duck, Scaup Duck (sp?), American Merganser, Sparrow Hawk, Pheasant, Killdeer, Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Blue Jay, Crow, Chickadee, Robin, Bluebird, Starling, English Sparrow, Red-wing, Rusty Blackbird, Purple Finch, Goldfinch, Junco, Tree Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, and Song Sparrow.

Ring-necked Ducks were second in abundance only to the Black Ducks; Ring-billed Gulls were about as common as their larger, and ordinarily more common, relatives.

The geese were seen both in flight and riding the choppy water out in the center of the wide waters. There were about 30 in the flock.

Incidentally, on March 30 -- a week previous -- Nelle Van Vorst and the writer found probably the same flock of geese (with a count of 27), three immature Bald Eagles, and a Pintail. That trip was even more windy, but lacked the rain of the April 5 hike.

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GNATCATCHER FEATURES CENTURY RUN

A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher -- seen at close range and studied carefully by a group of five observers in the morning, and independently discovered by still another observer that afternoon -- was the feature of the SBC Century Run of Saturday, May 10. It was the first time this more southern tiny bird was ever found locally, so far as records show. Of no less interest was the Prothonotary Warbler discovered in a swampy area at Inbocht Bay, on the Hudson just below Catskill. This, too, was a more southern species new to this area.

Of course there were plenty more species in the list of 126 for the day that were unusual and unexpected -- for instance, the Old-squaw, in first-year changing plumage, on Iroquois Lake of Central Park, all by himself.

Reports of 20 observers, working in 11 separate, independent groups, were turned in to G. Malcolm Andrews, Field Activities Chairman. Some were out as early as 3:45 a.m.; some as late as 9:30 p.m. The parties ranged all over the usual local favorite spots -- Central Park of Schenectady, Washington Park of Albany, the river at Niskayuna, the Ladder and Meadowdale areas, Saratoga Lake -- as far north as Jenny Lake, as far south as Catskill. No one observer or group attained a list of 100 species.

The Gnatcatcher was found in Central Park in mid-morning by the Van Vorst-Scotland-Holmes-Hallenbeck-Bartlett group. Later in the morning they rediscovered the bird in another nearby area. That afternoon William A. Ephraim found it, with no knowledge of the slightly earlier record. The Prothonotary Warbler was the record of Anne Bainbridge.

Twenty-one First Timers

Twenty-one species appeared on this year's Century Run -- the fifth such Run -- for the first time: Holboell's Grebe, Canada Goose, Green-winged and Blue-winged Teal, Wood Duck, Ring-necked Duck, Greater Scaup Duck, American Golden-eye, Old-squaw, Ruddy Duck, Cooper's Hawk, Coot, Wilson's Snipe, Black Tern, Acadian Flycatcher, Brown Creeper, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Rusty Blackbird, and Tree Sparrow, as well as the Gnatcatcher and Prothonotary Warbler.

While the list of 126 species for the day may be impressive, so was the list of unrecorded species. Heading such a list was the family of Owls -- just as so often the case during Christmas Counts. Some missed despite particular efforts to locate them were the Red-headed Woodpecker, Prairie Horned

1947 CENTURY RUN

May 10 126 Species

Common Loon	X	Turkey Vulture					
Ruf-throated Loon		Goshawk					
Holboell's Grebe	7	Sharp-shinned Hawk	X				
Horned Grebe	1	Cooper's Hawk	7				
Pied-billed Grebe	2	Red-tailed Hawk	X				
Double-crested Cormorant		Red-shouldered Hawk	X				
Great Blue Heron	3	Broad-winged Hawk	5				
American Egret		Rough-legged Hawk					
Little Blue Heron		Bald Eagle					
Green Heron	X	Marsh Hawk	X				
Black-crowned Night Heron	X	Osprey	X				
American Bittern	X	Duck Hawk	1				
Least Bittern		Ruffed Grouse	X				
Whistling Swan		European Partridge					
Canada Goose	2	Bob-white					
American Brant		Ring-necked Pheasant	X				
Greater Snow Goose		Black-legged King Rail					
Mallard	7	Black-billed Cuckoo					
Ned-legged Black Duck		Screech Owl					
Common Black Duck	X	Great Horned Owl					
Gadwall		Sora					
Baldpate		Virginia Rail					
Pintail	1	Florida Gallinule	X				
Green-winged Teal	X	Coot	I				
Blue-winged Teal	X	Semipalmated Plover					
Shoveller		Killdeer	X				
Wood Duck	X	Golden Plover					
Redhead		Black-bellied Plover					
Ring-necked Duck	X	Huddy Turnstone					
Canvas-back		Woodcock	1				
Greater Scaup Duck	1	Wilson's Snipe	2				
Lesser Scaup Duck	1	Upland Plover	X				
American Golden-eye	7	Spotted Sandpiper	X				
Barrow's Golden-eye		Solitary Sandpiper					
Buffle-head		Greater Yellowlegs	X				
Old-squaw	1	Lesser Yellowlegs	X				
King Eider		Knot					
White-winged Scoter		Purple Sandpiper					
Surf Scoter		Pectoral Sandpiper					
American Scoter		*White-rumped Sandpiper					
Ruddy Duck	7	Least Sandpiper					
Hooded Merganser		Red-backed Sandpiper					
American Merganser		Dowitcher					
Red-breasted Merganser		Stilt Sandpiper					
		Semipalmated Sandpiper					
		Alder Flycatcher					
		Western Sandpiper					
		Sanderling					
		Herring Gull	X				
		Ring-billed Gull					
		Laughing Gull					
		Common Tern	1				
		Least Tern					
		Bank Swallow	X				
		Rough-winged Swallow	X				
		Barn Swallow	X				
		Cliff Swallow	X				
		Brünnich's Murre					
		Mourning Dove	X				
		Yellow-billed Cuckoo					
		Black-billed Cuckoo					
		Barn Owl					
		Screech Owl					
		Great Horned Owl					
		Sora					
		Florida Gallinule	X				
		Coot	I				
		Green-winged Teal					
		Blue-winged Teal					
		Saw-whet Owl					
		Whip-poor-will	5				
		Nighthawk					
		Chimney Swift	X				
		Ruby-throated Hummingbird	4				
		Belted Kingfisher	X				
		Flicker	X				
		Pileated Woodpecker	6				
		Red-headed Woodpecker					
		Yellow-bellied Sapsucker					
		Hairy Woodpecker	X				
		Dowdy Woodpecker	X				
		Arctic 3-toed Woodpecker					
		American 3-toed Woodpecker					
		Kingbird	X				
		Gnatcatcher	X				
		Crested Flycatcher	X				
		Phoebe	X				
		Yellow-bellied Flycatcher					
		Acadian Flycatcher	X				
		Least Flycatcher					
		Bohemian Waxwing					
		Cedar Waxwing	X				
		Wilson's Warbler					
		Northern Shrike					
		American Redstart	X				
		English Sparrow	X				
		Bobolink	X				
		Meadowlark	X				
		Red-wing	X				
		Orchard Oriole					
		Baltimore Oriole	X				
		Rusty Blackbird	X				
		Bronzed Grackle	X				
		Cowbird	X				
		Scarlet Tanager					
		Cardinal					
		House-breasted Grosbeak	3				
		Indigo Bunting					
		Evening Grosbeak	X				
		Purple Finch	X				
		Pine Grosbeak					
		Redpoll					
		Pine Siskin					
		Eastern Goldfinch	X				
		Red Crossbill					
		White-winged Crossbill					
		Red-eyed Towhee	X				
		Savannah Sparrow	2				
		Grasshopper Sparrow					
		Henlow's Sparrow	I				
		Vesper Sparrow	X				
		Lark Sparrow					
		Slate-colored Junco	X				
		Tree Sparrow					
		Chipping Sparrow	X				
		Field Sparrow					
		White-crowned Sparrow					
		White-throated Sparrow					
		Fox Sparrow					
		Lincoln's Sparrow					
		Swamp Sparrow	X				
		Song Sparrow	X				
		Lapland Longspur					
		Snow Bunting					

NOTES:

X Recorded by two or more groups

1 Nellie Van Vorst, Minnie B. Scotland, Alice Holmes,

Elsy Hallenbeck, Guy Bartlett

2 Mrs. Lillian C. Stoner, Pauline Baker, Franklin West

3 Anne and George Bainbridge

4 Beatrice Sullivan

5 Barrington S. Havens

6 Alice and Chester N. Moore

7 James J. Anderson

Lark, Purple Martin, and the Worm-eating, Golden-winged and Prairie Warblers. Still others which were expected but unseen were the Rails, Ring-billed Gull, Nighthawk, Alder and Crested Flycatchers, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Cape May Warbler, and Indigo Bunting.

The first Century Run was made May 14, 1932, and accounted for 103 species. On May 14, 1933, there were 98; and on May 12, 1934, 105 species. On May 12, 1946, the count was 105 kinds. There have been 68 species recorded in all five years, and 14 more kinds missed only once. There have been records of 162 species in all; 40 of them in one year only. Of all the Owls, only the Barred has ever been located, and then in only two of the years.

Maybe Too Early

If plans for the Century Run had been made days in advance instead of nearly a year ago, it is almost certain that May 17 or 18, rather than May 10, would have been selected as the most appropriate date. The date selected -- May 10 -- was preceded by a week and more of low temperature, an excess of daily rain, and high winds on the two preceding days. Plants were retarded -- there were hardly more than budding leaves on the trees. And those out real early that morning found more than a skim of ice on many of the puddles still standing in the fields as a result of the heavy rains. The river had been so high as to cancel boat traffic, and there were no expanses of mud flats to attract shore-birds. During the day the wind was objectionably strong much of the time, with Saratoga Lake showing marooned cabins and with the wind splashing the waves over the road in some places.

But the day was a success. And there's always the next such trip to look forward to.

ELEVEN KINDS OF DUCKS

Glen H. Wilson

A cold east wind greeted the ten hardy members of the Schenectady Bird Club on the morning of April 13 at Watervliet Reservoir. The day as a whole was overcast, with the sun breaking through on rare occasions, and very windy -- pardon my tears!

Up in the woods surrounding the reservoir were noted many examples of the Pileated Woodpecker's work, but none of the birds was seen. One of the high spots of the trip was the discovery of an owl being chased by a flock of Crows. This soon divided the group into three camps -- those who thought it was a Great Horned, those who thought it was a Short-eared, and those who didn't know. After the experts talked it over, it was decided it was a Great Horned. 'Huff said.

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On the reservoir good views were had of many waterfowl, including Common Loon; Hol-boell's, Horned and Pied-billed Grebes; Green Heron, Mallard, Black Duck, Baldpate, Wood Duck, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup Duck, Old-squaw, and Hooded, American and Red-breasted Mergansers.

Others seen during the morning included: Red-shouldered Hawk, Osprey, Killdeer, Herring Gull, Mourning Dove, Kingfisher, Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Phoebe, Blue Jay, Crow, Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Robin, Hermit Thrush, Bluebird, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Starling, English Sparrow, Meadowlark, Red-wing, Bronzed Grackle, Cowbird, Vesper Sparrow, Junco, Swamp Sparrow, and Song Sparrow, a total of 46 species.

CAVORTING SWALLOWS

G. Malcolm Andrews

Some 18 SBC members and friends were present on the annual spring investigation of the Vischer Pond area, along the Mohawk River just east of Vischer's Ferry. This area usually can be counted on to produce much of interest in the way of birdlife, due to many swampy areas not only around the several ponds but also along the old Erie Canal, long since abandoned. The old towpath along the latter affords an excellent vantage point to watch and listen for herons, rails and bitterns, which usually keep back among the reeds. This is also a good place to watch for the numerous smaller birds which are quite partial to the marshy habitat in this area. Several rather open areas of the canal itself afford a good place to study the several species of swallows cavorting over the surface of the water in search of insects. On this trip the Tree, Bank, Rough-winged, Barn and Cliff Swallows all were identified flying about over one small section of the old canal.

On the way down by car from Alplaus, the inevitable Sparrow Hawk was seen hovering over its usual roadside field, and several Marsh Hawks were seen to good advantage over the extensive farm lands, in aerial maneuvers.

At the Ponds the herons were well represented, with the Green, Great Blue, and Black-crowned Night Herons all seen in the swampy areas; several American Bitterns were seen in flight, and one of them obliged with an exhibition of his peculiar "pumping" song, in full view of several of the group.

Mallards, Black Ducks, Blue-winged Teal, and Ring-necked Ducks were resting or feeding on the several ponds and flooded marsh areas. Twice Wood Duck were identified by their call and distinctive markings as they flew overhead. One Black Duck nest, with nine eggs, was encountered.

The presence of some three Broad-winged Hawks at widely spaced intervals showed evidence of a small "flight" of this species through the area at the time. Several Ospreys were watched fishing over the river, canal, and ponds.

Only one representative of the warblers was on hand -- a lone Yellow Palm Warbler that permitted a good view for all, along the old towpath. Sparrows were present in force, however, as witnessed by the recording of the Vesper, Tree, Chipping, Field, White-throated, Swamp and Song Sparrows.

Included in the 54 species seen on the trip, but not mentioned above, were: Pheasant, Florida Gallinule, Killdeer, Herring Gull, Mourning Dove, Kingfisher, Flicker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, Phoebe, Blue Jay, Crow, Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Robin, Bluebird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Starling, English Sparrow, Meadowlark, Red-wing, Rusty Blackbird, Bronzed Grackle, Cowbird, Purple Finch, and Slate-colored Junco.

BEFORE THE FLAP-JACKS

A. G. Guy

As the last of the flap-jacks topped with syrup and butter were being washed down with the third or fourth cup of coffee, the 20 SBC members who had taken part in the Central Park walk agreed that it had been a rewarding day. For the 4th of May the weather was very satisfactory. Although it had been drizzling shortly before the 6:30 a.m. starting time, the rain stopped and the weather steadily improved until the sun was brightly shining in time for breakfast. Mac Andrews, arriving a bit late, probably had no twinge of conscience when he wrote for the official record -- weather, clear; temperature, 40 to 50 degrees.

