

## RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET AND SAPSUCKER AMONG THE THIRTY-SEVEN SPECIES ON CHRISTMAS COUNT

G. Malcolm Andrews, Christmas Count Chairman

Schenectady, N. Y. (same overall area as in 1929 and subsequent counts, but differing from 1946 area by reinclusion of Central Park section; area centered about 5 miles due south of Schenectady; urban and suburban, 5%, farmyards 5%, open farmland 40%, light deciduous woods 20%, mixed deciduous and evergreen woods 10%, brush hillsides and ravines 10%, cattail marshes 10%). -- Dec. 21; 7:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Overcast, hazy, intermittent light sleet changing to snow, clearing at 1:30 p.m., sunny rest of day; temp. 20° at start, 26° at noon, 31° at return; wind W-NW, calm in a.m., up to 20 m.p.h. after sky cleared; ground partially covered with 1-2 inches old snow; minimum of open water. Forty-two observers in 12 parties, plus urban and suburban feeding-station records. Total hours, 76 (57 on foot, 19 by car); total miles, 301 (76 on foot, 225 by car). Black Duck, 7; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 2; Red-tailed Hawk, 6; Rough-legged Hawk, 1; Marsh Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 7; Ruffed Grouse, 4; Pheasant, 22; Herring Gull, 1; Ring-billed Gull, 1; Mourning Dove, 1; Great Horned Owl, 1; Barred Owl, 1; Kingfisher, 2; Pileated Woodpecker, 3; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1 (seen at feeder, Mrs. L. S. D.); Hairy Woodpecker, 19; Downy Woodpecker, 38; Blue Jay, 93; Crow, ±1342 (incl. 1000 at roost); Black-capped Chickadee, 296; White-breasted Nuthatch, 35; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Brown Creeper, 20; Robin, 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 10; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 2 (S. P.); Northern Shrike, 1; Starling, ±3969 (incl. 2500 at city roosts); English Sparrow, 531; Redwing, 1; Purple Finch, 2; Goldfinch, 8; Slate-colored Junco, 89; Tree Sparrow, 578; Song Sparrow, 28. Total, 37 species, about 7155 individuals. (Female Ruby-crowned Kinglet in yard Dec. 20, E. H.; Robin Dec. 19, A. H.) -- Alice Abel, James J. Anderson, Mrs. C. C. Bailey, Mr. & Mrs. G. H. Bainbridge, Pauline E. Baker, Guy Bartlett, Mrs. Laura Beck, Myrtice A. Blatchley, Mrs. R. M. Brockway, Mrs. W. L. Butler, Mary Christie, Mrs. L. S. Davenport, Agnes Eddy, Frank Freese, Sr., John W. Freese, Chester Griffith, Mr. and Mrs. Esly Hallenbeck, Alice Holmes, Mr. & Mrs. H. G. Kelley, Marilyn Kelley, Viola Mabb, Lois Marson, Gloria Meader, B. D. Miller, P. S. Miller, David Pelton, Stephanie Podrazik, Mrs. M. E. Rexford, Dorothy Sawyer, Minnie B. Scotland, Benton Seguin, Vincent J. Schaefer, Rudolph Stone, Nelle G. Van Vorst, Mr. and Mrs. John L. Voght, Lt. (jg) Franklin H. West, Leon A. Wiard, G. Malcolm Andrews (Schenectady Bird Club).

## FEATHERS

January, 1948

## 37 Species, 7155 Individuals

December 21, 1947

Party	Total	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Number of Species	37	21	18	7	24	18	4	9	8	14	4	11	9	15
Total Count	7155	303	271	305	1871	449	63	74	156	2949	44	342	214	114
Black Duck	7	1			5									1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1		1											
Cooper's Hawk	2		1		1									
Red-tailed Hawk	6		2		1	2				1				
Rough-legged Hawk	1									1				
Marsh Hawk	1													1
Sparrow Hawk	7	1	2		1	1				1				1
Ruffed Grouse	4	1			1	1								1
Pheasant	22	11			7									4
Herring Gull	1	1												
Ring-billed Gull	1													1
Mourning Dove	1		1											
Great Horned Owl	1						1							
Barred Owl	1				1									
Kingfisher	2				1					1				
Pileated Woodpecker	3	1			1	1								
Yel-bel. Sapsucker	1											1		
Hairy Woodpecker	19	3	3		3	3						2	4	1
Downy Woodpecker	38	11	2		3	4		1		4		10		3
Blue Jay	93	4	9	11	11	6	2	3	4	7	2	14	15	5
Crow	1342	5	40	19	1169	63		3	14	1	3		10	15
Blk-cap Chickadee	296	61	35	4	55	37		13	21	12	4	25	25	4
White-br. Nuthatch	35	11	2		2	3		1	6			9		1
Red-br. Nuthatch	2				2									
Brown Creeper	20	7	2		1	2		3	1			1	3	
Robin	2		1			1								
Golden-cr. Kinglet	10	2								1				7
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	2							2						
Northern Shrike	1				1									
Starling	3966	1	30	253	328	200	33	17	55	2831		93	75	50
English Sparrow	531	5	55	3	22	50	27	31	50	50	35	158	25	20
Redwing	1	1												
Purple Finch	2				2									
Goldfinch	8	5	1			1				1				
Junco	119	26		5	34	27			5	10		12		
Tree Sparrow	578	136	80	10	205	46				28		17	50	6
Song Sparrow	28	9	4		14	1								

Participants

Party 1 - Lisha Kill, Lock 7, Niskayuna, Mohawk View; 9 party-hours, 12 miles on foot, 4 miles by car. G. M. Andrews, David Pelton, Rudolph Stone. 21 species, 303 individuals.

Party 2 - Guilderland, Voorheesville, Meadowdale Swamp,

Carman Section of Pine Barrens (1-3/4 hours with Party 4); 7-3/4 party-hours, 10 miles on foot, 10 miles by car. Lt. (Jg) Franklin H. West. 19 species, 271 individuals.

Party 3 - (Albany) Washington Ave., Fuller Rd. and side roads, Six-mile Waterworks, Oxford and Cambridge Roads; 2-3/4 party-hours, 3 miles on foot, 11 miles by car. Myrtice A. Blatchley, Pauline E. Baker. 7 species, 305 individuals.

Party 4 - Indian Ladder, Meadowdale, Norman's Kill, Carman Section of Pine Barrens (1-3/4 hrs. with Party 2); 9 party-hours, 6 miles on foot, 44 miles by car. Guy Bartlett, Benton Seguin. 24 species, 1871 individuals.

Party 5 - Watervliet Reservoir; 8 party-hours, 7 miles on foot, 25 miles by car. George H. Bainbridge, Chester Griffith, Esly Hallenbeck, P. S. Miller, John L. Voght. 18 species, 449 individuals.

Party 6 - Sunnyside Rd. and Collins Lake, Scotia; 2-1/2 party-hours, 5 miles on foot. Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Kelley, Marilyn Kelley. 4 species, 63 individuals.

Party 7 - Central Park, Parkview Cemetery; 5 party-hours, 5 miles on foot, 3 miles by car. Viola Mabb, Gloria Meader, Stephanie Podrazik, Dorothy Sawyer. 9 species, 74 individuals.

Party 8 - Woestina Sanctuary, Lock 8, Schermerhorn and Gordon Roads, Tippecanoe; 8 party-hours, 8 miles on foot, 30 miles by car. Frank Freese, Sr., John W. Freese, Vincent J. Schaefer. 8 species, 156 individuals.

Party 9 - Steinmetz (Second Ward) Park, Union College Campus, Sewer Beds, Rice Rd. to Campbell Rd., Vley Rd., St. David's Lane, Albany Airport; 7 party-hours, 3 miles on foot, 43 miles by car. Alice Abel, Alice Holmes, Minnie B. Scotland, Nelle G. Van Vorst. 14 species, 2949 individuals.

Party 10 - Wooded area between Nott Street and The Plaza, area north of Mohawk Golf Club; 3-1/2 party-hours, 6 miles on foot. B. D. Miller. 4 species, 44 individuals.

Party 11 - Urban and Suburban Feeding Stations; Mrs. C.C. Bailey, Mrs. G. H. Bainbridge, Mrs. Laura Beck, Mrs. R. M. Brockway, Mrs. W. L. Butler, Mary Christie, Mrs. L. S. Davenport, Agnes Eddy, Mrs. Esly Hallenbeck, Lois Maxson, Mrs. M. E. Rexford, Mrs. John L. Voght. 11 species, 342 individuals.

Party 12 - Pine Barrens from Pine Bush School, Karney Road to Guilderland; 7-1/2 party-hours, 5 miles on foot, 15 miles by car. Leon A. Wiard. 9 species, 219 individuals.

Party 13 - Rexford to Lock 7 on opposite side of Mohawk River, Vischer's Ferry to Vischer Ponds; 6 party-hours, 6 miles on foot, 40 miles by car. James J. Anderson. 15 species, 114 individuals.