Of the 55 species observed by members of the group, two of the warblers deserve special notice. The Parula Warbler and the Black-throated Blue Warbler were seen very clearly, by many for the first time. Black and White Warblers were running up and down innumerable tree trunks, and several Black-throated Greens were in evidence. Other warblers seen included the Nashville, Myrtle, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Yellow Palm, and Pine.

Leading the sparrows in interest was a single Vesper Sparrow that added sparkle to the day for Pauline Baker. The expected English, Song and Chipping Sparrows were found, as were Field and White-throated. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak added to the display of brilliant color, while it was probably the female that caused some speculation concerning the identity of a rather large, drab-colored bird. A number of Ruby-crowned Kinglets flashed their head-dresses in the morning light, perhaps competing with the brilliant Purple Finches for attention.

Glen Wilson and his telescope seemed to be specializing on bigger game, and due largely to his efforts the official list includes an American Bittern, two Black Ducks, Pheasants, Killdeer, Mourning Doves, and Kingfisher.

In addition to the species mentioned so far, the following birds were recorded: Chimney Swift, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, Crested Flycatcher, Phoebe, Least Flycatcher, Blue Jay, Crow, Chickadee, White- and Red-breasted Nuthatches, Brown Creeper, House Wren, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Wood Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Bluebird, Starling, Yellow-throated and Blue-headed Vireos, Oven-bird, Lead-colored Pigeon, Red-wing, Bronzed Grackle, Cowbird, Red-eyed Towhee, and Slate-colored Junco.

Well pleased with the morning's activities, most of the members of the group left for home after breakfast at the Central Park picnic grounds, the cars that had brought the pancake flour now riding higher on their springs. Need it be said, however, that Nelle Van Vorst and Minnie Scotland were soon to be found on the Iriquois Golf Course, looking for the Upland Plover?

NEWS & NOTES IN BRIEF

LAST GROSBEAK ?

When was the last Evening Grosbeak seen locally this spring? Right now the record indicates two on May 11 at the Bainbridge feeder.

PARK RED-HEADED

The Steinmetz Park trip scheduled for May 17 had no response. Incidentally, the Red-headed Woodpecker was late, and would have been missed.

First record for this year of that famous so-local Wood-pecker was obtained by Cora T. Brockway May 24. In her vicinity from April 16 to late May was a flock of 50 Cedar Wax-wings.

"Frequently six or eight appear," she reported, "but the entire flock has been in my garden, working over the apple trees since they have been in bloom. This is the first year they have appeared in the garden before the middle of summer, when they come for bush honeysuckle berries."

PARK WHIP-POOR-WILL

The May 14 trip for evening-calling birds and amphibians was nothing to write about, reported Barrington S. Havens. After the SBC meeting in Central Park on May 26 there were songs to be heard. The Whip-poor-will -- loud, repeatedly, and nearby -- was unexpected. Among the 22 species listed

that evening, mostly by song, were the Black-crowned Night Heron, Nighthawk, Flicker, Wood Pewee, Blue Jay, Catbird, Wood Thrush, Veery, Myrtle Warbler, Oven-bird, and Yellow-throat.

THOSE OWLS AGAIN

It seems to be pretty hard for SBC members to find any owls on Century Runs, Christmas Counts, or other censuses when species count. But there's no doubt about the presence of Screech Owls.

Every year, it seems, a baby owl drops on top of a car in the vicinity of Union and Church Streets -- or a pedestrian there is "attacked" by owls.

This year it was a baby Screech Owl rescued from in front of the Mohawk Club on May 20, and duly photographed at Police Headquarters.

MIDNIGHT HONKERS

In early May, late at night, a flock of loudly honking Canada Geese dropped in on Collins Lake, George Bainbridge was informed by a neighbor. The flock was estimated at 40 birds.

AMSTERDAM CARDINAL

A female Cardinal was first reported at Amsterdam last December 7 at a feeding station, and it remained in the vicinity at least until March 21.

TWO BROODS ?

A female Wood Duck followed by nine young was seen to cross the Voorheesville-Guilderland Center Road -- in the marshy area -- by Nelle Van Vorst in mid-May.

Previous, much later dates for young Woodies indicate the birds probably, at least some years, nest twice.

G-E

A White-throated Sparrow was seen on the General Electric lawn at noon on April 30 by George Bainbridge.

Trapped in Building 18-A on May 23 was a Northern Yellow-throat, Nelle Van Vorst reported.

LOCAL AUTHORS

The Auk of January contained an article by Dorothy Sawyer, then of Unadilla and now of the Schenectady Museum on "Nesting of Chestnut-sided Warbler." The item reported on observations made at Oneonta in 1944.

Also of local interest in that issue was a note by H. L. Kutz and David G. Allen reporting on the nesting of the Double-crested Cormorant in New York State, with 14 nests on Gull Island, in Henderson Harbor of Lake Ontario.

In the recent Bird-day number of the New York State Bulletin to Schools, George H. Bainbridge authored "Woodland Recollections."

PRAIRIE, AS SCHEDULED

Pauline Baker

Memorial Day morning at 8:10 o'clock, ten of the members of SBC began to progress over the Karner Road to the sand barrens. The temperature was in the low forties -- a wind was blowing all the time, but the day was clear, fine and blue.

Not far in we heard it -- our first Prairie Warbler. The companion in song was there too, the Field Sparrow. Both of these sing in the upward lilting manner -- each to his own kind. Above and ahead was a Red-shouldered hawk being pursued by a Crow. Perhaps the best show was that of the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. He really is green all over, and I mean green, more yellowish in the breast. We did enjoy him for a long time and saw all his markings. He failed to give us his voice, however. (This was a life bird for Mr. Allen).

Brown Thrashers, Towhees, House Wrens, Indigo Buntings, Song and Chipping Sparrows were where we expected them, and were generous with their songs. A pair of Yellow-throats paraded on the ground and others were about. Besides the warblers mentioned, there were Yellow Warblers, Black-polls, Pine, Oven-bird and Canada Warblers. The hunt in the ravine for the Chat proved fruitless. We put it down as too much wind. The Veery, Catbird, Kingbird and Flicker were seen and heard. Another hawk came into view -- a Red-tailed.

A Hummingbird, Goldfinches, Cedar Waxwings, Blue Jays, Starlings, Grackles, Cowbirds and English Sparrows completed the list. In all, 33 species were seen, a little short of our hopes, but good for the windy day.

The barrens were lovely with spring flowers. The lupines were very fresh -- many in bud still. Beautiful pink moccasins were in perfect form, as many as 10 blooms in one cluster. Snowy orchis also contributed its beauty, and the wild azalea added its perfume and rich pink glow.

We all enjoyed our day and the reassurance that the Prairie Warbler is still on the Karner Road Route.

Membership in the Schenectady Bird Club is open to all who share the Club's interest in the birds of our region, and in the protection and preservation of our rich heritage of lands, forests, and waters with the wildlife which is their natural population. The Club publishes a monthly magazine, *Feathers*, and schedules regular bird-study trips throughout the year, including the annual Christmas census carried on in cooperation with the National Audubon Society. There are frequent meetings with talks by members and others.

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Published by the Schenectady Bird Club

THIRD SCREEN TOUR ARRANGED

The third series of Audubon Screen Tours will be presented jointly by the National Audubon Society and the Schenectady Bird Club during the 1947-1948 season, it has been announced by Beatrice Sullivan, chairman of the S B C program committee.

Again this season there will be five programs scheduled. Included there will be:

October 22, Tuesday -- Karl H. Maslowski, "Saguaro-land."

December 3, Tuesday -- Martin K. Bovey, "Bird-shooting with a Camera."

January 13, Tuesday -- George M. Link, "Gopher Country."

February 16, Monday -- Howard Cleaves, "Animals Unaware."

April 28, Wednesday -- Bert Harwell, "Canada West."

Three of the speakers will be recognized as having been here previously. They are returning by request, with new programs.

Mr. Maslowski, then just out of service, delivered the last of the first series, in April, 1946, on "Our Heritage in the Rockies."

Mr. Cleaves presented the first program of all, with night movies of birds and other animals.

Mr. Harwell has spoken on two other occasions to S B C audiences, most recently on "Outdoor Symphony" last October in opening the second series of Screen Tours.

It is expected that arrangements for the new series of Screen Tours will follow closely those of previous seasons, with tickets made available early in the fall. Since it is planned to have the programs again at Central Park Junior High School, about the same number of tickets will be available as in previous years. It will be recalled that tickets have not been sold to the extent of the seating capacity of the auditorium, but rather to the extent that a good view of the screen is provided, and away from the projector. Season tickets will be issued for active members, associates and non-members, and for students. It is hoped to keep the ticket prices down to the very low level of previous seasons.

TWO LADDER TRIPS

No Worm-eaterMay 25Minnie B. Scotland

The S B C Field Trip of May 25 to Indian Ladder Ravine had its "late transients" but no Worm-eating Warbler. Perhaps the "find" of the day was the Tennessee Warbler, at the Altamont railroad station where the trip started.

Compared with the same trip of last year, on May 18, the following observations can be made: Hawks were a rarity both years, only a Red-shouldered being listed in 1946 and a Red-tailed in 1947. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird flashed across the path this year, and the Alder Flycatcher was heard and seen in the shrubbery along Meadowdale Road. The Least Flycatcher was also heard. No Brown Thrasher was seen on the 1947 trip. The same Thrushes were heard both years -- the Wood and the Hermit.

Of the Vireos on the 1946 list the Blue-headed appears in addition to the Red-eyed and Warbling, while on the 1947 list it is replaced by the Yellow-throated. The abundance of the Black-poll Warbler was noted this year; there was none on last year's record. The Yellow-breasted Chat was silent in his usual haunt, but the Indigo Bunting favored the observers.

Strangely enough, a total of 58 species was recorded each year. Included this year were one Hawk, one Mourning Dove, Chimney Swifts, one Hummingbird; two Woodpeckers, the Flicker and Pileated; six Flycatchers, two Swallow, Blue Jay, Crow, Chickadee, House Wren, a Catbird, four Thrushes, Cedar Waxwing, Starling, three Vireos, ten Warblers, English Sparrow, six of the Blackbird family, Scarlet Tanager, and twelve of the Finches and Sparrows.

Heat Doesn't HelpJune 11George H. Bainbridge

On the hottest day of the year to date -- June 11 -- 14 S B C members abd guest journeyed to Thacher Park for evening meal and birds. To say the hottest day this year doesn't mean much because of the cool spring, but when the Schenectady newspapers tell us it was 94°, we really have something concrete. Threatening thunderstorms did not materialize.

The relatively small attendance may be attributed to two things: choice of leader, or hot weather. The leader flatters himself enough to believe it was the weather because, very frankly, he would have been absent had he not promised to act as leader.

But it really was not bad on the escarpment, provided one did not exercise too violently. There was a gusty wind of a more or less cooling nature and strong enough to rustle the leaves to such an extent that bird songs could be heard only

between gusts. Even the birds seemed to be subdued by the heat; there was relatively little activity in either song or flight.

The much hoped-for Worm-eating Warbler either was not present or preferred to remain quiet in seclusion. One of our members, who has made several trips to Thacher Park this year, mentioned that none of these trips proved encouraging from the standpoint of bird finds.

At any rate the list of birds, 17 species given below, is outstanding only in its paucity. The only representative of the Warbler family is the Oven-bird. The list: Mourning Dove, Chimney Swift, Flicker, Pewee, Tree Swallow, Crow, Robin; Wood, Hermit, and Olive-backed Thrushes; Oven-bird, Red-wing, Goldfinch, Towhee, Junco, and Chipping and Song Sparrows.

AT BIG NOSE

The annual Big Nose trip, held jointly with the Mohawk Valley Hiking Club on May 11, was led for S B C by Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Scott and accounted for 38 species. Just as those who participated in the Century Run of the previous day found the season retarded, so did those on this hike find many of the birds yet to arrive.

The day's records included: Red-shouldered, Broad-winged and Sparrow Hawks; Osprey, Herring Gull, Mourning Dove, Chimney Swift, Kingfisher, Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Phoebe, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, Crow, Chickadee, Winter Wren, Robin, Wood Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Starling, Blue-headed Vireo; Black and White, Black-throated Blue, Myrtle, Black-throated Green and Blackburnian Warblers; Oven-bird, Louisiana Water-thrush, Redstart, English Sparrow, Meadowlark, Red-wing, Grackle, Cowbird; and Chipping, White-crowned, White-throated, and Song Sparrows.

It will be noted that there were two species -- Winter Wren and White-crowned Sparrow -- which did not appear on the previous day's Century Run list. The Big Nose trip of the year before, on May 12, included 49 species and featured the Cerulean Warbler.

Membership in the Schenectady Bird Club is open to all who share the Club's interest in the birds of our region, and in the protection and preservation of our rich heritage of lands, forests, and waters with the wildlife which is their natural population. The Club publishes a monthly magazine, *Feathers*, and schedules regular bird-study trips throughout the year, including the annual Christmas census carried on in cooperation with the National Audubon Society. There are frequent meetings with talks by members and others.

FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE

George H. Bainbridge

Yes, he is a "derned" foreigner and all that, but it isn't his fault that he is over here. Truly enough, he has a comical walk somewhat akin to that of the proverbial drunken sailor. Also, he has a cheerful whistle on a cold, wintry day and the ability to imitate a lot of other birds, thereby only too often to fool us birders. Moreover, when it comes to downright economic value in digging out insects just before they emerge from the ground in the beetle stage, it is doubtful whether any other bird we have with us, except possibly the Grackle, can beat him. From the economic standpoint he is far ahead of our "underground plow" destroyer, the worm-eating Robin, that there is no comparison.

But for all that, how many of us really like the Starling with his long, rapier-like bill so freely used destructively against other birds? For example, I was told of a recent incident in which a flock of Starlings ganged up on a nesting pair of Flickers, chased the parent birds away, and emptied the nest of eggs and all, of course thoroughly destroying the eggs. Then there was another incident in which a Starling pushed a young Catbird from its nest, fluttered over it to the ground, and when it hit the ground proceeded to kill the nestling. Yes, it is hard to strike a balance between economic value and a contemptible disposition, especially when it is exercised to destroy our more beloved birds.

HIGH-WATER TROUBLES

Mabel W. French

On the afternoon of June 15 my son and I were following a narrow, grass-grown road between the old canal and a swamp of the Vischer Ponds area when we located a Virginia Rail's nest at the very edge of the swamp. By standing on a flat rock on the pond side of the road we were within 20 feet or less of the nest, and could look down into it and watch the Rails at work.

Already there were at least three, and possibly four, pinkish-buff eggs, sparingly flecked with dark spots. The nest was not much more than a slightly cupped platform placed in a thin clump of reeds. The bottom looked as though it was touching the water beneath. Both birds came and went repeatedly, adding bits of dry reeds to the nest. I think they were trying to reinforce it against the high water of the pond, which the recent heavy rains had doubtless raised to a higher

point than when they began to build. They concentrated on or near the bottom of the nest, as though they were trying to thicken it against encroaching water. When we left, about an hour after discovering the nest, it had a much more substantial look. We left one bird brooding. Not once did either bird pay the slightest attention to us in any way.

Four Florida Gallinules and several Long-billed Marsh Wrens were among other interesting items of the afternoon.

Acadian, and Warblers

On the morning of May 21 I discovered a pair of Acadian Flycatchers in a concentration of migrants along the edge of Schuyler Road woods in Loudonville. They closely resembled Least Flycatchers but were more olivaceous and, to my eye, had more light edgings to the wing feathers than I look for in that bird. The underparts were a fairly clear white. The identifying point, however, was the note. It caught my ear as a one-syllabled, clipped, characterless "Cheeck", although perhaps Peterson's "Peet" does fit the sound better than my own interpretation. I followed the birds about at close range for over a half hour and heard the note dozens of times, always with none of the emphasis of the Chebec's two-syllabled call, and delivered with a minimum of tail jerking or none at all. The birds were in the type of territory accorded Acadians by the bird books -- low, swampy woods containing mainly elms, willows, birches, and oaks, with a brook running through it.

Of the 16 species of Warblers seen that morning, the Bay-breasted interested me most. I saw at least six, possibly eight, males in about 20 minutes, the largest number of individuals of that species I ever recorded in one day.

I also saw more Cape May Warblers than usual during May. On the 14th two males and a female were about our place all day, one male lingering over into the 15th. They inspected the plum blossoms and spruces about the place over and over from early morning until nearly sunset. It has seemed to me in observing the Cape May through many migrations that it has a habit of appearing regardless of time of day, weather conditions, or the relative abundance of other transients, and generally staying about a small area for a day or two before passing on. I wonder if that is really characteristic of the species or merely my experience with it.

ANOTHER BENT VOLUME -- "Life Histories of North American Jays, Crows, and Titmice" by Arthur Cleveland Bent has been announced as U. S. National Museum Bulletin No. 191. It is the 15th in the series of bulletins on life histories, the first of which was published in 1919.

It is available in paper cover at \$1.75 per copy from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D.C.

NEWS & NOTES IN BRIEF

THE MARTINS RETURN

At least two unsuccessful trips were made last spring to see the Purple Martins at the Chauncey Olcott estate in Saratoga Springs, and it began to look as though the site had been abandoned. One of the tries, incidentally, was in connection with the Century Run of May 10.

According to the gardener at the estate, the Martins return to the 16-room house in the garden on April 15 each year. Knowing this, S B C members drove to Saratoga on April 26 as well as May 10, only to discover that the Martins apparently had not returned this year.

However, this was not the case for on another visit, on June 20, about 30 were observed. They were flying in and out of the doorways, alighting on the railing and knobs of the house, or just peeking out of the entrances.

In a conversation with the gardener it was learned that four birds did return on April 15 but that during the unfavorable weather that followed they had disappeared; perhaps they had been killed. After a lapse of weeks the present colony arrived and established themselves for the season.

-- Minnie B. Scotland

GRAY-CHEEKED

One of the problems Mrs. Blowney had with her Gray-cheeked Thrush (page 50) was that every time she would try to show the bird to someone, it would disappear before that person arrived.

On April 21 the bird was seen, however, by Nelle Van Vorst and Guy Bartlett, as well as by Mrs. Blowney. On Sunday, April 20, it will be recalled, there was a fairly heavy post-season snowstorm and cold wave, despite the advanced budding of the trees. On Monday the snow still remained, and thereupon the thrush again appeared at Mrs. Blowney's home. At 5:30 o'clock that afternoon, with the temperature still at 32 and with much snow still on the ground, the thrush was seen by all three observers. In fact there were two, seen simultaneously, confirming Mrs. Blowney's suspicion of earlier that there really were two.

On this date they were approachable in a sumac and low evergreens, and the distinctive markings were not difficult to determine. At the same time two or more Hermit Thrushes were in the vicinity, but traveling separately.

FIRST PRAIRIE

The S B C trip of May 10 into Karner Barrens failed to reveal any Prairie Warblers, but the return trip of the Club to that territory on May 30 showed the birds well established. A trip there by H. V. D. Allen on May 23 showed the birds had arrived by then. This warbler is one for which the Club lacks good end -- arrival and departure -- records.

ARE YOUR A H O P ?

I'd like to announce that a few of us are considering the formation of an organization which we'd like to call the Human Ornithological Perches, because the initials spell HOP, which is as good a reason as any. Qualifications for membership would be:

1. The applicant has been lit on, at some time or other, by a bird.
2. The bird was a wild bird, not a domestic bird or one normally caged.
3. The bird did so of its own free will and not as a result of temporary captivity.

The organization would be so completely informal that it probably would never hold any meetings; there would be no dues; and the only possible expense might be for membership certificates or lapel pins. How many can qualify?

-- B. S. Havens

NESTING UPLANDERS

The Upland Plovers at the Iriquois Golf Club on Memorial Day gave Benton Seguin plenty of evidence they were nesting, their antics reminding him greatly of the broken-winged Killdeer. They went into action every time he was near the rock pile and tall grass near the clubhouse.

The golf club, incidentally, is about to disappear into a housing development; and that probably means the disappearance of the Plovers from that particular site.

Savannah Sparrows were also recorded commonly by him that day along the fairways.

SCRAPPY VIREO

On June 17 J. M. Hollister and Frank Gale were anxious to obtain photographs of a Yellow-throated Vireo nest in which there were new young. The nest was about 10 feet up in a tree along Stratford Road, too much in the shade photographically.

"Why not use the mirror stunt?" was the suggestion made to the photographers. But that had already been tried unsuccessfully. The trouble was that the parent bird insisted upon fighting the mirror.

SNIPE - DOVE

Apropos of Dr. Scotland's comments about the Mourning Dove (January, page 5) there was an interesting local observation several years ago when, in the fall over the fields at Vischer Ponds, a Snipe and Mourning Dove were seen in "paired flight", with the Dove only slightly to the side and rear of the Snipe, and faithfully following all the swerves and maneuvers of the Snipe. The first flash of the two birds made one think of a Sharp-shinned Hawk after the Snipe. The birds disappeared together across the river.

FIRST STARLING

Can any S B C member recall when the Starling was not a bird of this vicinity? Specific data are not at hand, but it seems probable that the bird became established here about 1915, and presumably after invading Albany -- assuming spread up the Hudson from the New York City source.

By 1918 there were several urban flocks in Schenectady, including one on the Union College campus, and another in the vicinity of Union and Jay Streets.

Speaking of the first Starling, a recent issue of "Arizona Wildlife-Sportsman" has an item by Gale Monson on "The Starling Is Here", saying:

"The European Starling has arrived in Arizona. This bird, a notorious pest species, can now be included in a list of the state's birds. The writer collected one at Parker on November 16, 1946, and since then he has seen as many as 20 or more in the town of Parker and in the irrigated fields of the nearby Colorado River Indian Reservation. Arizona is the last state in the Union to report Starlings, to the writer's knowledge. He knows they have been reported from all adjacent states, except possibly Nevada."

SCOTCH RIDGE HENSLOWS

To the long list of places where Henslow's Sparrows are to be recorded can be added the fields along Scotch Ridge Road beyond Kelly Road.

AVAILABLE STATE PUBLICATIONS

Among bird publications recently listed as still available from the New York State Museum, Albany 1, are:

Museum Memoir 12: BIRDS OF NEW YORK; text by Elon H. Eaton, 106 color plates by Louis Agassiz Fuertes. Two volumes, reprint edition of 1923; in sets only, at \$6 per set plus postage; weight 15 lb.

Bulletin No. 33. Check list of New York Birds, by M. S. Farr, 1900. 25 cents.

Bulletin No. 130. Osteology of Birds, by R. W. Shufeldt, 1909, 50 cents.

Bulletin No. 318. Studies of Breeding Birds in the Allegany State Park, by A. A. Saunders, 1938, 75 cents.

Bulletin No. 334. The Song of the Wood Pewee -- A Study of Bird Music, by Wallace Craig, 1943, 50 cents.

Handbook No. 7. Bird Song, by A. A. Saunders, 1929, 50 cents.

Handbook No. 16. Ecology of the Birds of Quaker Run Valley, Allegany State Park, by A. A. Saunders, 1936, 50 cents.

Handbook No. 18. Summer Birds of the Allegany State Park, by A. A. Saunders, 1942, 50 cents.

Circular No. 18. Ten Years' Returns from Banded Bank Swallows, by Dayton Stoner, 1937, 10 cents. Circular 19; Records of Bird Temperatures, Stoner, 1937, 10 cents. Circular 22; Temperature, Growth and Other Studies on the Eastern Phoebe, Stoner, 1939, 25 cents.

FEATHERS

Published by the Schenectady Bird Club

August
1947

BERNE BEAVER --- FRIEND OR NUISANCE?

There Are Both Pros and Cons When It Comes to
Deciding Whether or Not You Want Them to
Move into a Favorite Birding Territory



Something over a decade ago a C C C group -- one of those alphabetical, governmental agencies of pre-war, height-of-depression days -- moved into the area. They cleared marginal land, improved roadsides, and otherwise altered the landscape. Then they departed.

The beavers moved -- or were moved -- in. They lumbered extensively and intensively, dammed and redammed, and in their own, so characteristic fashion likewise altered the landscape. They have not departed, at least not very far.

So much for an introduction to a report on a return trip, after eight years, to a red spruce swamp in the Berne highlands of Albany County. After eight years -- because of war restrictions on rubber and fuel.

The Berne Swamp was first visited, bird-wise, by Leonard J. Uttal and Stephen Barker of Cornell University and Kenneth Karcher, Jr., of St. Lawrence University on three days in June of 1938. Their report is contained in a Cornell thesis. In the following year the area was visited twice by S B C groups, on May 11 and June 24. Chester N. Moore in FEATHERS of August, 1939, summarized the bird records of those two years.

The area, a swamp of about 20 acres at lines $42^{\circ}35'$ and $74^{\circ}10'$ of the Berne quadrangle of the Geological Survey map, consisted chiefly of red spruce, hemlock, alder and quaking aspen, surrounded by open meadows. It was one of the few local areas of decidedly Canadian Zone characteristics. The elevation is about 2,000 feet.



When the area was visited this year by five S B C members, on June 7, the scenery was decidedly changed. Instead of many open fields there were stands of young pine trees. And the swampy area was no longer of the type one could walk through; the water was higher and more widespread. And pointing skyward were many dead trees, mostly spruces. Upon entering the swamp it

Annual Membership Active \$1; Associate \$1

Guy Bartlett, Editor
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quickly became apparent what had been happening. A very long, substantial dam had been built by beavers. In one or two places breaks had been made so that the water had been lowered, but the damage had been done so far as the spruces and other trees in the swamp were concerned. Most of them had been drowned, if not cut down by the industrious beavers. Out in the pools were the beaver houses. Along the shore were both beaver and deer tracks in abundance.

That beaver pond, incidentally, was not the only one seen that day. In several other sections of the Berne area their ponds, the houses and the beavers were observed. And so were deer. In two ways the territory is now posted -- some is shown as public hunting ground, and the remainder as sanctuary for breeding stock.

Friend or Foe?

A.A.

Should beavers be encouraged? Bird-wise, the answer can vary. There's no doubt about ducks moving in when the beavers do. During the 1938 and 1939 trips there were no records of ducks; now both Black and Wood Ducks breed there. This year's trip was made on a day featuring a 40° temperature, a strong wind, a slight rain part of the time and mostly cloudy the remainder. It was hardly a day for soaring hawks, and records of such birds were meager.

Fifty species were recorded this year: Black Duck, one pair; Wood Duck, three pairs, one pair with swimming young; Ruffed Grouse, Killdeer, Mourning Dove, Black-billed Cuckoo, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Flicker, Hairy Wood-pecker, Kingbird, Crested Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Wood Pewee, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, Crow, Chickadee, Catbird, Robin, Wood Thrush, Veery, Bluebird, Cedar Waxwing, Red-eyed Vireo, Nashville Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler (very common), Oven-bird, Northern Yellow-throat, Canada Warbler, Bobolink, Meadowlark, Red-wing (very common), Grackle, Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Purple Finch, Goldfinch, Towhee, Grasshopper Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, and Song Sparrow.



When Beavers Come In, So Do the Ducks

Of these, the Black and Wood Ducks, Tree Swallow, Wood Thrush, and Swamp Sparrow, five species in

all, were not recorded in the previous years. However, more than balancing these were the species previously found, and missed this year. The 1938-1939 record had contained 78 species. Included were the Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, Red-tailed, Red-shouldered, Marsh, and Sparrow Hawks, Woodcock, Screech and Saw-whet Owls, Pileated and Downy Woodpeckers, Phoebe, White- and Red-breasted Nuthatches, House Wren, Brown Thrasher, Hermit Thrush, Starling, Warbling Vireo; Black and White, Black-throated Blue, and Myrtle Warblers, Northern and Louisiana Water-thrushes, Redstart, English Sparrow, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Savannah and Henslow's Sparrows, and Junco.