### A New High

A new high was reached this season in the number of persons participating in the 19th annual S B C Christmas Bird Count. This increase in interest and activity is definitely reflected in the 37 different species recorded, the second highest record since the Counts were started locally in 1929.

The 42 participants this time were able to make a much more effective coverage of our 15-mile circle than had been made in the past. Had not the morning of December 21 been so hazy, and the steady rattle of the snow pellets making listening so difficult, perhaps the totals might even have been higher!

This year a special effort was made to estimate the number of Starlings in two downtown roosts -- the Lorraine Block and the old hotel and Broadway and State Street. Also, the Carman section was intensively searched for Crow roosts, one finally being located in a backyard.

### Finches Deficient

Last season's abundance of Redpolls was definitely reversed this time, with not a single individual reported. The northern finches, such as the Grosbeaks, Siskins, etc., were entirely missing, and even the ever-present Goldfinch was very scarce.

Two new species were added to the grand total this time, bringing the 19-year Christmas Count list to 70 species. One of the additions was the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, a rewarding sight for one of our faithful feeding-station watchers. The other new species was the Ruby-crowned Kinglet, two of which were seen together in the Central Park area. Also, a female of this species was identified in a Scotia member's yard on the day before the Count.

The Starling again headed the Count in abundance, just nosing out the 1934 record of 3943 to become all-Count-time high for this species. The Crow took second place and the Tree Sparrow third, with a total which was second highest Count record for the latter species. Fourth and fifth, respectively, were the English Sparrow and the Chickadee.

### An Adirondack Count

Barrington S. Havens

The S B C census at Jenny Lake, in the foothills of the Adirondacks about 40 miles from Schenectady, was not a true census in the strict sense of the word at all. Rather, it

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is a report of the Club's representative on the birds observed during the day on Sunday, December 21, during the course of his usual weekend visit to his camp and the general area thereabouts. It was about 10 above zero, with a few inches of snow still covering the ground, and the lake was frozen strong enough to hold skaters. Many of the following species were observed at my feeding station near the camp proper.

The list: Barred Owl, 1 heard; Pileated Woodpecker, 1 heard; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Blue Jay, 2; Crow, 2; Black-capped Chickadee, 6; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 4; Brown Creeper, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 1 heard; Purple Finch, 1; Goldfinch, a few in flight overhead; Slate-colored Junco, 2. Total - 12 species, approximately 24 individuals.

### Open Water - and Ducks

Guy Bartlett

On the Cohoes quadrant of the Geological Survey map draw a circle of 15 miles (15 inches) diameter, with center on the Hudson River and extending from just below the lower tip of Green Island on the south to just north of the bridge at Stillwater. In that circle is included much open water during the winter -- there are several large stretches of the Hudson which remain open, there is the Mohawk at Cohoes Falls and below, the lower part of the Hoosic, as well as frozen Tomhannock Reservoir. Also within that circle reside several S B C members. And it is the area so frequently visited on S B C winter trips, with possibilities for the Eagle and plenty of ducks.

An "experimental" run of an additional and entirely new count area was made there on Sunday, December 28, by five S B C members in one car. Their results hardly add up to a regular Christmas Count -- the snow was heavy, the wind objectionably strong, the time afield too short, and the territory insufficiently covered. But the experiment proves that the area is one which should be developed for an annual count.

The statistics: Common Loon, 1; Mallard, 50; Black Duck, 680; American Golden-eye, 350; American Merganser, 110; Pheasant, 1; Herring Gull, 16; Crow, 180; Chickadee, 3; Starling, 75; English Sparrow, 30; Tree Sparrow, 10. Total, 12 species, 1506 individuals. Time, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; temperature, 20° at start, 25° at return; wind, objectionably strong west, with drifting snow; very cloudy most of time, with slight occasional snow; 20 inches of snow on ground, considerable areas of open water; 4 party-hours, 2 miles on foot, 30 miles by car. Dr. W. C. Dunlap, Alice Holmes, Dr. Minnie B. Scotland, Nelle G. Van Vorst, Guy Bartlett.

Next year let's make it an official Count; its possibilities are extremely good.

## AT THE VISCHER PONDS

David Pelton

When I met Malcolm Andrews on Saturday morning, September 27, at 8 o'clock for the field trip to Vischer Ponds the air was clear and cold after a rain. The temperature was 32°.

We drove out Balltown Road, across the river to Rexford, and then along the river to Lock 7, where we saw some Ring-billed Gulls and a Kingfisher at the Alplaus Cliffs. From there we went to Vischer Ponds and Crescent Lake. Along the way we stopped often to watch different kinds of birds.

When we reached Vischer Ponds we saw 6 Great Blue Herons, 2 Black-crowned Night Herons, 2 American Bitterns, some Mallard Ducks, some Black Ducks, 10 Wood Ducks, two Red-tailed Hawks, a Red-shouldered Hawk, 2 Florida Gallinules, 10 Killdeer, 20 Herring Gulls, 2 Ring-billed Gulls, 3 Mourning Doves, a Kingfisher, some Flickers, a Phoebe, one Wood Pewee, some Blue Jays, Crows and Chickadees, one House Wren, three Long-billed Marsh Wrens, some Catbirds and Robins, two Ruby-crowned Kinglets, some Cedar Waxwings and Starlings, one Northern Yellow-throat, some English Sparrows, 3 Red-wings, one Rusty Blackbird, some Goldfinches, one Towhee, 25 Savannah Sparrows, 2 Swamp Sparrows, and some Song Sparrows and Tree Sparrows, 2 Field Sparrows, and 10 White-crowned.

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## BEFORE THE ICE CLOSED SARATOGA LAKE

Nelle G. Van Vorst

Is Saratoga Lake frozen? This seems to be the question that challenges S B C members in late fall and again in early spring. December 7 was the date some members chose to try their luck there for late records. When they saw Round Lake completely frozen over, they hesitated to continue to Saratoga Lake, but go they did.

To their surprise not more than one per cent was actually frozen. The chance to see some late visitors and lovers of the cold water was theirs. The hunting was so good the observers went only as far as Luther's.

Huge rafts of American Golden-eyes stayed in the center of the lake; they seemed to know that hunters with guns were about. The White-winged Scoters, as well as Surf Scoters, were easily identified as they rode the waves.

The Old-squaws near Brown's Beach were most interesting in their winter plumage. Two members of the Merganser family were present -- American and Hooded. Scaup Ducks and Herring Gulls added to the day's count.

## TOMHANNOCK RECORDS

Dr. Minnie B. Scotland

Two groups of people headed for Tomhannock Reservoir on November 6 for the purpose of hunting ducks, one group with guns, and the other with binoculars and telescope. To the gunners the duck season was closed, and when they saw the telescope being set up they turned and took to their car under the penetrating gaze of those who wished to see the law observed.

Bufflehead Numerous

As the so-called sportsmen were on their way, the S B C members could begin their work with the ducks. The small duck, the Bufflehead, was rather common. Many Blacks and a beautiful male Hooded Merganser seemed to be all there were in the entire southern portion of the reservoir. Soon some Horned Grebes came into sight just before the scope was made ready for the next stop. The observers continued the trip around the reservoir, stopping many times to sweep the water with their glasses.

The Herring Gulls were in sight almost constantly, and many flocks of Black Ducks were in the air most of the time. Making one stop to look at some ducks some distance from the shore, they spotted seven White-winged Scoters and a few Ring-necked Ducks.

Migrant Shrike

Near the northern end they saw a bird in the top of a tree. The first glance told them it was a Shrike or Sparrow Hawk. The second glance, as they had left the car, made it a Shrike. Then they were so close the call note could be heard, and an excellent view for detailed study was had. No fine marking on the breast and the mask meeting over the bill gave them assurance that it might be a Migrant Shrike. At home further study made them sure it could be recorded as a Migrant Shrike.

Freezing Over

One more stop was made, at the small gatehouse, where a huge raft of Blacks was seen. The raft was carefully studied, but no other species could be seen.

This cold and windy day, with its gray, threatening skies, not only caused the birds to be on their way from the water, which was gradually freezing, but also hurried the S B C members to their warm homes. As they left this interesting section, a passer-by told them he had just seen a doe swimming across the reservoir.

## CLASSES IN BIRD STUDY WILL START JANUARY 26

Another bird class, for the benefit of beginners, will be started Monday, January 26, by S B C. It will be the fourth class of its kind in Schenectady in the past 15 years.

The class will be intended to teach the beginner how to recognize the common species of birds, and to give him a basis of observation which will help in the study of other species.

There will be five or six sessions, spaced at two-week intervals, supplemented by field trips under the guidance of competent observers drawn from the ranks of the Club. The classes will be held on Monday nights, starting January 26, in the auditorium of the Schenectady Museum, Steuben Street. Subsequent dates are February 9, February 23, March 8, and March 22. At the conclusion of the last session, it is expected that further instruction and assistance will be given at regular S B C meetings and on regularly scheduled S B C field trips.

The classes will be conducted by Barrington S. Havens, who has been the instructor in previous, similar courses.