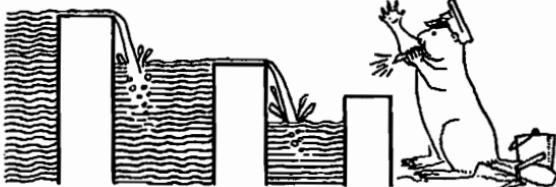
Beaver Ponds Kill Off Deer Feeding Swamps



Black Gold

In connection with the question as to whether the beaver is an asset or liability, the pros and cons of the mammal are interestingly presented in Management Bulletin No. 2 of the New York State Conservation Department, "Black Gold -- The Story of the Beaver in New York State," published in 1941. Among the favorable points for the animal are some regulation

of stream flow; improvement of conditions for trout in streams with rapid run-off; and production of additional nesting and resting places for waterfowl. Among points on the other side of the ledger are the destruction



They May Regulate Stream Flow

of valuable trees about camps, lakes and stream borders; the elimination of coniferous swamps furnishing wintering grounds for deer; flooding of highways, tillable land and pastures; and reduction in productivity of slow-moving trout waters.

The bulletin points out that New York State probably had millions of beaver before white man's settlement; that by 1800 hardly 5,000 remained; and that in 1900 there were no more than 15. Restocking was undertaken; it was successful; and within 40 years there began to be a nuisance problem in connection with its activities. But it is an interesting mammal, and no one today really regrets the reestablishment of the species in New York State.

-- G. B.



THE END



NEWS AND NOTES IN BRIEF



LETTING IT OUT OF THE BAG

Where did all those pictures accompanying our Beaver story come from? Not from any artist of our own, that's certain. As a matter of fact, they are from "Black Gold", the bulletin referred to in the article. They are used through the courtesy of the Conservation Department and of Clayton B. Seagears, the artist, who is also Director of Conservation Education of the department.



LATE GROSBEAKS

Evening Grosbeaks were to be found here at least through May 15. Six remained at Mrs. R. M. Brockway's feeder on Rosa Road until then.

In early July Mrs. Brockway reported that a Red-headed Woodpecker had been coming nearly every day for bread and suet although the bird was not being recorded in Steinmetz Park. There seems to be only one bird (one was shot last year).

IN AUDUBON MAGAZINE

The July-August Audubon Magazine contains two articles of local interest. FEATHERS of October, 1942, contained an article by Mary B. Kilcawley of Troy. In this Audubon Magazine she has written "It Happens in Our Neighborhood."

Also of local interest is "Lady with Binoculars." Written by Eleanor Anthony King, it tells how "Connie Hagar brings the ornithological world to her door in Rockport on the Gulf Coast of Texas." Mrs. Hagar is the sister of R. S. Neblett of Schenectady.

UNUSUAL MIGRANTS

Writing under the above head in his Schenectady Gazette column of July 18, Fred Streever reported his personal observation of a flock of some 30 American Brant that for the past four seasons have spent some time each spring at Lake George.

He also reported that some few years back a couple of young hunters brought to him for identification a Cormorant. It had been killed in the town of Milton, on what was then the Pioneer Mill pond.

For some weeks, he wrote, a Turkey Vulture stayed in the vicinity of the dumping grounds for refuse from the local tannery in Saratoga County.

A. O. U. MEETING

The 65th stated meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union will be held at the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology, Toronto, September 8 to 12.

OUR OWN HAWK DAY?

There are a certain few places famous for their hawk migrations. Included are Mt. Tom in Massachusetts and Hawk Mountain in Pennsylvania, both of which have been visited on S B C trips. Cape May, N. J., is another famed place.

Do we know that we have no similar flight right close to home? Franklin West has suggested that S B C schedule a Hawk Day for Sunday, September 21, which should coincide with the Broad-winged flight. An all-day vigil at Thacher Park should prove we can equal Mt. Tom or Hawk Mountain.

The Helderberg Escarpment has always produced its full share of hawk records for local observers; but seldom, if ever, has a full-day's observation been made.

Further details about the proposed trip will be published in the September supplement.

MORE HENSLAWS

Should we continue to list places where Henslow Sparrows are to be found? New, or at least previously unrecorded, sites are continually being reported. The field to the southeast of the junction of Routes 4 and 151 in back of Rensselaer is one more such place.

TWO FOR GUILDERLAND

A Yellow-breasted Chat appeared in the tangled second growth behind an abandoned farmhouse in Guilderland on May 23, and was heard on numerous occasions throughout June. Presumably it nested. The farm is just east of the Normanskill Bridge at the state rifle range.

A male Orchard Oriole put in a one-day appearance at Guilderland on June 9. -- Franklin H. West

WATER-CHESTNUT

There's no doubt about the water-chestnut situation being out of control. More and more local ponds and parts of the Mohawk River are thoroughly choked with the weed.

And it is spreading rapidly. Now there are patches in the Mohawk above the Gateway Bridge; it is covering extensive areas for many miles below the Mohawk-Hudson merging point; and it is reported in Saratoga Lake.

IN THE AUK

Among items of interest in The Auk of July is a report of American Egrets nesting on West Sister Island in Lake Erie, in Lucas County, Ohio; it may yet be that Egrets will nest along the Hudson in the Stockport-Catskill area.

Another item refers to the extension of the breeding range of the Ring-necked Duck in Ontario; locally the bird has been noted as increasingly common as a migrant, and also to be extending the dates when it is to be found here. Some time back it was a more western species.

SUMMER BIRDS OF UPPER NEW HAMPSHIRE

Nelle G. Van Vost

In northern New Hampshire, where the tall spires of balsam line the Daniel Webster highway, the Connecticut River begins its long trek to Long Island Sound. Here the Connecticut Lakes -- First, Second, and Third -- and Lake Francis are controlled by dams to insure the safety of the famous valley.

The Connecticut Valley is a flyway for many warblers and other song birds on their way to their breeding grounds. To this nesting area Minnie B. Scotland and I drove in early July for the study of birds in the Canadian zone.

It did not take us long to realize that we had chosen well. The almost constant song of the White-throated Sparrow furnished background music for the Olive-backed and Hermit Thrushes. The Winter Wren poured forth his song like the tinkling of glass -- at dawn, during the day, and at dusk.

Across the road from the lodge where we were staying, long piles of four-foot balsam logs indicated that lumbering was being done by the St. Regis Lumber Company. Many warblers nested here -- the Magnolia, Blackburnian, Canada, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Redstart, and Chestnut-sided, with the Brown-capped Chickadee, the Philadelphia Vireo, Blue-headed Vireo, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Red-breasted Nuthatch.

Usnea, and Parulas

When we saw the trees draped with Usnea, we knew we should find the Parula Warbler. With a little hunting with binoculars, we found many pairs engaged with family cares.

The road along the lakes was through heavily wooded country, with no habitation for fifteen miles. We drove this road many times, frequently stopping to run down a new song or to investigate the flora and fauna. This is the way we located a family of Acadian Flycatchers. The male, within arm's length, was calling "ka-reep" as he switched his tail constantly.

Near Second Lake one evening three deer played along the road; a Spruce Grouse leisurely walked across the road; a baby Sapsucker sat in the middle of the road, making us stop, while we were enjoying all the evening songs and sounds of the deep woods. One stop was made to admire the vast stands of the attractive little twin flower, the most common flower of the woods while we were there.

Again, near Second Lake, a Cedar Waxwing invited us to stop to watch his family enjoying wild strawberries. Picking a single berry, he would fly to the top of a dead tree, carefully hull the berry, and toss the hull to the ground.

Only one picnic place, Moose Falls, did we discover along the road between Second and Third Lakes. Here, we had been told, were some Canada Jays. Since this bird was one we especially wanted to find, we visited the place a couple of times. The caretaker told us the Jays were away nesting during July. However, we searched a while and found a Golden-crowned Kinglet and the beautiful Bay-breasted Warbler.

Walking through a field along First Lake, admiring the vast expanse of tawny hawkweed, we suddenly came upon a pair of Spotted Sandpipers. Our water-bird records were low, as most of them were nesting. A lone Loon and a pair of Golden-eyes, nesting in a box which had been put up for Wood Ducks, were really all we found.

"Hic, Three Beers"

One morning, on our way to the nearest village, we had been directed to drive around Back Lake, where a great deal of lumbering had been done a few years ago. The call "Hic, Three Beers" came from every direction, so we knew the Olive-sided Flycatcher was there. Atop a dead tree was his perch. At least two pairs of Mourning Warblers were calling, a Cape May was feeding along the side of the road, a Magnolia was flitting from tree to tree, and a purple Finch was singing.

Our second visit to Back Lake was one of much interest. The Black-capped Chickadee was much in evidence, an Indigo Bunting flew near the car, and many warblers allowed us to get very near and to obtain excellent views of them, as did the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. The Olive-sided Flycatcher calling and the Winter Wren singing his much-appreciated song were among the most popular songs we heard from the car in this section.

Swallows, too, played a most important part in the northern New Hampshire picture. It was a great treat to watch the many Cliff Swallows gathering mud and building their clay nests on a house occupied by many men of the lumber company. Barn and Tree Swallows were with us also.

We missed the call of the Meadowlark, Killdeer, and Towhee, but others made up for their absence from the fields of gay golden ragwort and hawkweed.

To round out our list to 75, we found a colony of Bank Swallows as we were leaving. Incidentally, all our birding was done within a few hundred feet of our car.

Perhaps I have made you want to visit this country where the tall balsam grows so dense that it is almost impossible to walk, and where the songs of warblers are so abundant. Some of these songs we do not hear in full when the birds migrate through our own Transition Zone. The Northern New Hampshire Woods, in the Canadian Zone, offer themselves as a haven for bird students.

THE EGRETS RETURN TO NISKAYUNA

Lt Franklin H. West, USN

The annual midsummer trip to the marshes along the south shore of the Mohawk at Niskayuna took place July 20 and attained its main objective -- Egrets, that is -- which seems to be an unusual accomplishment this year. The five observers in the party could each claim one to his credit, a total nine less than was seen last year. Five species of herons were listed, including the Egrets: one Great Blue, three Green, three Black-crowned Night, and four American Bitterns.

High water deterred even our knee-booted chairman, Nelle Van Vorst, from venturing very far into the marsh. However, the Florida Gallinules put on a good exhibition of cackling and scooting among the cattails which rivaled an enviable imitation of the Killdeer (complete except for flying away with three that passed by) by Minnie Scotland.

There was evidence that summer was on the wane. The Bobolinks were seen in small groups, giving their "peek" or "pink" call notes which are characteristic of their behavior farther south where they flock as Ricebirds. Numerous males were seen in transition plumage. The morning's list totaled 54 species, of which the Alder Flycatcher and Long-billed Marsh Wren were also outstanding. The list:

Great Blue Heron	Catbird
American Egret	Robin
Green Heron	Wood Thrush
Black-crowned Night Heron	Veery
American Bittern	American Pipit (?)
Black Duck	Starling
Red-shouldered Hawk	Red-eyed Vireo
Sparrow Hawk	Warbling Vireo
Florida Gallinule	Black and White Warbler
Killdeer	Yellow Warbler
Spotted Sandpiper	Chestnut-sided Warbler
Mourning Dove	Oven-bird
Belted Kingfisher	Northern Yellow-throat
Flicker	English Sparrow
Hairy Woodpecker	Bobolink
Downy Woodpecker	Meadowlark
Kingbird	Red-wing
Crested Flycatcher	Baltimore Oriole
Alder Flycatcher	Bronzed Grackle
Least Flycatcher	Scarlet Tanager
Tree Swallow	Indigo Bunting
Bank Swallow	Goldfinch
Barn Swallow	Towhee
Blue Jay	Chipping Sparrow
Crow	Field Sparrow
Black-capped Chickadee	Swamp Sparrow
White-breasted Nuthatch	Song Sparrow
Long-billed Marsh Wren	

FEATHERS

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IT'S NOT TOO HARD TO TAME THEM

Barrington S. Havens

There's always something to look forward to in bird study -- some fascinating bypath where the footsteps of others beckon you on to new thrills, or where the way, as yet untrod-den, holds promise of rewards won only by the pioneer. Thus the confraternity of bird students divides itself into groups within groups, into concentric circles of more and more select membership. But the membership is never exclusive. Admission may be had for the asking -- or the doing.

The beginner is awed by the superior wisdom of the more experienced veteran. Those who hunt by sight alone look respectfully in the direction of the ones who can spot a rare species by its notes. And you who have to walk or drive for miles to study the habits of even the more common species have missed the thrills vouchsafed daily to those who maintain feeding stations in their own back yards.

So it was that I made up my mind to put up a winter feeding station near my summer camp at Jenny Lake in the foothills of the Adirondacks. It took the form of a generous slab of suet protected by wire screening and hung on a nearby pine tree in such fashion as to be readily observable from my front porch.

No Spring or Summer Visitors

That was the spring of '46. Every weekend I watched for customers, but there were none. Then, thinking the birds might be filching their tidbits surreptitiously, I took to examining the suet for bill marks. All I found was a happy colony of insect larvae. So gradually I lost interest in the venture.

When fall came, however, it was a different story. The feeding station contained a tray for bird seed, and more or less mechanically I had kept it full. Now I noticed an occasional Chickadee dropping in for a sunflower seed, and it began to look as if I might attract some customers after all. True, the chipmunks had discovered the treasure trove and spent a good deal of their time carrying off swollen cheekfuls to their burrows against the threat of inevitable winter. But, if the birds got any benefit at all between chipmunk visits, I was content.

Eventually, as it does each winter, snow came. And suddenly my feeding station became as popular as a Paris sidewalk

cafe in the springtime. Instead of a single helping of suet lasting for three months, it became a problem to maintain an adequate supply from weekend to weekend.

Hand Feeding

Now I don't propose to tell again the story of a feeding station and its visitors; that has been done enough. But there is another aspect to the venture which is not so much a matter of common knowledge and which, therefore, it should be worthwhile to discuss here. It's one of those inner circles mentioned in the introduction to this article. I refer, of course, to hand feeding.

I had heard -- as who hasn't? -- of people who had made the Chickadees so tame at their feeding stations that the birds would light on human beings. I had even seen pictures of Chickadees taking food from the mouths of children. But not until one of them lighted on my hand for a moment below my feeding station did it occur to me that I might be able to do it myself.

It really was quite easy. Whenever the suet or seeds needed replenishing, it had been done on the front steps, and these had become generously besprinkled with seeds and crumbs. The Chickadees quickly discovered the crumbs and came regularly to the steps to feed. So, when I sat down on the steps and held a piece of suet in my hand, they came right away. They would light on my hand and eat the suet as if they had been doing it all their lives.