The first such course to be given in Schenectady was led by Mr. Havens under the auspices of the Mohawk Valley Hiking Club in the year 1933. It was followed by another under the same auspices a year later. Shortly afterwards, the Schenectady Bird Club was formed, and the next class, in 1940, was conducted by S B C.

Both the classes and the field trips are open to the public.

# AUDUBON SCREEN TOURS

" ANIMALS UNAWARE "

Howard Cleaves

Central Park Junior High School

Monday, February 16, 8 P. M.

Published by the Schenectady Bird Club

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## JANUARY WAS SO " MOST UNUSUAL "

**It Was a Month of Deep Snows and Minimum Temperatures --  
and of Unexpected in Both Presences and Absences  
So Far as the Birds Were Concerned**

January was a tough month -- in terms of snowfall and temperature deficiency it was the severest on record at Schenectady, Morris M. Cohn, city weather expert, reports.

It will be recalled that at the time of the local Christmas Count -- Sunday, December 21 -- the ground was only partially covered with one or two inches of old snow. In fact it was felt at the time that the lack of Horned Larks, Snow Buntings, and other "open-field" birds on the Count was because the fields were so open and the birds not driven to roadways for food.

And it will be recalled that in another week the story was entirely different. There was a "real" snowstorm -- in fact, enough to make New York City stop bragging about the Blizzard of '88. Schenectady received its full share, and from then on Winter was really in evidence locally.

### Some Facts and Figures

Returning to Mr. Cohn's facts and figures on the winter through the end of January, we had received 65 inches of snow -- 3-1/4 inches in November (4 inches normal), 30 inches in December (8-1/4 inches normal), and 31-3/4 inches in January (21-1/2 inches normal). December had the heaviest snowfall on record for that month, and January just missed the record-breaking January 1945 by a mere inch and a quarter. Average snow for the three months is 33-3/4 inches, and the previous high was the trivial 1944-45 figure of only 45-1/2 inches.

Back in 1920 January established a temperature record of 11.1 degrees daily average; normal is 22.5 degrees. This January was the coldest since then, with an average of 13.5 degrees. There was a daily temperature deficiency of 9 degrees, and of 279 degrees for the month. There were high winds -- of more than 15 miles per hour -- on six days, and below-normal temperatures every day from January 14 on.

Low reading for the month was -24, on January 31 (which

was equalled the next day). High for the month was 36 degrees, on January 9. There were 10 hours of thaw, on the 5th and 9th. From the 18th through the month there were only three days -- 21, 22 and 25 -- without zero, or lower, temperature. The freeze was unbroken after the 9th.

Despite the lack of thaws, only 18 inches of snow remained at the end of the month. What had not evaporated had been compressed.

And the weather had its effects on local bird records.

### In for Food

Pheasants -- which, incidentally, are being recorded nowhere near as commonly as years ago -- moved in closer to farms and rural homes, usually in small flocks. Many such flocks were being fed.

Feeding stations in general were reporting more-than-usual visitations, even the Tree Sparrows finding the weed-tops buried under.

### Winter Robins

It is not intended to imply that the various January jottings can all be attributed to the snow and cold. These items are merely a chronology for the month.

Robin records were more numerous than usual. It will be recalled that the Christmas Count showed one at Voorheesville and one at Watervliet Reservoir, as well as one along Parkwood Boulevard on December 19.

A Robin was reported at the feeding station of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Kivlin, 75 Marriott Avenue, in early January. In mid-January there was a Slingerlands report. On January 20 one was reported by Douglas Randall of Scotia, who saw and heard it in an evergreen. In late January there was one along the Balltown Road, and two in spruces at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jeffers near Watervliet Reservoir.

### And Bluebirds

No Bluebirds were recorded on this season's Christmas Count. On January 3, however, Dr. Franklin H. West (who has since moved to Philadelphia) saw one at Guilderland.

And then, on January 16, came the almost-annual report from Slingerlands. Six, drinking from melting icicles, were seen by Julia A. Thompson.

Ink on that record was hardly dry before another Slinger-

lands report was in. This was for two Bluebirds and one Robin, wintering in the vicinity of the Goldring greenhouses and, in fact, frequently seen within the greenhouses.

### Those Owls

There must be something wrong with the way S B C members live. At least there seems to be no other explanation for the extreme difficulty with which the members find, if ever, Screech Owls.

Urban Screech Owls are forever making the headlines in the local dailies, and yet SBC records seldom show the birds. Time after time the comment on Christmas Counts is "No Screech Owl." And, incidentally, the same comment applies to the other owls almost as frequently.

This winter, just for instance, an owl attracted considerable notoriety in Scotia. At least it was blamed for the mysterious disappearance of a pedestrian's hat. On the night of December 12 something knocked his ear-lapped hat off the head of George C. Frier. He replaced the hat, and walked on. Another ten feet, and off went the hat again. And this time it didn't simply fall to the ground. It vanished into thin air, and the disappearance act was credited to an owl, known to live in the vicinity. A few days later the Scotia owl made the Boston papers as the feature of a six-panel cartoon.

The Christmas Count came and went with plenty of species, but again with "No Screech Owl." And then, on January 28, a Screech Owl again made the headlines, this time by breaking into the home of Mrs. Joseph G. Fleischman, Maryland Avenue. The police were called, the owl was bagged, and that night liberated from police headquarters.

### Cardinal and Red-wing

At the end of the month it was reported that a Cardinal, in company with Bluejays, was coming into a feeding station at the end of Albany Street.

There was a Red-wing on the Christmas Count, found in the Niskayuna section. Another one was being seen regularly in mid-January beside the barn on the farm of George Bigsbee, Guilderland.

### Fox Sparrow and Pileateds

Mrs. H. G. Kelley was host to a Fox Sparrow at her feeder in Scotia in late January and early February. It will be recalled that a Fox Sparrow appeared on the local Christmas Count in 1944; and that that record too was for a bird in Scotia.

Pileated Woodpeckers are far from unknown locally; there were three Christmas Count records for the species. But additional records are always of interest, particularly when of birds becoming farmyard visitors as was the case on several days in mid-January at the home of Mrs. Anthony of Route 20, near Watervliet Reservoir.

### Chickadees Scarce?

At Barry Havens' bird class of January 26 the question was raised during the informal discussion at the end of the class as to whether or not the Chickadee was scarce this winter. Various feeding-station operators have also had the same question. The Christmas Count, however, indicated no decrease; in fact, that count was particularly high. Maybe the answer is that the birds are here, but elsewhere than where sought.

### Some Are Scarce

There's no doubt, however, that certain species are scarce. These include the northern grosbeaks and finches. The 1946-1947 winter witnessed heavy invasions into this area of the Redpoll and Evening Grosbeak particularly, with Goldfinches and Siskins also relatively common.

Through the end of this January there had been no records of the Evening Grosbeak (but there is still the possibility of a March invasion, if not February), and no records of Siskins or Redpolls. Goldfinches and Purple Finches were extremely uncommon, too.

Other areas were similarly reporting absence of such species, particularly on their Christmas Counts. Washington and Buffalo so reported.

"We have a noticeable scarcity of small birds -- Chickadees, Nuthatches and Woodpeckers -- here this winter," Dr. Gordon M. Meade has reported from Trudeau, N. Y.

"There has been no indication of a recurrence of last year's flight of northern finches. Chickadees appear to be far below their normal numbers at this season," wrote H. D. Mitchell of Buffalo in December.

"A marked scarcity of hardy, northern seed-eaters and birds of prey," wrote Samuel A. Eliot, Jr., in reporting on the Christmas Count at Northampton, Mass.



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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.



## FEATHERS

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### A NORTHERNER VISITS THE PIEDMONT SECTION

Dorothy Caldwell

It was my privilege to spend about two months in Atlanta, Ga., last autumn. Professional duties occupied my time from Monday through Friday each week, and rainy weather encroached stubbornly on most of the intervening Saturdays and Sundays, especially in November. Furthermore, October and November would not have been a birder's choice of months to spend in this territory. Most of the summer residents had already gone south before my arrival on October 11, and the region around Atlanta is outside the favored migration lanes.

For bird study, Georgia can be divided into three general areas: a mountainous area in the north with its characteristic bird life; a broad, central Piedmont belt; and a narrower, southern belt with its great swamps, coastal marshes and beaches.

Atlanta is in the Piedmont section, with pleasant shaded streets and beautiful parks, but it has no navigable streams and its few lakes and ponds are the result of human effort.

#### Vultures and Mockers

Coastal Georgia is much richer in bird life than the Piedmont area, but my work lay in Atlanta and it was fun for a northerner to see Turkey Vultures overhead and Mockingbirds very much at home on lawns and about houses, and to record the Cardinal and Tufted Titmouse for almost every bird walk. It was a special joy to have a Brown-headed Nuthatch in the pines outside my window.

My brief, and usually solitary, field trips were mostly on the beautiful campus of Emory University, the trails maintained by the Children's Museum at Fernbank, an acre or two of woodland at Piedmont Park, and the artificial lake at East Lake Country Club.