Low Man on Totem Pole

Where the Chickadees led, the Red-breasted Nuthatches quickly followed. For it is the habit of the latter to bully the Chickadees; sometimes, it seems, just out of pure cussedness. I have seen a Nuthatch leave the suet on the tree trunk, drive a Chickadee away from the suet in my hand, and then fly back to the tree-trunk suet again.

In fact, the Chickadee seems to be the low man on the totem pole of the avian hierarchy. So far I have noticed that the Bluejays take precedence at the table over the smaller Woodpeckers; the Woodpeckers, in turn, rank the Nuthatches; and the Nuthatches take it out on the Chickadees. You'd think this would ruin the disposition of the Chickadee, but it doesn't; instead he is friendly and trusting, placing himself without fear quite literally in the hands of his human friends. In so doing, he really does the Nuthatches a favor, for they learn by example that some human beings can be trusted and soon come to be fed themselves.

Some Traits in Common

Both species prefer suet to peanut butter. When both foods are held in the hand, the bird inevitably chooses suet.

FEATHERS



Both species prefer to feed singly. If one is feeding at the suet, he'll drive an intruder of his own species away.

Guy Bartlett, Editor
1053 Parkwood Boulevard

Both species do their "talking" elsewhere; they are silent when feeding. The Nuthatches awaiting their turn often become quite querulous in their plaintive chattering, as if trying to hurry their feeding brethren up a little. The Chickadees normally converse with a single "seep" note; they reserve the characteristic "chickadee-dee-dee" to moments of exasperation and scolding.

The Bluejays are completely silent around the feeding station and flit like ghosts among the trees until they consider the coast is clear enough for them to venture in to the seed tray.

The Chickadee not only becomes tame but also venturesome. One pecked curiously at my wrist, and another took a tentative nip at my ear lobe from his perch on my shoulder.

Chickadees tame even more easily than chipmunks, of which I have taught not a few to eat out of my hand and take peanuts from my pockets. The average chipmunk takes about 48 hours to tame, while a Chickadee makes up his mind practically instantaneously. I hope soon to try my luck at some of the other mammals, like raccoons, white-footed mice, etc.

SOME VACATION RECORDS AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

Mabel W. French

The period of April 2 through 6 was spent by our family in or near Washington, D. C. The birds could be only one of many competing interests of the trip, but I am offering such notes as could be obtained, hoping they will perhaps be of assistance to some other SBC member who may be viewing Washington on limited time.

I would recommend Mount Vernon as an excellent spot to see a number of the land birds typical of that part of the northern edge of the Southland. We were on the grounds only about an hour, during which I recorded 25 species: Turkey Vulture (overhead), Herring Gull, Flicker, Red-bellied Wood-pecker (four), Phoebe, Blue Jay, Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse (possible 20), White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird (three or more), Brown Thrasher, Robin, Bluebird, Cedar Waxwing (flock over 40), Starling, English Sparrow, Purple Grackle, Cardinal (four or more), Towhee, Junco, Field Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, and Song Sparrow.

It will be noticed that this list includes merely the resident birds of that section and early migrants, only the Thrasher and Towhee of the latter group being ahead of what

might be expected in our territory on that date, April 4. We were told that Washington was having one of the most backward springs in its history.

Cardinal, Late Singer

Naturally those birds found seldom or never in the Albany-Schenectady area were of the most interest to me. We were delighted to find that a male Cardinal had staked out a claim to the corner yard of the tourists' home in Alexandria where we made our headquarters.

Evidently the Cardinal is one of the birds that stay up late. At least this one was still active the evening we arrived, although there was barely enough daylight left to show his color. His "whit-whit" note came from the tree by one of our windows with the first beam of the morning sun. The house fronted directly on a roaring highway, but that did not seem to disturb the bird at all. At least four, one a female, were seen at Mount Vernon, where they were in full song, besides others in Washington itself. The shade and brilliance of the plumage of individual birds vary greatly. On the back of some I distinguished an almost blue tone which blended beautifully with the predominant rich red.

Mocker, Dooryard Bird

The Mockingbird we found to be another dooryard bird. Besides the Mount Vernon individuals, we saw them in shrubs about the public buildings in Washington, and nearly the last bird we saw when leaving was a Mocker in the vines of our Aunt's front porch. To anyone seeing a Mockingbird for the first time I would say, do not look for those white wing and tail decorations if the bird is perched or on the ground. They seem to be for flight display only. With wings folded the bird appears at first sight simply as a plain, light-gray bird, paler beneath. To me the so-called "white" of the breast is slightly suffused with gray.

More Southerners

The Carolina Wren I have never recorded here, but it was no new bird to me for it is irregularly resident on Long Island. I have seen it feeding young birds in the woods of my home village there.

The Red-bellied Woodpecker and the Tufted Titmouse were definitely new additions to my life list. I saw at least four of the former -- they are strikingly handsome and instantly recognizable. They also frequently called attention to their presence by their rather raucous note. The Titmice were all over the premises at Mount Vernon, and one's ear was repeatedly being startled by their whistled song, which is so much bigger than they that it does not seem possible so much sound could issue from so small a throat. Neither of these species has been recorded in our area.

Carolina, Small Edition

I wondered if I should be able to tell a Caroline Chickadee from a Black-capped, but it was not at all difficult. I should describe the Carolina as a small edition of the Black-capped as to both body and voice. The pair I observed were noticeably smaller than their more northern relatives, and their notes, both the "dee-dee" and the whistled ones, were thinner, weaker, and higher pitched. The former I heard conspicuously uttered in groups of four, "Dee-dee-dee-dee". These two birds were flying back and forth from the woods to a post out in the river, on which they were industriously working at a hole near the top on the river side. Lack of time prevented verification, but it certainly looked as though they were digging out a nesting place about fifty feet from the shore and three or four feet above the waters of the Potomac.

From Hamburg, Pa., on the down trip to Newfoundland, N.J., on the return, Turkey Vulture was the bird. Among several of them standing at the side of the river, between Mount Vernon and Washington, I clearly distinguished one Black Vulture. It was smaller, dead black with no brown shading from head to tail, the latter being so short I could hardly find it under the folded wings. The whole stance of the standing bird was different from the surrounding Turkey Vultures. I believe we also saw at least two of the Black Vultures among several of the commoner bird hovering over rocky Devil's Den at Gettysburg Battlefield, but the combined condition resulting from poor light and the fact I had never before seen the bird made certainty impossible.

WHY PIGEONS COME HOME -- AND MIGRANTS RETURN

A scientific solution has been found for the age-old problem of why the homing pigeon can fly home. Apparently it has a "navigating instrument" more sensitive than man has been able to build, for the pigeon finds its way home by determining the magnetic intensity it feels when flying through the earth's magnetic field, it was announced by Professor Henry L. Yeagley of Pennsylvania State College's physics department, speaking on the General Electric Science Forum, WGY, on August 20. For some time he has been engaged in an experimental pigeon project at State College, Pa., for the U. S. Army Signal Corps.

Professor Yeagley expressed the opinion that the means by which homing pigeons navigate is the same as for wild birds when flying thousands of miles over ocean waters and on their long migratory flights. "The well-known ornithologist, C. Frederick Lincoln of the U. S. Department of the Interior, says he is sure that wild birds navigate in the same manner, and are probably much more adept at it than the pigeon," he explained. "Pigeons, as far back as their history is known,

were non-migratory in nature, and this 'navigation' talent was partly lost. By a process of selective breeding for 2,000 years or less, man has revived this faculty in the pigeon."

"An electric voltage results from flying through the magnetic field, and the homing pigeon can detect this as well as the rate of the earth's surface turning under him as he flies. The magnitude of both of these is different at locations other than the bird's home. When displaced from his home, therefore, the pigeon need only fly in the direction which brings him more nearly to the magnetic intensity and earth turning rate he is used to and he will arrive at his home loft."

The homing pigeon has a navigating instrument, Professor Yeagley believes, "but as yet we have no direct proof." He said, however, that "the bird has located on the end of the optic nerve in the eye a small, mound-like structure extending in some cases over three-fourths of the way across the eye toward the lens. Zoologists have been unable to account for its presence there. Due to its location, sensitivity, and structure, we believe it could be the organ of navigation. Work is going forward at the moment to determine what nerve functions in this connection."

Regarding the homing pigeons at Pennsylvania State College, Professor Yeagley, who teaches astronomy and physics, continued:

"We have trained hundreds of Army homing pigeons to navigate to State College, Pa. After being thoroughly trained, they have been transported and released in various portions of Nebraska. Invariably, these transported birds, not knowing where they are, fly on the average toward a particular point in Nebraska. It turns out that this point is the only other point on the earth's surface where exactly the same magnetic intensity and earth turning rates are identical to those of State College, Pa. For every possible location on the earth a similar companion point exists."

During experiments with some birds released from a vehicle leaving Penn State College on its way to the Nebraska site, it was found that the pigeons returned to the college -- until the half-way mark was reached. Beyond that distance the pigeons flew on to the Nebraska cote, which was nearer.

Pointing out that the U. S. Army Signal Corps still maintains a pigeon-training program for use in communications, Professor Yeagley declared:

"In the ordinary maneuvering and transportation of troops and war supplies, practically all intelligence is easily transmitted by newer means of telegraph, radio, and radar. However, when the shooting starts, the telegraph lines become disrupted, and radio and radar make natural targets of their users. It is at this point that the homing pigeon becomes of maximum value."



NEWS AND NOTES IN BRIEF

HAWK DAY

An S B C trip that may prove particularly interesting is the one scheduled for Sunday, September 21, when an all-day vigil is planned out in the Helderbergs, particularly to watch the skies for migrating hawks. Who knows -- maybe in our own backyard we have a vantage point for a spectacular display.

Lt. Franklin West, Albany, will be the leader. Those participating are to meet at the top of the old carriage road (near the old refreshment stand, in Thacher Park, atop Indian Ladder, at 8 a.m. Those intending to stay through the day should provide a lunch.

34-519432

The above number by itself does not tell much, but it should be possible soon to tell a story about it. In mid-July an aluminum band bearing that number was removed from the leg of a Duck Hawk killed at the Schenectady airport, and mailed to Washington for a Biological Survey report.

How the hawk was killed is an interesting story. The bird had knocked down a Sparrow Hawk and was killing the smaller bird. During the tussle along came a car and struck the birds, killing the banded Duck Hawk. The hawk was turned over to Game Protector Chester Griffith, who sent the bird to the local museum and the band to S B C.

ANOTHER GOOD WORD FOR THE SPARROW

Somebody's always putting in a good word for the English Sparrow or the Starling. Now it's the ravenous appetite of the Sparrow for the Japanese beetle, of which Schenectady is seeing more and more each summer.

Ivy growing on the side of G-E's Building 6 in mid-summer had more than its share of the beetles. It was Bradley Wilson who observed that the English Sparrows fed constantly on the insects, usually flying away with their victims and returning promptly for more.

Incidentally, what birds should we list as having shown a liking for this imported pest?

AT BUFFALO

Schenectady's Century Run, it will be recalled, was made on May 10, during a cold wave — ice was found in early morning. Warblers were yet to appear in numbers, and many species were missed; and the total count for the day was 126 species.

Buffalo also experienced cold weather in early May, and reports its main warbler migration wave in the second half of the month, particularly the 15th to 20th. The Buffalo Ornithological Society conducted its 18th annual Spring Census on May 25, with 85 or more observers covering 37 listed territor-

ies. They accounted for 186 species, with totals of more than 1000 individuals for eight species: Red-wing (2287), Robin, Starling, Bank Swallow, Goldfinch, Common Tern, Yellow Warbler, and Song Sparrow.

A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher featured Schenectady's Century Run. Buffalo had several May records of the species, and it was also listed at Rochester in the week ending May 2. Rochester, incidentally, had a female Summer Tanager on May 19.

Through the end of May Buffalo observers had a total of 240 species for the year.

DOVE SHOOTING

In the southern states the Mourning Dove rates as a game bird, with an open hunting season. In the north it is generally protected. Now Minnesota has added the bird to its protected list, thereby extending protection for all states bordering Canada, which also protects it.

SHRIKES

New England Bird Notes for March, 1947 has an item of interest with regard to Shrike identifications: "... field identification of Migrant Shrikes in early spring presents peculiar difficulties, perhaps not generally recognized, through the dissemination of the idea that birds with all black bill and cleaner, purer gray plumage are migrants. Actually, on the basis of these characters alone, they are more apt to be adult Northernns in spring plumage. During this period the only certain mark of separation is the narrow black line around the forehead above the bill in the Migrant, a mark notoriously difficult to note in the field. Otherwise, one is left with the intangibles of degree of variation in size and in quality of color. Extreme caution in the identification of spring shrikes would accordingly appear to be the only course."

FIRST STARLING

An item in July FEATHERS, page 68, asked for information about the establishment of the Starling locally, and indicated a probable date between 1915 and 1916. Mrs. George W. DeRidder, Ballston Spa, has written:

"My father, S. R. Ingersoll, was official observer for the Biological Survey of the U. S. Department of Agriculture for 63 years. In his records I find the following comment dated 1916:

"European Starling. One of these birds was seen picking at an old apple hanging on a tree on Feb. 24th 1916. This was the first time they have ever been seen about here. One seen again on the 3rd of March, 2 were seen on the 6th, 3 were seen on the 7th, 5 were seen on March 16th. This was the last time they were observed."

"This was for Ballston Spa and vicinity, but may give some idea of when they first appeared in this locality. I am much interested myself in our feathered friends and have kept records since the death of my father in 1940."

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MRS. MERGANSER AND FAMILY

J. Munsey Hollister

Mrs. Merganser (*Merganser americanus*), often called "fish-duck" or "sheldrake", chose what appeared to be a quiet spot, Lake Mansfield, Vt., to spend the summer. On her arrival not a human being was in sight. More than one-half of the shore-line was lined with trees and shrubbery with long branches hanging over the water, affording ideal hiding spots for "chicks". Minnows, frogs and crayfish were plentiful; thus the food problem was solved. Hollow trees and suitable ground spots for nesting were available. Dead trees surrounded by water made sleeping quarters safe. On the other hand the red fox, mink, skunk, porcupine and Barred Owl were there to cause trouble -- but where might she go and not find these enemies?

No Mr. "M"

My introduction to Mrs. "M" was on June 24, swimming on the lake with ten tiny "chicks", about a week old. Mr. "M" had left for parts unknown as soon as egg-laying started, as he has no interest in family cares.

The eclipse plumage moult starts in May, and perhaps he was visiting Mother Nature's tailor for a new suit. Allowing twenty-eight days for incubation and two weeks for egg-laying, the usual number of eggs being from nine to twelve but sometimes more, would bring her arrival on the lake the latter part of April. Open water is found at that time. By July 1 the quiet, secluded spot chosen by Mrs. "M" became populated with two-legged animals with a curiosity.

Caution, Not Fear

It was not long before she found that the people were harmless, and caution replaced fear. It was not until the middle of July that the chicks showed much independence. They kept close together on the approach of a boat, and if for any reason the mother failed to lead the intruder away they would hide in a group under overhanging foliage. They seemed to obey the mother's instructions without hesitation.

At one time I had the chicks cornered in a narrow bay. The mother flew away. I allowed the boat to float to within about fifteen feet of the hiding spot. In the meantime the mother made three flying trips past me, talking to the youngsters. They were huddled underneath a log which overhung the



Guy Bartlett, Editor
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bank, making them out of sight from the mother's line of flight, but plainly visible from my point of view. Not a movement from the chicks. On the approach of a boat from the opposite direction the mother made her fourth trip, and I could hear her sharp orders.

They Shot, and I Shot

The chicks shot in single file for the open lake. I shot with the camera and obtained a picture of nice sprays of water but no ducks. Later on, when the chicks were about half-grown and less afraid, I was more successful with Kodachrome.

Another view which will be hard to forget was obtained one evening when the moon was full. The family had retired for the night on the curved section of a tree which had fallen into the lake. The section was about four feet above water.

As I rounded a point to the bay in a boat, two crescents of eleven ducks each were plainly seen. The reflections showed them in white pajamas.

And into Flight

It was early in August before the chicks began to exercise their wings seriously. The mother would take them toward the middle of the lake, and evidently on a signal all would stand on the water and flap their wings. After three or four such performances all would dive. It was a case of now you see them and now you don't. The first observation of the young leaving the water in flight was on August 31. I said good-bye to Mrs. "M" and family of ten -- and such a fascinating family it was -- on September 1.

A Good Word for Them

I must say a word about the fishing habits of this family. Many trout fishermen think that Mergansers should be shot on sight as they spoil the fishing. While these ducks live almost entirely on fish, it is known that fish from two to four inches long are preferred.

This means that where minnows are plentiful, as in the case of Lake Mansfield, and the lake is stocked with eight-inch brook trout, the ducks help the fishermen by reducing the trout's competition.

I have fished within twenty-five feet of the shore, when the whole family were fishing and would pass between me and the shore. They would catch fish while I was "wishing", but I saw none brought up that was over four inches long.

The Merganser does not nest in our immediate vicinity today but years back did -- and perhaps we can hope for its return as a summer bird of our own region.

IN COME THE SHORE-BIRDS

Nelle G. Van Vort

While the mercury was climbing to reach its goal of 98° on August 24, five S B C members searched the mud flats of Watervliet Reservoir for migratory shore-birds. Four Great Blue Herons and six American Egrets acted as sentinels while the Kingfisher rattled his familiar call and the many "Peeps" hurried about the numerous small ponds.

The greenish yellow legs of the Least Sandpiper, the black legs of the Semipalmated Sandpiper, the very definite whitish color of the Sanderling all showed plainly in the good light.

The larger sandpipers -- the Pectoral with his bib and the Solitary with his distinctive tail pattern -- represented the next in size. The Killdeer with the two bands of black and the Semipalmated Plover with his one band gave a good comparison of size.

A little time was spent watching the many Bobolinks on the southward trip, and in looking for other land birds. A large number of Baltimore Orioles had assembled in the area in preparation for their trip.

Thirty-eight species were recorded: Great Blue Heron, American Egret, Green Heron, Red-shouldered Hawk, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Solitary Sandpiper, Lesser Yellow-legs, Pectoral Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Sanderling, Mourning Dove, Chimney Swift, Kingfisher, Flicker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Phoebe, Wood Pewee, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, Crow, Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Catbird, Robin, Starling, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Nashville Warbler, Northern Yellow-throat, English Sparrow, Bobolink, Baltimore Oriole, Goldfinch, and Song Sparrow.

EGRETS, BUT NO EAGLES

Pauline E. Baker

September 7 dawned overcast and mild after a series of very warm days. The temperature was 70 degrees at starting but went up into the eighties during the day. A stiff south wind blew upriver. We all declared it a not too promising day.

The Hoffman Bird Club of Pittsfield turned out with 36 enthusiastic members. Schenectady Bird Club was represented by 30 members and friends. Six members of the Adirondack Mountain Club, friends of the leader, were also passengers, and interested in the trip.

<u>STONER BIRD TRIP</u>	<u>ALBANY-KINGSTON</u>			<u>SEPT. 7, 1947</u>
<u>Species</u> <u>(30)</u>	<u>To Kingston</u>	<u>At Kingston</u>	<u>From Kingston</u>	<u>Maximum or Total</u>
Pied-billed Grebe		2		2
Dbl.-cr. Cormorant	2			2
Great Blue Heron	32		21	32
American Egret	56		90	90
Green Heron		3	3	6
Blk.-cr. Nt. Heron	2		2	2
Mallard	4		6	6
Black Duck	43	5	44	49
Blue-winged Teal	2	20	2	22
Red-tailed Hawk	1			1
Red-shouldered Hawk	1			1
Osprey	7	1	4	8
Sparrow Hawk	2			2
Killdeer			26	26
Spotted Sandpiper		1		1
Solitary Sandpiper		2		2
Herring Gull	13	3	23	26
Mourning Dove	4			4
Kingfisher	3		3	3
Tree Swallow	3		10	10
Barn Swallow		100	3	103
Crow	11		64	64
Cedar Waxwing		4		4
Starling			30	30
Warbling Vireo		1		1
English Sparrow		2		2
Red-wing	153		162	162
Grackle	1			1
Goldfinch		3		3
Song Sparrow		1		1
TOTALS	340	148	493	666

The flats above and below Hudson really did help our list. Visibility was poor. The Catskills were not to be seen, and the sky was overcast most of the time. The purple loosestrife along the Hudson was beautiful, and intrigued those Pittsfield folk who were sailing the Hudson for the first time.

The Hudson dock boys were amusing as usual with their call of "Scrambo" for coins tossed to them. S. Waldo Bailey recalled visits he had made to Hudson shore farms hunting Indian relics. Dr. Wilk was interested in the Hudson patroon system; he too is interested in Indian relics, and now is collecting a library of books on the American Indian.

The only disappointment was not seeing any Eagles. We

certainly hunted, and even the ship's officers tried to help. The birds simply couldn't be found.

Everyone enjoyed the day immensely and came back with a ruddy wind burn.

Only the Starling and Barn Swallow exceeded the American Egret in total count. Fifty-six of the birds were recorded on the trip down, and ninety on the return -- and it seems likely that more than 100 individuals were included. In one case the count was seven Egrets and two Great Blue Herons in one tree.

Those on the trip from Massachusetts included Dr. Joseph A. Wilk, president of the Hoffman Bird Club; Mrs. Wilk; Leonard E. Sweitzer, vice president; Mrs. Sweitzer; Miss Beth Fobes, secretary; Daniel Gleize, treasurer; Miss Frances Gilotti, Massachusetts Audubon Society representative; Bartlett Hendricks, Curator of Science, Berkshire Museum; Mrs. Hendricks; Alvah Sanborn, Warden, Pleasant Valley Sanctuary, Lenox; Mrs. Sanborn; S. Waldo Bailey, Warden, Bartholmew's Cobble, Ashley Falls; Mrs. Bailey, Miss Priscilla Bailey, Mr. and Mrs. Orrin P. McCarty, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen C. Fordham, Jr., Miss Leah Crossman, Miss Frances E. Palmer, Mr. and Mrs. Elmore J. Fitz, Mr. and Mrs. Donnell D. MacCarthy, Katherine and Margaret MacCarthy, Ronald and Gary Shampang, Philip N. Daoust, George Allen, Evelyn Barry, Donald Shaw, Kenyon L. Sweitzer, Miss Isabelle Hesse, Mrs. George Bruce, and William Rudge.

From the Schenectady area there were, in addition to the Adirondack Mountain Club group: Laura S. and Francis M. Beck, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Burnham, Betty Lou Burnham, Mr. and Mrs. Lauren Clute, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Davenport, Mr. and Mrs. Harry E. Dunham, Mr. and Mrs. William G. Garner, Mary Guy, Viola Mabb, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Plue, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Scott, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Scott, Mr. and Mrs. William Scott, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Skofsted, Miss Winifred Strong, Mr. and Mrs. Chester Zimmer, Naomi Zimmer, and Pauline E. Baker, trip leader.

AT THE A.O.U. CONVENTION

Minnie B. Scotland

There were three S B C members who attended the sixty-fifth stated meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union. The time and place of the meeting proved advantageous as September 9-11 came at a vacation period and Toronto could be reached easily by car. The local committee on arrangements had left nothing to be desired, except something beyond their control, the weather which was hot and humid throughout the whole week.

However, in the air-conditioned auditorium of the Royal Ontario Museum weather was forgotten and a program of more than forty papers was thoroughly enjoyed. Glimpses into a

few of these reports may prove interesting: the all but totally destroyed collections of many rare bird skins by the War, evidence of much hybridism among Paradise Flycatchers of Africa, new speed photography with color film promising more knowledge of bird activity, presence of North American bird migrants in Chile, anticipation of migratory waves by observing daily the meteorological situation in the Great Lakes area, determination of Golden-eye species by study of x-ray pictures of skulls, announcement of a new kind of bird book -- one of Bird Finding by O. S. Pettingill to be completed next year, the astounding accuracy of much of Aristotle's knowledge of the structure and activities of birds, importance of color in sex recognition shown by courtship behavior, hearing of new phonograph records (sounds of amphibians) probably available next spring, story of the movie-taking of the California Condor of which only about forty are in existence, evidence of return of Chimney Swifts to same territory over a period of four years, and the search in Mexico for the maker of the re-tort-shaped nest thought to be the White-bellied Wren.

In addition to this intellectual feast of good papers there were the gastronomic events, such as the Annual Dinner at the Royal York, a tea in the Museum Garden, and a final luncheon, served at the Royal Canadian Yacht Club, at which the A.O.U. members were guests of The Toronto Ornithological Club.

A three-hour field trip on the Island, opposite the city, furnished a very representative list of birds but no new ones for the S.B.C. visitors. A very important result of going to an international convention such as this is the stimulation derived from associating with leaders in the subject, and there were many in Toronto.



NEWS AND NOTES IN BRIEF



JENNY LAKE IN SUMMER

Those S.B.C. members who drove to Jenny Lake on Sunday, June 22, found out that it is only a matter of an hour by automobile before different summer birds are encountered. Meeting at the camp of Alice and Chester Moore, the picnickers readily observed several species seen here rarely, if at all, in summer. There were, for example, the Red-breasted Nuthatch, Blue-headed Vireo, various Warblers, Purple Finch, and White-throated Sparrow.

The 31 species for the trip included: Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Catbird, Robin, Wood Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Veery, Starling, Blue-headed Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Redstart, English Sparrow, Meadowlark, Red-wing, Grackle, Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Indigo Bunting, Purple

Finch, Goldfinch, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, and Song Sparrow.

FLOCKED NIGHTHAWKS

Around Labor Day is always a good time to look for relatively large numbers of low-flying Nighthawks over the city, as well as the surrounding territory. This year was no exception. Groups of the birds were numerous over the general area, with reports as early as August 21. One of the last records was that of Mrs. W. H. Norris, with 30 or more of the birds over Waverly Place the afternoon of September 13.

DUCKS DUCK RADAR

Quoting from Mechanix Illustrated of October, 1947:

"Do radar waves upset birds' sense of direction? Dr. R. B. Roberts, physicist with the Carnegie Institution of Washington, is wondering.

"During the war, he was at a point on the Virginia coast, conducting experiments that involved the use of radar. A number of times, when he and his companions saw a well-arrayed flock of wild ducks flying along, they gave them a 'squirt' of radar rays. The ducks' orderly formation would break up and the birds would fly wildly in all directions.

"The ducks appeared to be utterly confused.

"Dr. Roberts isn't certain that the radar did it, because there were other possible disturbing factors at work in the same area, such as small-caliber gunfire making a lot of noise. So he would like to hear from anyone else who had a similar experience with radar and flying birds."

FIRST STARLING

Apropos of recent references to the first Starling at Schenectady, the bird was introduced into this country with the liberation of 80 birds in Central Park, New York City, on March 6, 1890. On April 25, 1891, 40 more were released there. For six years the birds remained close to the point of introduction, and then began to spread.

By 1919, twenty-nine years later, the Starling reached Ontario, Canada, being first recorded five miles west of Brockville. By the summer of 1920 it was in Toronto.

Schenectady's first Starlings precede these records by only a few years.

VIOLA MABB, TREASURER

At the monthly meeting on September 15, Viola Mabb was elected treasurer to fill the unexpired term of Mary Guy. Mr. and Mrs. Guy are now North Carolinians, he having joined the University faculty there.

At the meeting Mrs. H. G. Kelley reported on her stay at the Audubon camp in Connecticut, Chester Moore described his time at the Audubon camp in Maine, and Dr. Minnie B. Scotland told about the A.O.U. convention in Toronto.

AUDUBON SCREEN TOURS

The Schenectady Bird Club and the National Audubon Society take pleasure in announcing Schenectady's third series of Audubon Screen Tour lectures. Series tickets are available from Club members or from Miss Beatrice Sullivan, 67 Snowden Ave. (6-4351) and G. H. Bainbridge, 32 Washington Rd., Scotia (6-5349).