#### Varying Lists

The wooded ravines at Emory University gave good hunting always, with a list that varied from visit to visit. There were always Cardinals, Towhees, and Carolina Chickadees, and usually a Tufted Titmouse or two. On October 11 I also found Black and White, Magnolia, Myrtle, and Black-throated Green Warblers; on October 26 both Kinglets and several Pine Warblers; on November 16 I had a fine view of a Carolina Wren which scolded me vigorously.

On October 12 at Piedmont Park I saw about the same species I had seen at Emory October 11, plus a Wood Pewee and Black-throated Blue and Hooded Warblers and a Redstart. On October 19, at the same park, I added a Parula Warbler and

replaced the Wood Pewee with a Phoebe, which is a winter visitor there.

My first walk in the Fernbank trails on October 18 was especially rich in Woodpeckers, giving me the Southern Flicker, Southern Pileated, Red-bellied, Red-headed, and Southern Downy Woodpeckers, with Robins feeding on the dogwood berries, a lone Wood Thrush and many Pine Warblers in song. A second visit in November was not only Woodpecker-less but almost birdless.

#### Lingering Northerners

I was glad to find some of our northern birds still lingering there in October. There were clouds of Chimney Swifts overhead in the late afternoon through October 18, and on October 17 I saw two Nighthawks with one small group of Swifts. There were occasional flocks of Robins and smaller flocks of Bluebirds through October and November, and also a Sapsucker now and then. I saw almost no sparrows until early November, when small groups of Juncos, Field and White-throated Sparrows appeared -- and then I saw my first Song Sparrow for Atlanta.

Early November also brought a few waterfowl to East Lake, including Pied-billed Grebe, Gadwall, Scaup Duck, and Coot. Of Hawks I saw none though a number of our northern species are reported to winter there.

My Atlanta list is a very modest one -- only about fifty species seen -- but more time in the field should have yielded more species.

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## MYRTLE WARBLER ALSO ON CHRISTMAS COUNT

Too late for inclusion in the January issue of FEATHERS came the report of a Myrtle Warbler seen on the local Christmas Count of December 21. It was at the feeding station of Mrs. W. E. Blowney, St. David's Lane -- the same station that last winter was an attraction for a Gray-cheeked Thrush.

The warbler raised the total for the Count to 38 species, and became Species No. 71 on the composite total for the 19 years in which the local Count has been conducted.

It is believed that this is the first winter record locally for the bird. It is not, however, an illogical species; it is regularly reported, in small numbers, in the vicinity of New York City, and also in southern New England.

Old records, incidentally, show two other species of warblers to have wintered here -- the Northern Yellow-throat and the Pine Warbler.

## FEWER UPPER HUDSON DUCKS

It was easily apparent to those participating in the SBC Upper Hudson trip of Sunday, January 18, that a little extra cold weather can make a big difference so far as winter records of ducks are concerned. Less than a month earlier -- on December 28 -- a respectable list of ducks was obtained. Then came cold weather, and winds, and deep snow -- and away went a large portion of the ducks, and apparently all of the gulls.

On the trip itself only eight species of birds were recorded. These included about 70 Black Ducks, about half of them just below the Green Island dam and the others in small groups up to Stillwater; more than 100 American Golden-eyes, mostly in three flocks at Stillwater, above Mechanicville, and above Waterford; about 50 American Mergansers, including half or more at Stillwater and the others in isolated twos or threes at other points, with one at the Green Island dam; no Gulls; a few Blue Jays; about 50 Crows; Starlings and English Sparrows both common; and one Goldfinch in solitary overhead flight at the G-E silicone plant at Waterford.

To add to the day's records, a stop was made at the feeding station of Mrs. W. L. Butler, Algonquin Road. Only a couple minutes were needed to augment the list with a Hairy Woodpecker, Chickadees, Juncos, and Tree Sparrows.

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### NEWS AND NOTES IN BRIEF



#### A DIFFERENT CHRISTMAS COUNT

Mr. and Mrs. Chester N. Moore for years had been counting the Christmas birds with S B C, and had been content with a list of fewer than 20 species. This year things were different, decidedly different. Their Christmas Count had a total of 117 species. It seems to indicate that possibly there's a difference of some kind between birding in Florida and birding in Schenectady.

Sitting up here in the north, it would be hard to point out the particularly interesting entries on the list. Needless to say, however, there were birds of all sorts. High in count was the Cormorant, with 1227 individuals. A few other species also each showed more than 1000 count. One point of interest was that the Song Sparrow was not listed.

#### NEARER HOME

Outstanding on the Christmas Count made at Northampton, Mass., was a Diokcissel, which spent from November 25 to

January 7 at an Amherst feeder; it is a mid-western bunting. Amherst had a Sapsucker from December 2 to January 5, and a Thrasher from December 15 to January 3 (found dead on following day). Easthampton had a Ruby-crowned Kinglet from December 8 to January 3; and three other localities had such kinglets until mid-December.

The general area also has had winter records of a Catbird, Redwings, Towhee, Hermit Thrush, Flickers, Savannah Sparrow, flock of 18 Cowbirds, Mourning Doves, Meadowlarks, Kingfisher, Bluebirds and Robins, and White-throated, Song, Swamp, Field, and Fox Sparrows. In contrast, Boreal visitors were few.

The Christmas Count, Samuel A. Eliot, Jr., reported, was about 5000 individuals of 48 species.

### GULL CONTROL

Maine believes it has more Herring Gulls than it wants. The birds, breeders along the coast and out on the islands, do damage to inland crops, including blueberries.

An attempt was made to cut down on the gull population by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Maine Sea and Shore Fisheries Department. They smashed eggs in the nests. The gulls laid more.

Then it was found that an oil emulsion sprayed on the eggs prevent them from hatching, and the desired control was thereby attained.

## S B C CALENDAR

February 23, Monday -- Class No. 3, Bird-study Group; B. S. Havens, leader; Schenectady Museum, 8 p.m.; open to the public.

February 25, Wednesday -- Annual meeting, and election of officers; Pine Room, First Methodist Church, 8 p.m.

March 7, Sunday -- Field trip, Sunnyside Road and Collins Lake; Mr. and Mrs. John L. Voght, leaders; 8:30 a.m. at Sunnyside and Saratoga Roads.

March 8, Monday -- Class No. 4, Bird-study Group, Museum.

March 21, Sunday -- Field trip, Schermerhorn and Campbell Roads; G. M. Andrews, leader; 8:30 a.m. at Campbell and Rice Roads.

March 22, Monday -- Class No. 5, Bird-study Group, Museum.

April 28, Wednesday -- Audubon Lecture, "Canada West," Bert Harwell; Central Park Junior High School, 8 p.m.

## BIRDS AT NUMBER FOUR

P. Schuyler Miller

About twenty-five miles to the northwest of Beaver Lake on the South Branch of the Moose River, where a party of Adirondack Mountain Club campers were tormented by swarms of invisible migrating warblers in September, 1946 ("Birds of the Moose", FEATHERS, March, 1947), the Beaver River, second largest tributary of the Black River, widens into another Beaver Lake.

Here, eight months after the Moose River trip, another ADK group spent the weekend of May 16-18 at the historic settlement of Number Four. This time the weather was ideal for birding, warblers were moving into their summer quarters, and the bird-hunters of the party were able to chalk up 50 identified species in a day and a half of casual counting.

### Solid Expanse of Hardwoods

The Beaver River, like the Moose, drains thousands of acres of the rolling, rocky upland of the western Adirondacks. Seen from one of the occasional rocky knobs which rise above the general 1600-1800 foot level of the plateau, the country is a solid expanse of hardwoods with occasional splotches of darker evergreen, spattered with innumerable lakes and ponds and cut up by myriads of streams. The virgin pines and spruces of the Moose River country have long since disappeared, for the country has been cut over and over for at least 150 years. The Beaver itself is much changed by a series of flood control and power reservoirs, the largest of which, the old Beaver River Flow, now known as the Stillwater Reservoir, is managed by the same Black River Regulating District which proposes to build similar reservoirs on the Moose River.

Number Four, at the western end of Beaver Lake, is one of the oldest settlements in the Adirondacks, and has been a fisherman's rendezvous for at least 120 years. It is named for Township Four of the John Brown Tract, bought in 1798 by the Rhode Island merchant who gave his name to Brown University. On his death, title to nearly a quarter million acres of Adirondack lake and forest went to his grandson, Governor John Brown Francis of Rhode Island, whose ill-fated efforts to develop his wilderness empire fill a grim and often tragic chapter in Adirondack history.

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

Francis Lake, a woodland gem still carefully preserved in its natural beauty, perpetuates his name.