Associate & non-members.....	\$2.00
Active members.....	\$1.50
Students	\$1.25

(Tax Included)

1947 - 48 SEASON

Wednesday, October 22

KARL H. MASLOWSKI
"Saguaro-land"

Wednesday, December 3

MARTIN K. BOVEY
"Bird-Shooting with a Camera"

Tuesday, January 13

GEORGE M. LINK
"Gopher Country"

Monday, February 16

HOWARD CLEAVES
"Animals Unaware"

Wednesday, April 28

BERT HARWELL
"Canada West"

ALL LECTURES AT

CENTRAL PARK JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL, 8 P. M.

Presented by

The Schenectady Bird Club

and the

**NATIONAL AUDUBON
SOCIETY**

FEATHERS

Published by the Schenectady Bird Club

HAWK DAY IN THE HELDERBERGS

Lt. Franklin H. West, USN

The all-day vigil at Indian Ladder to observe the fall migration of hawks took place on September 21, with a gratifying number of observers present -- it may be stated that the observers outnumbered the observed. Through the kindness of Mrs. Antemann we were fortunate in being given access to an observation point that commanded a view of the entire escarpment.

Fourteen hawks of seven species were counted. The outstanding record was the Turkey Vulture, two of which were picked up with the aid of a telescope. In addition, one Marsh, two Broad-winged, two Sharp-shinned, two Sparrow, three Red-tailed Hawks and two Ospreys were seen. Also of interest were two groups of Tree Swallows, totalling 15 individuals, which flew in the same southeasterly direction as did the hawks. The wind throughout the day was moderate to fresh from the south.

Before writing off this Helderberg vantage point as poor from the standpoint of hawks, we might recall that at Hawk Mountain the best flights are seen as a rule with a northwest wind. This results in an updraft at the face of the ridge, and the hawks coast along. With similar conditions obtaining here, we might have had a better showing for our efforts. And, too, there is the fact that Hawk Mountain and Mt. Tom are also known to have their poor days.

What those on the trip did not know until the next morning, when they saw a page one newspaper report, was that central and northern New York State was experiencing a wind storm right while the Helderberg count was being made -- a storm strong enough to down trees and damage houses. That is hardly an incentive for hawks to migrate.

It was possible to observe the dihedral, or upturn, of the wings of the soaring vultures, although mostly, because of the wind, there were wing beats. The two vultures were in view simultaneously, flying the same course but quite far apart.

One of the Red-tailed Hawks was particularly accommodating. During the morning it perched most of the time in the tops of trees in the ravine below the observers, sometimes facing the group and other times displaying its full-plumage tail.

Next autumn most certainly should include another visit.

A TAME FINCH

J. Murray Hollister

Last summer, at Lake Mansfield, Vt., I observed a young Purple Finch light on the shoulder of a lady. It seems that as she was approaching the house with flowers in her hand, the bird lighted on her shoulder. When she stopped, it jumped to her hand and inspected the flowers.

All excited, she called to me to bring a camera. I was taking a nap, and several minutes elapsed before I got into action.

We approached the bird, and again it lighted on her shoulder. Possibly if I had not stepped in a hole at the critical moment of focusing the camera, I might have had the evidence for the files. The parent birds were not seen. The young bird seemed normal, and after the episode flew to the pasture and commenced feeding.

Incidentally, the Purple Finches, usually plentiful in that locality, were scarce this year. I saw only one pair.

A LAKESIDE TRAGEDY

Ruth M. Ham

It was hot in the city. We lingered at the lovely mountain lake, sitting in comfortable chairs on the dock in front of the cottage. The lake at twilight was like a mirror and the reflection of the birches, the hemlocks and pines gave us a picture of "beauty that is almost pain."

Suddenly a tiny bird hovered over the lake's surface about ten feet from the dock. We were astounded to see a sunfish, evidently cruising near the top of the water looking for his supper, leap out and grab the bird's leg.

"It's a hummingbird!" somebody shouted.

I began to cover my eyes and moan. The tiny thing was almost under water. We could see only its beak and its eyes above the surface. Then those tiny but powerful wings began to flutter, and up it came out of the lake. It flew to one of the nearby pines and seemed to light on a branch. Then one of the observers saw it appear to fall. We all rushed to look about under the tree, but were unable to find it.

We hope the brave little creature was not beyond recovery after its ordeal.

And we hope the sunfish consulted an optometrist!

PIPITS APLENTY

Esley Hellenbeck

So low was the water, a bridge over Watervliet Reservoir was hardly necessary when, on October 12, eight S B C members visited the area. At the bridge we saw a Great Blue Heron, several Killdeer, and several Lesser Yellow-legs. We drove to the ponds along Route 20. There we found more Lesser and one Greater Yellow-legs, a Great Blue Heron, and also two Pipits.

Returning to the starting point, we found Pipits everywhere. Following along up the stream, four more Great Blues took off in their slow flight; six Pectoral and one Solitary Sandpipers were feeding in the shallow water.

The morning was so warm that Song Sparrows were singing. The twenty recorded species for the trip also included Cooper's Hawk, Kingfisher, Flicker, Blue Jay, Crow, Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Robin, English Sparrow, Meadowlark, Red-wing, and Goldfinch.

NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS ARE ORGANIZING

The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, meeting in Amsterdam October 25 and 26 with the Sassafras Bird Club as hosts, has been organized with a charter membership of at least 12 local clubs throughout the state. Beatrice Sullivan and Guy Bartlett attended the meetings as S B C representatives.

The purposes of the Federation are to stimulate interest in the study of birds of the state, to carry on research on a state-wide basis, to make acquaintance among bird students, to exchange records and experience, and to promote conservation of bird life. It is planned to hold annual meetings, with field trips, and in time to publish a periodical featuring birds of the state.

Those represented at the meeting included the Buffalo Ornithological Society, Buffalo Audubon Society, Burroughs-Audubon Club of Rochester, Genesee Ornithological Society, Eaton Bird Club of Geneva, Keuka Park Bird Club, Cayuga Bird Club of Ithaca, Watkins Glen Bird Club, Elmira Bird Club, Sassafras Bird Club of Amsterdam, Schenectady Bird Club, and Linnaean Society of New York City. Not represented at the meeting but having expressed interest in the organization are the Staten Island Natural History Society, Brooklyn Bird Club, and Watertown Bird Club. Between 1500 and 2000 bird students are represented in these local clubs.

The following officers were elected: President, Dr. Gordon M. Meade, Saranac Lake; Vice President, Winston Brockner,

FEATHERS

SCHENECTADY BIRD CLUB

Annual Membership \$3; Assoc. \$1

Guy Bartlett, Editor
1053 Parkwood Boulevard

November, 1947

Buffalo; Corresponding Secretary, Dr. Peter Paul Kellogg, Ithaca; Recording Secretary; Fred Hall, Rochester; and Treasurer, Guy Bartlett, Schenectady.

The Federation will be explained at an early S B C meeting, after copies of the proposed constitution have been received.

A VACATION IN MAINE

Mabel W. French

A camping trip to Acadia National Park on Mount Desert Island, Maine, replaced the usual Long Island vacation of my husband and me last August. I confess that during my five days of activity there my nature observations were centered more on botanizing than on birding. Not only do the flora of the Transition and Canadian zones meet and merge on Mount Desert, but it also combines maritime and alpine species in close proximity.

Nary a Duck

To deal first with birds negatively, not a duck did I see in Maine waters.

The shore-birds were also disappointing. On our way up, near the northern end of York Beach, I stopped to study a mixed group of over 50 Turnstones, an equal number of Sémpalmated Sandpipers, and a sprinkling of Spotted Sandpipers, Sandpiperlings, and Semipalmated Plovers. On the Island I saw only a few Semipalmated Plovers, and some sandpipers too far away for identification.

I judged most of the beaches of Mount Desert to be too rocky, with insufficient sandy spots or tidal flats to attract shore-birds in large numbers. Even when the tide was out, it was largely more rocks, not sand bars, that were exposed.

Two for the Life-list

The best birding was obtained on the Frenchman's Bay cruises under Ranger leadership. Two new birds for my life-list were the Raven and Black Guillemot, or "Sea Pigeon" as it is locally called. The Ravens appeared about the treetops of Iron-bound Island and the rocky point of Burnt Porcupine. The Guillemots were seen singly or in groups of two to six, swimming or flying close to the ledges of Schooner Head and Iron-bound Island. They are beautiful little birds, especially when rising from the water, when their brilliant red legs contrast sharply with their black bodies and snowy wing bars.

Floating on the water of Mosquito Harbor, which indents the Schoodic Peninsula, were two young Guillemots whose imma-

ture plumage caused the Ranger and me to rack our brains and finally resort to reference books. The National Geographic Book of Birds shows a perfect picture of the immature Black Guillemot. Just set the bird of the illustration on water and tip up its tail in wren fashion, and you have our bird of Losquito Harbor. They are very active, and can almost out-dive a grebe.

Other birds of interest about Frenchman's Bay included hundreds of Herring Gulls, one Black-backed, Ospreys, Double-crested Cormorants, and Bald Eagles. The Cormorants preferred the rocky headlands and liked to sun themselves with wings spread wide. The three Eagles were all white-headed birds. The Ranger said that one morning an Eagle was eating his breakfast on a rock on Burnt Porcupine Island and refused to leave until the landing party was well on the beach.

Infant Junco

The morning we pitched our tent on the Black Woods Camp Site, I saw my first baby Junco. It was following and frequently being fed by a parent. Its back was paler and more brownish than an adult's, and where one looks for solid gray on the breast of the grown bird there were brown streaks. The white-signal tail feathers were there, however, when it flew.

Golden-crowned Kinglets were "twee-zeeing" all over the place, and an occasional Red Crossbill's clicking note passed over or settled with the bird among the cones of the red spruces. One Red-breasted Nuthatch paid a brief call.

The most unexpected visitor was an Orange-crowned Warbler, discovered almost directly back of our tent. Not only did it display its crown with delightful willingness, but also repeatedly sang its thin little song. I have only two records of the species for Loudonville, May 17, 1935 and May 2, 1942.

Crowded Swallows

On our way home on August 27 we were driving through the community of Rumford Point, nearly to the New Hampshire line, when we stopped to inspect a Cliff Swallow colony on the side of an old barn only a few steps from the roadside.

The long, low building had an unpainted shingle siding and a metal roof, under the slightly projecting eaves of which the nests were crowded. The farmer joined us, and told us something of his experiences with this colony during the 48 years he had owned the farm.

During that time the Swallows had failed to return only one spring, although they varied greatly in numbers from year to year. I counted 58 nests, which he said was much below the average. Sometimes there were so many they would be piled on top of each other. At that late date at least three nests still contained young, which were hanging their heads out of

the flattened "necks" of their jug-like homes. He said, and I quote, "This year the Swallows acted awful funny. They came a lot later than usual, and then they kept going away and coming back. It was so late when they finally did start to nest that I don't believe many of them raised but one brood. They generally have two."

Referring to the Barn Swallows that nested inside the barn, he remarked, "Sometimes they're a kind of a pest, but they eat flies, and I like that." So say we all!



NEWS AND NOTES IN BRIEF



DRY OCTOBER

October just missed being the driest month on record. On the 19th there was 0.10 inch of rain, and no more until the 28th. The next three days brought the total for the month up to 2.04 inches, only 0.76 inch below normal. It was the fourth consecutive month with less-than-normal precipitation.

It was the warmest October since 1928, with high of 76 degrees on the 7th and 17th, and low of 22 on the 25th. Average mean temperature for the month was 53.4 degrees, 3.7 above normal.

Twenty-three days were clear, and only three completely cloudy.

Schenectady was not alone in having the month dry; the whole state suffered. Forest fires were numerous; and first the woods, and then all lands, closed to hunting and camping.

GRACKLE VS. SPARROW

My neighbor, who watches her bird friends in her yard very closely at all seasons of the year, was observing some of them cavorting about under the hose one hot day.

Suddenly to her horror she saw a Grackle leap upon an English Sparrow and peck it and jump up and down on its body ruthlessly. She rushed out and found the sparrow with its head severed. She had previously found, over a period of weeks, as many as ten bodies of sparrows in that state and had blamed it to owls which we often hear at night. She had never imagined the Grackles to be the murderers!

She delights in entertaining any and all birds from the exquisite Evening Grosbeaks -- she had a flock of over a hundred in her garden for weeks last winter and spring -- to the cheerful and appreciative English Sparrows, whom she admires.

But -- she now considers the Grackle a black-hearted villain, and unworthy of her hospitality. For him she has taken in the "welcome" mat!

-- Ruth M. Ham, Troy

Attention All! S B C Annual Christmas Count - - - December 21

LATE NIGHTHAWK

On the 5th, 6th and 7th of October I saw a Nighthawk at close range, flying low over the fields back of our home in Loudonville. Each day the record was at about 3:30 p.m.
-- Mabel W. French

G-E BIRDS

Two more items on birds at General Electric:

A Blue-headed Vireo became trapped in a stair well in Building 6 during the night of September 23. During most of the next morning it remained near the ceiling, flying from one pipe to another when disturbed. Finally, however, it located the window which had been opened for it, and disappeared.

On the morning of October 8 there was a Brown Creeper in Building 40.

CITY OWLS

During early October it was apparent to many in the city that there were Screech Owls to be heard, and at month's end it was almost possible to guarantee where and when the birds were to be heard -- on Parkwood Boulevard, for instance, from 10:30 to 10:45, high up in a cut-leaf maple.

It's almost a foregone conclusion, however, that by December 21 -- the day of the Christmas Count -- all these so noisy and so conspicuous birds will become secretive.

VANISHING CRANES

Only 29 Whooping Cranes remain, according to the most recent count of the Fish and Wildlife Service; 25 of them wintered last year at the National Wildlife Refuge at Aransas, Texas. Authorities believe the bird is doomed.

The Trumpeter Swan, on the other hand, is faring better. In 1935 only 73 individuals could be counted. Now there are at least 151, in Montana, Wyoming, Oregon, and Yellowstone Park, plus a small colony in Canada.

RING-NECKED DUCK, SUMMER BIRD

It has been generally commented in this vicinity that the Ring-necked Duck has been becoming increasingly common as a transient, and to be extending its end dates. And it has been conjectured that it would become a summer resident locally.

Eaton, in his New York State book in 1908, showed the Ring-neck as a rare migrant in eastern and coastal New York. Forbush in 1925, in Birds of Massachusetts, calls the bird one of the rarest ducks of the northeast and says "said to have bred near Calais, Maine." The A.O.U. Check-list, 1931, shows the breeding range as only central British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and western Ontario south to southern Wisconsin, northern Iowa, northern Nebraska, northern Utah, and central Arizona; formerly, at least, to northern Illinois.

The picture has changed. Kortright, 1943, shows the bird as breeding in Maine, and in Peterson's newest (1947) Guide,

the Ring-necked Duck is listed as breeding locally east to western Pennsylvania and Maine.

Last spring the Ring-neck was second in abundance to the Black Duck at the Vischer Ponds through April -- with a count of about 70 -- and remaining into early May.

Now the Ring-necked Duck has been recorded as breeding in New York State. C. W. Severinghaus and Dirck Benson, of the Wildlife Research Center at Delmar have reported in the Auk of October, 1947, pages 626-627, their first record of the breeding of Ring-necks in the state, made in 1946 by Severinghaus who observed four pairs and two broods at Jones Pond (Brighton Township, Franklin County), east of Paul Smiths at an elevation of 1652 feet. On May 29 three pairs were observed and, close to shore, a fourth pair with seven young from 10 to 14 days old. On July 11 a female with nine, possibly 10, young was found there, the young being not more than a week old.

In the report the authors also refer to the Ring-neck as known to summer in the Finger Lakes, Lake Champlain and southwestern Adirondacks areas.

"Each spring from 1939 through 1943 a flock varying from 15 to 40 birds, with drakes predominating, two to one, were observed on one pond at Visher's Ferry Flats, Saratoga County, regularly until the first of June, and in 1942 until June 20," they report.

LATE HERMIT NEST

The Auk of October, 1947, page 625, contains a note from Thomas Smyth, Department of Biology, University of Florida, reporting on a late nesting of the Hermit Thrush at the reservation of the U. S. Fur Animal Experiment Station a few miles north of Saratoga. The nest was discovered during the third week of August, 1944, and contained three eggs. Two young had hatched in the following week, and the third egg disappeared. On August 31, the last observation was made; one young bird remained, and was starting to feather.

AUDUBON SCREEN TOURS

BIRD-SHOOTING WITH A CAMERA

Martin K. Bovey

Wed. December 3

Central Park Junior High School, 8 P. M.

FEATHERS

Published by the Schenectady Bird Club

Christmas Count Is Scheduled December 21

G. Malcolm Andrews

Schenectady Bird Club's ninth annual Christmas Count will be made on Sunday, December 21. The details for the annual affair will be one of the main items at the meeting of the Club at 8 o'clock Monday night, December 15, in the lounge of the First Methodist Church, State and Lafayette Streets.

Last year, it will be recalled, we had an exceptionally interesting count -- 3105 individuals of 33 species. And included were some real rarities -- a Phoebe, a Greater Redpoll, and a Cooper's Hawk, all new on our composite list for Christmas. A Carolina Wren just missed the count by one day, and it was later discovered that a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker also had been present. No owls were recorded. Twenty-eight observers participated.

There will be the same general rules for this year's count. The territory must be within the usual "15-mile circle" and the observations may extend throughout the day. It is important, however, that territories and observers be known in advance of the Count. Those unable to attend the December 15 meeting should contact Miss Van Vorst, Guy Bartlett, or the writer so that all may be included. Special check-lists will be distributed at the meeting, and mailed to the others. Those with feeding stations can also participate -- feeders are particularly important in the case of wintering rarities.

AUDUBON SCREEN TOURS

GOPHER COUNTRY

George M. Link

Central Park Junior High School

Tuesday, January 13, 8 P. M.

RUFFED GROUSE THOROUGHLY STUDIED BY STATE

Robert E. Merritt

How many hunters ever think of animals as other than a delicacy on the dinner table or, possibly, a trophy in the game room? One of the gamiest animals in the woods today, the Ruffed Grouse, has been the victim of such a fortune. It is valued highly by all who prize a worthy adversary, with its uncanny ability in outwitting the hunter. But then the question arises -- how fair is it to take advantage of so fine an animal?

Years ago it was realized that the Grouse, or Partridge, had troubles similar to those of the Quail and Pheasant in the northern winter, but it has never called for help. Many fear for the future of this unusual bird because of the rapid periodic changes in its population. Has anything been done to rectify the perilous situation?

The Problem Was Serious Forty Years Ago, and Today

Even as early as 1907 the need for a detailed study of the diseases which caused the rapid change in Grouse population was found essential by the New York State Conservation Department. By 1929 an appeal was made for a closed season. This was maintained through 1929. The Conservation Department inaugurated a five-year study of the birds in 1930. This turned into the most complete study of any species that has ever been made in the world. This study took sixteen years of constant research and laboratory work. The findings have been written in book form and will be off the press early in 1948.

Not Always Scarce

From the broken Grouse bones that are frequently discovered at their camping sites, the conclusion may be drawn that the Indians liked these birds. King Henry the Eighth, in the 16th century, issued an order limiting the shooting of "grows." The word "griesch" had been applied to the Red Grouse in France.

Thomas Morton, an early discoverer and trader, tells of seeing forty Grouse in one tree as early as 1632. This is an ample indication of their abundance at that time. In France in 1672 Nicholas Denys stated that fans were made from their tails. He tried to bring some of the birds to France but, as he reached the coast, they died. He believed that "The air was contrary to their good." In spite of the inclination of the early observers to mix the Spruce Grouse with our Ruffed Grouse, it is obvious that the Baron de Lahanton made reference to the latter in his book, "Some Voyages to America," in 1703. He stated the most unusual and amusing experience that he had had in America was to see the Ruffed Grouse or Woods Hens, as he called them, sit on the trees and be killed one after the other without stirring.

The Grouse unconsciously played a large part in many settlers' lives. One of the stories in the record is the rumor about "skipper A. M. Martin whose schooner was becalmed near Red Rock on Lake Champlain. Deciding that he needed a change of diet, he crooked his arm around his gun and sallied forth in quest of Partridge. Following a bird that had been flushed, he tried to pull himself up over a small ledge by grabbing a small bush. When this bush pulled loose, it uncovered a dark, interesting-looking stone. Later he sent this stone to Ticonderoga, there to be recognized as high-grade iron ore. Thus became the Penfield iron deposits." Many more such anecdotes can be found in the annals of history.

Bonasa umbellus

It is not surprising that the Grouse didn't obtain taxonomic recognition for a hundred and twenty-five years, because very few of the early explorers and colonists were concerned with biological sciences. In 1750 an ardent traveler, John Bartram, sent a letter to England telling of some of the habits of the bird. Also, a British biologist, Edwards, sent a specimen as well as a description. Linnaeus included this species in his "Systema Naturae" which is identified as the basis of the modern system of naming.

This bird has such a list of names so widespread in meaning that a casual glance at the list gives one the feeling that it represents many species instead of a few. The Mountain Cock (the Pheasant of the South) and the "Pate" of Michigan are exactly the same as the Pine Hen of the West, the Bunch Partridge in the Northeast, and the Spruce-woods Ruffed Grouse of the North.

The Grouse was placed in the genus *Tetraix* with the European Grouse by Linnaeus in his first description of the bird. He also named it *umbellus*, because of the umbrella-like ruff which frames its head when erect. The name Bonasa was used later, comparing the drumming of the Grouse to the bellowing of the bull bison. Because of this, the Ruffed Grouse became *Bonasa umbellus*.

Prized as Game

About 1752 John Bartram stated "Their flesh is white and good." Audubon remarked that the Grouse "far surpass as an article of food every other bird except the Wild Turkey." At the same time Billings reached a similar conclusion. Today, because of the difficulty in shooting it on the ground, the Grouse has become a scarce and more prized luxury.

"Thus time has served to shift the emphasis from Grouse as an article of food to a place of high favor as one of the most interesting birds that enriches our forests."

From our stories of the past, the quantity of Grouse in the colonial days is easily seen. Their abundance was concen-

trated in the clearings in the woods, most of which were man-made. Swainson and Richardson remarked that Grouse "frequents the horse paths and clearings about the forts."

Alexander Wilson stated that he could always supply himself with plenty of birds "without leaving the path." The colonists even went so far as to prefer to harvest their crops when the Grouse was unavailable.

Periods of Scarcity

In 1751, in a letter to Edwards, Bartram related the story of the scarcity of the Grouse in his section. "They have been common in Pennsylvania but now most of them are destroyed in the lower settlement, though the Indians in the back woods still bring them to market."

Another scarcity generally acknowledged occurred in 1907-1909. This situation was so serious that the people predicted the extinction of the bird. An extensive survey was conducted by the Fish and Game Commission to remedy the situation. There was a reoccurrence of this scarcity in 1915-1917, and again in 1927-1928. The population of the Grouse soared in between these drops. It was because of these lows that the survey was organized.

Eight and Thirty-six Reasons

From a questionnaire sent out, the following reasons were tabulated:

1. Severe winter in 1906-1907
2. Unusual abundance of foxes and Goshawks
3. Cold, wet spring in 1907
4. Extreme dryness of following July and August
5. A disease epidemic
6. Internal parasites
7. Pot-hunting in closed season
8. Resumption of migratory instincts

This was the starting point of the survey, and to this list some thirty-six additional possibilities were added.

Because of the interest aroused by the research of the New York State Conservation Department, and the new method which they employed in getting their material, we may say that a great step has been taken in establishing research techniques in the wild life field. Of course this is only a by-product of the survey, but nevertheless an important one.

The survey, as already mentioned, is now being published and shortly will be ready for distribution. By Dr. Gardiner Bump, R. Darrow, F. Edminster, and W. Crissey, it is entitled "The Ruffed Grouse; Life History, Propagation, Management." In it we may expect to find the answers to many questions we have today about the Grouse and its future.

RUDDIES FEATURE SARATOGA LAKE TRIP

Louise Stone

On Sunday, November 9, nine observers from the Schenectady Bird Club made a trip to Round and Saratoga Lakes. Three of the observers were new members of the Club, and as one of these new members, the writer found the trip very fascinating.

It was a cold day, the temperature ranging from freezing to 40 degrees; it was clear and sunny during most of the trip.

The two automobiles stopped for a short time at Round Lake and we observed what were identified as Black Ducks, flying just above the opposite shore of the lake. A Great Blue Heron also put in his appearance, and another flock of birds was seen flying in the distance. These could not be identified readily, and were thought to be Rock Doves or Homing Pigeons. There were signs of winter already at Round Lake. We had not been there very long before we found ourselves in the midst of snow flurries, and in the swamp bordering the lake there were patches of shell ice to crack. In the small trees of the swamp several Tree Sparrows were identified.

Ruddies -- Thirteen of Them

At the first stop along Saratoga Lake, a group of 13 Ruddies was seen. They were the outstanding "find" of the trip -- listed in "Birds of Eastern New York" as a "rare transient visitor." They stayed within the range of our binoculars for some time and gave us quite a performance. Two Common Loons were also doing some expert diving nearby; in the distance Herring Gulls could be seen.

From the point southwest of Snake Hill two species of Grebes were identified. At first both were identified as Holboell's Grebe, but with the aid of a 40-power telescope a more detailed picture was obtained, and the two species could be determined as Holboell's and the Horned Grebe, the latter by its white neck and cheeks.

A raft of Black Ducks, Ring-necked Ducks, Canvas-backs, Lesser Scaup Ducks, American Golden-eyes, and Hooded Mergansers were also seen from this same location. The Ruddies also came into the picture again. While the ducks were being observed, a Belted Kingfisher announced his presence with his rattling call.

The lake was deserted except for a few boats with fishermen and a low-flying plane that sent some of the ducks into flight. Gradually the wind became stronger and the water a little more rough, thus making it somewhat difficult to spot the various birds.

After a very welcome lunch, Brown's Beach was the next stop. On the poles out from the beach a Ring-billed and Her-

ring Gulls were perching, giving everyone a good chance to make a comparison between the two species. Even the light was in our favor as the sun came out from behind a cloud at that time.

Two other stops were made along the lake, but no other species were recorded.

Twenty-three species were identified on this year's trip: Holboell's Grebe, Horned Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Black Duck, Ring-necked Duck, Canvas-back, Lesser Scaup Duck, American Golden-eye, Ruddy Duck, Hooded Merganser, Sparrow Hawk, Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Belted Kingfisher, Downy Wood-pecker, Blue Jay, Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Robin, Starling, English Sparrow, Goldfinch, and Tree Sparrow.

Missing from this trip and seen on the November 10 trip of last year to the same lakes were: Mallard, Green-winged Teal, White-winged Scoter, Killdeer, Prairie Horned Lark, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Evening Grosbeak, Junco, White-throated Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, and Song Sparrow.

NEWS AND NOTES IN BRIEF

THE AUTHORS

Robert E. Kerritt, page 102, returned to New York State College for Teachers, Albany, after his service in the war; and is now a Junior there.

Louise Stone, page 105, is a graduate student at State College, and is preparing a thesis in ornithology.

TIME FOR FEEDERS

Certainly most feeders have already been put into operation. If you're planning on having one, but have not yet started, you'd better put out the suet, crumbs, seeds, table scraps, raisins and fruits -- or whatever you feature. You'll find that the birds soon will have established themselves for the winter, and late-started feeders are not as successful as those already in operation.

HUNTING VIOLATIONS ARE HIGH

The above was the headline in the New York Sun of November 20, which went on to say that "Many So-called Sportsmen Are Caught for Breaking Numerous State Laws." Violations, the news item reported, have increased greatly. Included have been the shooting of Robins and Blue Jays, carrying loaded firearms in automobiles, shooting Pheasants and Ducks out of season, and violating the deer laws. It was urged that small fines -- \$10 and \$25 -- be terminated, and a minimum fine of \$100 or a jail term substituted.



- JANUARY Greater Redpoll and Phoebe Feature 18th Christmas Count, G. Malcolm Andrews, 1; Hawk Antics of Lourning Doves, Dr. Minnie B. Scotland, 5; Saratoga in November (with map), 5; Saratoga in December, Nelle G. Van Vorst, 8.
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