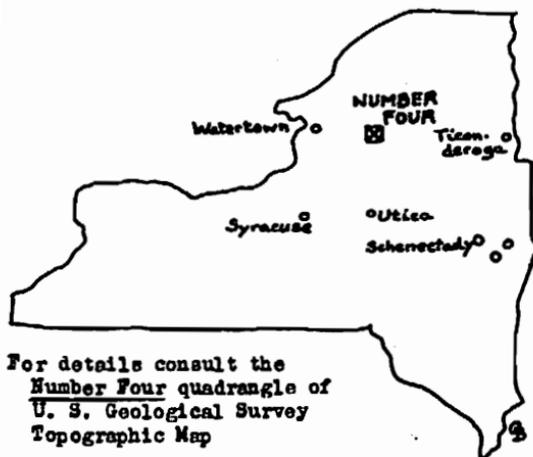
### None of These New-fangled Fireplaces

Our headquarters at Number Four were Ross Barker's Log Lodge, built some thirty years ago by a veteran Hudson's Bay trapper and trainer of dog teams, on the corner where the ancient Champlain Road swings east into the wilderness. In 1847 the old road carried ox teams and wagons through the heart of the Adirondacks to Crown Point; today it comes to a dead end nine miles farther on, at the shore of Stillwater reservoir.

We reached the lodge too late Friday night to do any more than enjoy the unique medieval fireplace, built up in the middle of the floor on a sand-filled pedestal of boulders, with room on all sides to toast your feet or your steak, as the occasion requires. Fires like these, the encyclopedias tell us, warmed the draughty palaces and baronial halls of the Old World before new-fangled in-a-wall fireplaces were invented.

### Birds at Dawn

By daybreak Saturday we knew that there were plenty of birds at Number Four. Without leaving the second-story bunkroom, and almost without leaving our sleeping bags, we were able to check off nearly a dozen birds, beginning at dawn with a Least Flycatcher outside the window, a Hermit Thrush in the next tree, and White-throats in the underbrush below our balcony. A Northern Yellow-throat, Chipping Sparrows, Robins, Bluejays, a Flicker, Black-throated Green Warblers, an Ovenbird, and a flock of Crows completed this bunkroom list.



Birding continued both before and after breakfast, along the woodland trail to the well, up and down the road outside the lodge, and en route to the historic Fenton House, facing us across an expanse of open pasture, where we arranged for Sunday's dinner. Barn Swallows zoomed around its out-buildings, a Catbird mewed in the fencerow, and a House Wren kept popping

For details consult the  
Number Four quadrangle of  
 U. S. Geological Survey  
 Topographic Map

from post to post along the road. Black-throated Blues, Magnolias, and Myrtle Warblers were everywhere in the trees. A Pine Warbler, a few Chestnut-sideds, and occasional Black-burnians were tracked down from their songs, but there were many warbler-notes which were never tied-up with sight records. The Club's booklet of warbler songs would have been a handy supplement to Peterson that morning, but nobody had thought to bring it.

### Not Only Warblers

Actually, warblers formed the smallest part of our list for the day. A Veery was dusting in the road, and flew up to an open perch to look us over. A small flock of White-crowned Sparrows joined the White-throats in the bushes across the road. A pair of Purple Finches acted as scouts for a flock of Chickadees. After much craning, one of the strange songs was matched with a dull-colored bird which at last came into the open to identify itself as a Philadelphia Vireo.

A carload of late-starters, arriving just as we were ready to take the trail for Stillwater reservoir and mountain, had been birding ever since they crossed the Black River. In the cleared fields along the road they had spotted Bluebirds, Red-wings, Bobolinks, Meadowlarks, and a Baltimore Oriole to add to our tally.

### Up to the Fire Tower

After driving the nine miles to the Stillwater, we took to the woods on the trail to the Stillwater Mountain fire tower. By this time there were three ardent birders at work, Werner Bachli, Leonard Pepkowitz (who spent as much time botanizing as birding), and the writer, with assists from many of the others. We found that for more than a mile the trail followed the top of a glacial esker, a winding ridge of sand and gravel rising twenty feet or more above the surrounding woodland, so that we looked into the tops of many of the lowland trees, face to face with many of the birds for which we had craned our necks along the road. Bitterns bloomed along the edge of the lake below us in two or three places, and Juncos zipped back and forth through the cleared trail. At one point a Great Horned Owl slipped silently away through the trees.

Stillwater Mountain, the highest point for miles around, reaches an elevation of 2263 feet. The climb began at the fire-watcher's cabin, where we learned that we were the first party of the season. In honor of the occasion, the watcher climbed to the summit with us to open the fire tower for the summer. A veteran of World War I and former General Electric worker, he had long since satisfied himself that life in the woods was healthier and friendlier than anything the city had to offer. It seemed, at any rate, to have let

a good twenty years pass him by without any visible effect. Deer come to his cabin to feed, we learned later, and when the deep snow removes the fire hazard he takes time to run a twelve-mile trapline through the woods to Big Moose Lake, road's-end on the Fulton Chain side of the unbroken expanse of forest that stretches eastward from the foot of his mountain.

Another vireo in the dooryard of the watcher's cabin proved to be the Yellow-throated variety. Climbing through open forest, we added a Cuckoo, later identified as Yellow-billed, an Olive-sided Flycatcher, and Parula Warblers. A Pileated Woodpecker, which we had heard thumping and yelping on the mountainside, finally showed himself, as did an unidentified Woodpecker which may have been one of the Three-toed species.

### High in the Air

The top of Stillwater Mountain is a rocky clearing about as large as two tennis courts placed end to end. While some of us studied the landscape from the fire tower, the others sunned on the rocks. Here we had our first good look at a pair of the hawks that had been not-quite-visible through the trees, and found that these, at least, were Red-tails. Chimney Swifts were darting over the treetops, miles from any chimney. A Red-eyed Vireo came to inspect us while we ate lunch, followed by an Olive-backed Thrush, a Hairy Woodpecker, and two White-breasted Nuthatches. Warblers were all around us, many of their songs still tantalizingly unfamiliar. One of these songs, heard again in a Scotia backyard two days later, proved to belong to the Cape May Warbler.

Except for Herring Gulls seen over the reservoir, the trip back to Number Four produced nothing new. In the morning, however, we followed the Beaver River downstream to the rocky gorge at Eagle Falls, now bone-dry except in spring as a result of power diversion. Grouse, Song Sparrows, and Grackles were picked up here, and a side trip with our hosts to Francis Lake, just before starting home, gave us a Winter Wren and acres of arbutus.

### A Taste of Spring

The weekend at Number Four gave us a taste of what the Moose River country must be like in spring. The season's first black flies appeared at noon on Sunday, still too logey to do much biting, but another day and fly season would have been roaring. Here in these expanses of lakes and forest country in the western Adirondacks, at altitudes about that of the higher Helderbergs around Westerlo and Rensselaerville, many of the birds we see only in migration spend the breeding season. Those we identified casually,

around the lodge and during the day's hike, were only a fraction of those we heard and could not identify, or which a search of the varied water and forest habitat would almost certainly have yielded.

Our list has many conspicuous gaps in it. Even so, we felt that the birds of Number Four had done very well by us and might do even better another time.

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## GOURMET AND BIRD

Dr. Minnie B. Scotland

Last November the Pheasant and Mallard were listed in a special block at the top of a restaurant menu. A patron with an appetite whetted to avian delicacies could order a Pheasant dinner for five dollars, but if he wished Mallard it would cost him seven dollars and a half.

During December advertisements for Pheasants at the holiday season were most intriguing. One could enjoy a brace of these birds for the sum of twelve dollars and seventy-five cents. True, these Pheasants had been carefully raised and were being sold quite legally.

The above observations followed the interesting reading of a dining-car bill-of-fare of the 1880s. On this there appeared, for seventy-five cents, young Prairie Chicken, Canvas-back Duck, English Snipe, broiled Woodcock on toast, Quail stuffed and larded, broiled Teal Duck with olives, and Pheasant larded aux truffes.

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## NEWS AND NOTES IN BRIEF

### AND THE EAGLE, OF COURSE

SBC Trip, Feb. 15

For years the Bald Eagle has been listed in advance as one of the attractions of the mid-February trip of SBC along the upper Hudson. It's true that on occasions it has been missed, but not usually. A mature bird was seen by all this year, on the trip of February 15 led by Ernest Geiser.

Observers were in three automobiles; those in each car found the bird independently. Ducks along the Hudson from Green Island to Stillwater somewhat duplicated the lists of December 28 and January 18, but with more open water and more ducks. Gulls were again missing, however.

Most previous trips have usually seen a line-up for use of "the" telescope. Things were different this time, and promise to continue differently. Five telescopes were in use, and that probably accounts for the discovery of a male

Red-breasted Merganser, a species not previously recorded this winter.

The twelve species for the trip: Black Duck, American Golden-eye, American Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Bald Eagle, Sparrow Hawk (at home on fire escape of building in Cohoes), Pheasant, Blue Jay, Crow, Starling, English Sparrow, and Tree Sparrow.

**WINTER SHARP-SHIN****And Albino Sparrow**

A Sharp-shinned Hawk was recorded February 1, perching in trees along the boundary of our yard and neighbors in Loudonville.

A partially albino English Sparrow fed with the usual flock in our driveway on February 3.

-- Mabel W. French

**WHITE-CROWNS****And Some Others**

Two White-crowned Sparrows, one in mature and the other in immature plumage, were recorded February 21 by Rudolph Stone in Scotia.

Other winter records on his list include three Robins, two Pileated Woodpeckers, a White-throated Sparrow, and a flock of Snow Buntings, all on December 24, a few days after the Christmas Count.

**PRONGED FEEDER OR BATH****a la Cleaves**

That was a good suggestion Howard Cleaves made during his Audubon Screen Tour lecture in February -- to put three prongs on the pedestal of a bird feeder or bath intended for lawn use. It's an easy matter to move such a feeder out of the way whenever the lawnmower is in use. That removes what might otherwise be an objection sometimes to installation of the station.

**PINE GROSBEAK****In Albany**

Featuring the bird class of Dr. Minnie B. Scotland on February 27 was a single Pine Grosbeak, along Oxford Road, Albany.

**TWO CARDINALS****At Karners**

Last month (p. 11) it was indicated that a Cardinal was to be seen at the end of Albany Street. Now it develops that there are probably two Cardinals. They are in the vicinity of the Albany Street extension at Karner Road, Stop 17. They visit two feeders regularly and frequently are seen in a hedgerow there.

Incidentally, most local records for this slightly-more-southern species have been during winter and early spring. And it has been at feeding stations that the birds have usually been discovered.

BERKSHIRE RARITIESAnother Thrasher

Berkshire County, just over the state line in Massachusetts, has had its full share of the unexpected this winter. Reference has already been made (p. 15) to some of these.

A Brown Thrasher was recovered at Dalton in weakened condition, and at last report had recuperated and occasionally had sung. Amherst had one from mid-December to early January, when it was found dead.

A dead Red-headed Woodpecker was found January 10 in West Becket.

A Catbird was seen in Dalton in mid-January. January reports also included a Cardinal at Pittsfield.

OFFICERS ELECTEDSBC Annual Meeting

At the SBC annual meeting on February 25 there were elections of secretary and chairmen of conservation, field activities, and publications, as well as of three directors.

Officers of S B C now include:

Nelle G. Van Vorst	Secretary
Viola Mabb	Treasurer
P. Schuyler Miller	Conservation
Margaret Smith	Field Activities
Mrs. H. G. Kelley	Junior Activities
Beatrice Sullivan	Programs
Guy Bartlett	Publications
Mildred D. Crary	Records

George H. Bainbridge, Francis Beck, and  
Barrington S. Havens      Directors

WINTER WARBLERJersey Special

Schenectady has reported a wintering warbler, a Myrtle seen on the day of the Christmas Count. Not to be outdone, Bound Brook, N. J., has an Orange-crowned Warbler which has been visiting a feeding station there since November 24. It has shown a preference for suet.

"FIRST" ROBINPerennial

Despite the fact that wintering Robins are somewhat matter-of-fact locally, and that the redbreasts were being found here regularly this winter, it remained only for the first warmish day to arrive in February for the newspaper to break forth with its annual "First Robin" story.

This time it was on February 18, a day of thaw, with the bird seen along St. David's Lane.

These "first" dates all indicate one thing -- that "Date Next Seen" or "Date Seen in Quantity" much better tells the story of arrivals; too many "firsts" are winterers or stragglers.

FEBRUARY'S WEATHERRecord-breaking

February was the second coldest on record here, reports Morris M. Cohn, city weatherman. Average temperature was 13.4 degrees; in 1934 it was 8.8 degrees.

A new all-time low temperature was set -- 28 below on February 10. It was 24 below on February 1 and 6, and 22 below on the 11th. Below-zero recordings were hit on twelve days, with the average below zero all day on six of them. Highest temperature for the month was 41 degrees, on the 14th and 17th. Through February 11 we had had 17 consecutive days with zero or below; in fact from January 18 through February 11, 25 days, there were only three without zero or below.

The month's snow amounted to 17.5 inches, making the season's total 82.3 inches, a new record. The month's snow was 5.5 inches above normal. On February 1 there were 19.5 inches of snow on the ground, and on the 26th only 2.5 inches. That date also found the ground still without frost, but the loss of snow led to four inches of frost at the end of the month.

Heaviest snow was on the 28th and 29th -- 8 inches plus rain, sleet and hail, not to mention claps of thunder on the 28th. Precipitation totaled 3.09 inches, wettest in eight years.

TAME LARKAll Alone

Bird records were few when George Bainbridge drove up back of Altamont on March 1. In fact, he saw only an abundance of Crows, one Hairy Woodpecker and a lone Horned Lark.

The Lark, picking gravel from the road, was very tame and stayed only a few feet ahead. Its throat was bright yellow, which might indicate a Northern, but the eye line was white, showing it to be a Prairie Horned Lark, probably a male.

**S B C CALENDAR**

March 21, Sunday -- Field trip, Schermerhorn and Campbell Roads; G. M. Andrews, leader; 8:30 a.m. at Campbell and Rice Roads.

March 22, Monday -- Class No. 5, Bird-study group, Museum; Barrington S. Havens, leader.

April -- Dates of field trips in April are shown in this month's supplement.

April 28, Wednesday -- Audubon Screen Tour Lecture; Bert Harwell, "Canada West"; Central Park Junior High School, 8 o'clock.

## S B C FIELD TRIPS -- 1947

G. Malcolm Andrews

The past year saw S B C with the largest number of field trips that it had ever regularly scheduled. Some twenty-four were originally planned, but twenty-five trips were actually made to both local and distant points. Two unscheduled outings were held; one a weekend trip to the Montezuma Federal Wildlife Refuge under the leadership of the Sassafras Bird Club of Amsterdam, the other an all-day Hawk Vigil at the Indian Ladder Escarpment in the Helderbergs. A weekend trip planned to include visits to Mts. Tom and Greylock, with side trips through both Pleasant Valley and Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuaries, did not materialize, probably because of the choice of Memorial Day weekend for the event.

The Montezuma trip, held May 16-18, has not been previously mentioned in FEATHERS. This past year's trip did not include the wide coverage of nearby areas made by a group in May of 1942. One good reason, other than the increased cost which would have been necessary, was the high water level in Lake Ontario. The favorite shore-bird and Tern nesting areas of Sandy Point were undoubtedly under water at the time of the trip, as the writer stopped by there late in June and found only a foot or two of beach where there had been over 50 feet in 1942! The SBC's four representatives on last May's trip were joined, during the weekend, by others from the Geneva Bird Club and the Burroughs-Audubon Nature Club of Rochester, in addition to the group from Amsterdam. The 106 species recorded over that weekend included several rarities: The Lawrence's and Connecticut (?) Warblers, and a Red-bellied Woodpecker.

### 181 Species

The large number of trips participated in by SBC members and friends is immediately reflected in the total of 181 species and subspecies recorded. Of this number, ten were seen only on the Montezuma trip, leaving a total of 171 for the various local areas.

The April 5 trip was originally scheduled for Saratoga Lake, but was switched to the river at Niskayuna when the lake ice had failed to break up by that date. The tabulation for the May 30 trip to Karner Sand Barrens includes species seen at several additional localities on that day by a group of SBC members afield some 9 hours; the Karner area alone contributed 33 species to the total of 75.

In the following table reports in FEATHERS of 1947 or 1948 are in parentheses, as are the 10 species recorded only on the Montezuma trip.

## FIELD TRIP RECORDS -- 1947

A	Cohoes and Upper Hudson (p.38)	Jan.19 - 14
B	Cohoes, Green Island, Upper Hudson (p.39)	Feb.15 - 14
C	Sunnyside Road, Scotia (p.51)	Mar. 9 - 19
D	Campbell Road; Watervliet Rsvr. (p.52)	23 - 21
E	River at Niskayuna (p.52)	Apr. 5 - 28
F	Watervliet Reservoir (p.55)	13 - 46
G	Vischer Ponds (p.56)	27 - 54
H	Central Park (p.57)	May 4 - 55
I	Century Run, Local Area (p.53)	10 -126
J	Big Nose (p.63)	11 - 38
K	After-dark, Balltown and Vly Roads (p.58)	14 - 2
L	Montezuma Marshes Wildlife Refuge	16/18 -106
M	Second Ward and Central Parks (p.58)	17 - 48
N	Indian Ladder Ravine (p.62)	25 - 58
O	Karner Sand Barrens; plus local tour (p.60)	30 - 75
P	Indian Ladder Ravine, Evening (p.62)	Junell - 17
Q	Jenny Lake (p.90)	22 - 31
R	River at Niskayuna (p.76)	July20 - 54
S	Watervliet Reservoir (p.87)	Aug.24 - 38
T	Stoner Boat Trip to Kingston (p.87)	Sep.14 - 30
U	Hawk Vigil, Indian Ladder Escarpment (p.93)	21 - 8
V	Vischer Ponds (p.6, 1948)	27 - 39
W	Watervliet Reservoir (p.95)	Oct.12 - 20
X	Saratoga Lake (p.105)	Nov. 9 - 25
Y	Christmas Count (p.1, 1948)	Dec.21 - 38

SPECIES	ABCD	EFG	HIJ	KLM	NOP	QRS	TUV	WXY
Common Loon		f	i					x
Holboell's Grebe		f	i					x
Horned Grebe		f	i					x
Pied-billed Grebe		f	i	l			t	
Double-crested Cormorant							t	
Great Blue Heron		e g	i	l	o	rs	t v	wx
American Egret						rs	t	
Green Heron		fg	i	l		rs	t	
Black-crowned Night Heron		g	i	m	o	r	t v	
American Bittern			g hi	l		r	v	
Canada Goose		e	i	l				
Mallard	b	efg	i	l			t v	
Black Duck	ab	efg	hi	l	o	r	t v	xy
Baldpate		f						
Pintail	b		i					
Green-winged Teal			i					
Blue-winged Teal (Shoveller)		g	i	l			t	
Wood Duck		fg	i	l				v
Redhead		f						
Ring-necked Duck		efg	i					x

## FEATHERS

April, 1948

SPECIES	ABCD	EFG	IJ	KLM	NOP	QRS	TUV	WXY
Canvasback			i					x
Greater Scaup Duck		e	i					
Lesser Scaup Duck	a	ef	i					x
American Golden-eye	ab		i					x
Old-squaw		f	i					
Ruddy Duck			i					x
Hooded Merganser		f						
American Merganser	ab d	ef						
Red-breasted Merganser		f						
Turkey Vulture				l			u	
Sharp-shinned Hawk			i				u	y
Cooper's Hawk			i					w y
Red-tailed Hawk			i		no		tuv	y
Red-shouldered Hawk	d	f	ij	l	o	rs	t v	
Broad-winged Hawk		g	ij				u	
Rough-legged Hawk								y
Bald Eagle	a			l				
Marsh Hawk		g	i	l	o		u	y
Osprey		fg	ij				tu	
Duck Hawk			i					
Sparrow Hawk	bcd	e g	ij		o	r	tu	xy
Ruffed Grouse			i					y
Pheasant		e g	hi	m	o			y
King Rail					o			
Florida Gallinule		g	hi	l	o	r	v	
Coot			i	l				
Semipalmated Plover				l		s		
Killdeer	d	efg	i	l	o	rs	t v w	
Woodcock			i	k				
Wilson's Snipe			i					
Upland Plover			i		o			
Spotted Sandpiper			i	l	o	r	t	
Solitary Sandpiper				l		s	t	w
Greater Yellow-legs				lm				w
Lesser Yellow-legs			i	l		s		w
Pectoral Sandpiper						s		w
(White-rumped Sandpiper)				l				
Least Sandpiper				l		s		
Semipalmated Sandpiper				l		s		
Sanderling						s		
Herring Gull	b d	efg	ij	l	o		t v	xy
Ring-billed Gull		e					v	xy
Common Tern			i	l				
Black Tern			i	l				
Mourning Dove	d	fg	hij	lm	nop	rs	t v	y
Great Horned Owl	c	f						y
Barred Owl								y
Whip-poor-will			i	k				
Chimney Swift			hij	lm	nop	s		
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird			i		no			
Kingfisher		fg	hij	l	o	rs	t v	wxy
Flicker	d	fg	hij	m	nop	rs	v w	
Pileated Woodpecker			ij		n			y

## FEATHERS

April, 1948

SPECIES	ABCD	EFG	HIJ	KLM	NOP	QRS	TUV	WXY
Red-bellied Woodpecker				l				
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		g	hi					y
Hairy Woodpecker	c	g	hi	lm		rs		y
Downy Woodpecker	a cd	fg	hi	lm	o	rs		xy
Kingbird			i	l	no	r		
Crested Flycatcher			h	l	no	r		
Phoebe		fg	hij	lm	no	s	v	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher					o			
Acadian Flycatcher			i					
Alder Flycatcher					n	r		
Least Flycatcher			hi	l	no	r		
Wood Pewee					nop	s	v	
Tree Swallow		g	i	l	op	r	tu	
Bank Swallow		g	i		o	rs	t	
Rough-winged Swallow		g	i	l				
Barn Swallow		g	ij	lm	no	r		
Cliff Swallow (Purple Martin)		g	i	l				
Blue Jay	a cd	efg	hij	lm	no	rs	v	wxy
Crow	abcd	efg	hij	lm	nop	qrs	t v	wxy
Black-capped Chickadee	abc	efg	hij	lm	no	qrs	v	wxy
White-breasted Nuthatch	a c	fg	hi	lm		rs		w y
Red-breasted Nuthatch	c		hi	m	n	q		y
Brown Creeper	cd	fg	hi					y
House Wren			hi	lm	no	q s	v	
Winter Wren		f	j					
Long-billed Marsh Wren (Short-billed Marsh Wren)				l	o	r	v	
Catbird			i	lm	no	qrs	v	
Brown Thrasher			hi	lm	o			
Robin	d	efg	hij	lm	nop	qrs	v	wxy
Wood Thrush			hij	lm	nop	qr		
Hermit Thrush		f	hi		n p	q		
Olive-backed Thrush			i	l	p			
Gray-cheeked Thrush			i					
Veery			i	lm	o	qr		
Bluebird	d	efg	hi	lm	no			
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher			i					
Golden-crowned Kinglet		f						y
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		g	hij	lm			v	y
Pipit						?	w	
Cedar Waxwing	b d		i	l	no		t v	
Northern Shrike								
Starling	abcd	efg	hij	lm	no	qrs	t v	y
Yellow-throated Vireo			hi	l	no	s		xy
Blue-headed Vireo			hij	m		q		
Red-eyed Vireo				l	o	qrs		
Warbling Vireo				l	no	r	t	
Black and White Warbler			hij	lm	no	qr		
Prothonotary Warbler (Worm-eating Warbler)			i					
Golden-winged Warbler (Lawrence's Warbler)				l	no			
Tennessee Warbler				l	n			

## FEATHERS

April, 1948

SPECIES	ABCD	EFG	HIJ	KLM	NOP	QRS	TUV	WXY
Nashville Warbler			hi	lm		s		
Parula Warbler			hi					
Yellow Warbler			i	lm	no	r		
Magnolia Warbler			i	lm				
Cape May Warbler				lm				
Black-thr. Blue Warbler			hi j	lm				
Myrtle Warbler			hi	lm		q		y
Black-thr. Green Warbler (Cerulean Warbler)			hi j	lm	n	q		
Blackburnian Warbler			hi j	l	o	q		
Chestnut-sided Warbler (Bay-breasted Warbler)			hi	lm	no	qr		
Black-poll Warbler				l				
Pine Warbler			hi		no			
Prairie Warbler					o			
Yellow Palm Warbler					o			
Oven-bird		g	hi					
Northern Water-thrush		g	hi	lm	nop	r		
Louisiana Water-thrush (Connecticut Warbler)			i	l				
Northern Yellow-throat			ij	l	o			
Yellow-breasted Chat			i	lm	o	s	v	
Canada Warbler			i	l				
Redstart			ij	l	no	q		
English Sparrow	abc	efg	hi j	lm	no	qrs	t v	wxy
Bobolink			ij	l	no	rs		
Meadowlark	d	fg	hi j	lm	no	qr		w
Redwing	d	efg	hi	lm	nop	qr	t v	w y
Baltimore Oriole			i	lm	no	rs		
Rusty Blackbird		e g	i				v	
Bronzed Grackle	cd	fg	hi j	lm	no	qr	t	
Cowbird		fg	hi j	lm	no	q		
Scarlet Tanager				lm	no	qr		
Rose-breasted Grosbeak			hi	l	n			
Indigo Bunting					no	qr		
Evening Grosbeak	bc		i					
Purple Finch		e g	hi	l	no	q		y
Redpoll	bod							
Goldfinch	c	e	i	lm	nop	qrs	t v	wxy
Towhee			hi	m	nop	r	v	
Savannah Sparrow			i	l	n		v	
Grasshopper Sparrow				l	no			
Henslow's Sparrow			i		n			
Vesper Sparrow		fg	hi		n			
Slate-colored Junco	c	efg	hi		p			y
Tree Sparrow	a cd	e g	i				v	xy
Chipping Sparrow		g	hi j	lm	nop	qr		
Field Sparrow		g	hi	lm	no	qr	v	
White-crowned Sparrow			j	l				
White-throated Sparrow		g	hi j	l		q	v	
Fox Sparrow		e						
Swamp Sparrow		fg	i	l	no	r		w
Song Sparrow	a cd	efg	hi j	lm	nop	qrs	t v	xy

## S B C FIELD TRIP REPORTS

### WHO SAID "EARLY SPRING" ?

Scotia, March 7

"Redwings, Killdeer and other early spring migrants" was the way it read in the Field Trip Schedule, issued a year ago. Those were among the species not recorded, however, on the S B C Field Trip of Sunday, March 7. Snow was deep, ice was thick, and temperature was low -- not to mention slight snow and rain.

Fifteen species, however, rewarded the ten observers who made the trip along Sunnyside and River Roads and to Collins Lake with Jack Voght. Included were:

Rough-legged Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Pheasant, Kingfisher, Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, Blue Jay, Crow, Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Starling, English Sparrow, Junco, and Tree Sparrow.

### THE MIGRANTS RETURN

Schermerhorn-Campbell, March 21

It was quickly apparent on the morning of Sunday, March 21, that Spring had arrived. Snow was scarce; river ice was gone and the water high; and fields were muddy, or flooded.

Sixteen SBC hikers covered the Campbell-Schermerhorn-River Road triangle, with Beatrice Sullivan as leader. The weather -- partly cloudy (some thunder, no rain); practically windless; 50°. The list of 24 species:

Black Duck, 1; American Merganser, one male; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Killdeer, several; Herring Gull, 1; Mourning Dove, 3; Kingfisher, 2; Phoebe, 2; Prairie Horned Lark, one flock; Blue Jay; Crow; Chickadee, 1; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Robin, common; Bluebird, 6 or more; Starling; English Sparrow; Meadowlark, few; Red-wing, abundant; Bronzed Grackle, one flock; Purple Finch, one in song; Junco, two flocks; Tree Sparrow, one flock; Song Sparrow, common.

## RECENT S B C RECORDS

Things happened rapidly in March. Early in the month it was continually cold, with more than usual snow on the ground. The weather moderated in mid-month, and the migrants advanced into the territory, even though there was still plenty of snow on the ground and the ice holding. By March 16 there were numerous arrival records. The snow disappeared suddenly and completely from the fields, and the ice was out by the 21st. Land and water birds arrived in numbers, with -- as always -- some exceptionally early arrival dates. The absence of winter finches, grosbeaks and buntings continued. The last week-end of the month found the water still high, Round Lake open, and Saratoga Lake on-

ly partly open. And March 28, Easter, saw another snow storm; but it didn't remain.

In the following list the dates shown are not necessarily "firsts". "Next seen" and "Became common" are really more important, and so are "Last seen" entries. Also, this list does not include the regular S B C field trip records (See Page 30). Among recent items of interest:

- Great Blue Heron - One flying over city in early morning on March 8 (Mrs. W. H. Norris).
- Green Heron - Two, Collins Lake, March 27 (Mrs. H.G.Kelley).
- American Bittern - Two, Vischer Ponds, March 23 (JJA); one, Vischer Ponds, March 24 (RS).
- Ducks - More than 1500, Vischer Ponds, March 23 (JJA); between 2000 and 3000 there March 24 (RS); about 500 there March 27 (X).
- Canada Goose - Seven, Lake George, Feb. 9, and flock of 30 to 50 there March 9 (Fred Streever).
- Mallard - 100, Vischer Ponds, March 23 (JJA); raft of 25 males only, Crescent Lake, March 27 (X).
- Black Duck - 1000, Vischer Ponds, March 23 (JJA); abundant, Vischer Ponds, March 24 (RS).
- Baldpate - 25, Vischer Ponds, March 23 (JJA); flock, Vischer Ponds, March 24 (RS).
- Pintail - 150, Vischer Ponds, March 23 (JJA); recorded March 24 (RS).
- Green-winged Teal - 20, Vischer Ponds, March 23 (JJA); Vischer Ponds, March 24 (RS).
- Blue-winged Teal - Vischer Ponds, March 26 (RS); fairly common there March 27 (X).
- Shoveller - One male, Vischer Ponds, March 27 (X).
- Wood Duck - 20, Vischer Ponds, March 23, (JJA); six there on March 24 (RS).
- Redhead - One at Vischer Ponds March 19 and 24 (RS).
- Ring-necked Duck - 200, Vischer Ponds, March 23 (JJA); six there March 24 (RS); fairly common there March 27 (X).
- Canvas-back - Male, Cohoes, March 6 (NVV, MBS).
- Scaup Duck - Few, Vischer Ponds, March 24 (RS).

**FEATHERS**

April, 1948

- Lesser Scaup Duck - One, Vischer Ponds, March 23 (JJA).
- American Golden-eye - Two, Vischer Ponds, March 23 (JJA).
- Buffle-head - Two pairs, Vischer Ponds, March 24 (RS).
- Old-squaw - Ten, Vischer Ponds, March 23 (JJA).
- Hooded Merganser - Pair, Vischer Ponds, March 24 (RS).
- American Merganser - 10, Vischer Ponds, March 23 (JJA); common on river below city, March 27 (X).
- Hawks - About 50 high, in circling flight, over city March 17, working to north (NVV).
- Goshawk - Adult, Mariaville, March 11 (RS).
- Red-tailed Hawk - Pair, carrying grass; March 13 (RS).
- Red-shouldered Hawk - March 18 (RS).
- Rough-legged Hawk - Still at Gateway Bridge March 14 (NVV,GB)
- Bald Eagle - Vischer Ponds; one mature, March 23 (JJA); one immature, March 20 and 22 (RS); one immature, March 27 (X)
- Marsh Hawk - Male, Gordon Road, March 11 (RS); one flying over city March 13 (GB).
- Coot - One, Vischer Ponds, March 20, 24 and 26 (RS).
- Killdeer - One at waste disposal plant March 15 (Irving); several heard at night near airport March 16 (NVV).
- Great Black-backed Gull - One, Vischer Ponds, March 24 (RS).
- Herring Gull - 50, Vischer Ponds, March 23 (JJA); flying up Mohawk to west, common all along river, March 27 (X).
- Ring-billed Gull - Common, Vischer Ponds, March 22 (RS).
- Mourning Dove - Two, Vischer Ponds, March 20 (RS).
- Flicker - March 24 (RS).
- Phoebe - Three March 27 (X).
- Prairie Horned Lark - Flock 17, Guild., March 14 (GHB,EH).
- Black-capped Chickadee - Excavating nest March 24 & 26 (RS).
- Red-breasted Nuthatch - Three, Cent. Pk., March 14 (GHB,EH).
- Brown Creeper - One, Niskayuna, March 27 (X).

Winter Wren - Vale Cem., Mar.23 (B.S.Havens)

Robin - Arrived at Christman Sanctuary March 16; well established throughout local area by March 18.

Pipit - Two, Vischer Ponds, March 24 (RS); flock of fifty, Crescent Lake, March 27 (X).

Cedar Waxwing - Flock of 22 feeding on bittersweet, Gordon Road, March 11 (RS).

Northern Shrike - One, Rynex Corners, March 11 (RS).

Meadowlark - March 18 (RS).

Rusty Blackbird - Various reports of flocks March 19; also March 20, Vischer Ponds (RS).

Bronzed Grackle - March 18 (RS).

Cowbird - March 18 (RS); March 29 (GHB).

Purple Finch - Few, Crawford Roaf, March 11 (RS).

Vesper Sparrow - Few, Vischer Ponds, March 27 (X).

White-crowned Sparrow - Two still in Scotia in early March (Turner); (see FEATHERS, March, page 22).

Fox Sparrow - Few at Guilderland March 15 (GHB).

Swamp Sparrow - One, Scotia, March 11 (RS); one heard, Vischer Ponds, March 27 (X).

KEY - JJAnderson, GBartlett, GHBainbridge, EHallenbeck, MBScotland, RStone, NVVorst, X - Abel, Bartlett, Holmes, Van Vorst.

## SCHOHARIE COUNTY BIRDS

Mrs. Chester Zimmer

A note in the February issue of FEATHERS spoke of the scarcity of Chickadees. These cheery little fellows are a favorite with me, and usually my feeders are visited by them in abundance all through the winter -- but not so far (mid-March) this year.

It was January before I saw one lone "Dee" at the feeders, and that one did not come regularly. Now, during March, there have been three at one time, but no more.

Can someone give us a why-and-how reason for the disap-

pearance of our much loved little "cheerio" of the bird kingdom?

Also, there have been no Hairy Woodpeckers at the feeders this winter. This is a first absence for them in my 25 years of feeding birds at the same place here in Gallupville each year.

A Song Sparrow has stayed with us all winter, enjoying canary seed. Two male Cowbirds and one Tree Sparrow came on the porch to eat seeds during the first big snow, but have not been seen since then. I have seen a flock of Snow Buntings a couple of times in a neighbor's garden, eating weed seeds. Blue Jays are too plentiful, but Starlings and English Sparrows not so bad as in previous years. Downy Woodpeckers and Nuthatches are the main visitors so far this season.

At this time last year we were enjoying a flock of at least 50 Redpolls, coming each day to eat seeds. They were a sight to thrill me, as I had never seen them before.

Soon it will be time for the White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows to visit our feeders.



## NEWS AND NOTES IN BRIEF



### RECENT S B C RECORDS

### To Be Continued?

On Page 31 a new feature has been introduced, summarizing very briefly the most interesting records of recent weeks, so far as available to the Records Committee.

It is a feature patterned after one used in other Bird Club publications. Shall we continue, and perhaps expand, it? If you think well of the idea, it's up to you to send in your records frequently, in brief. Items for the May issue should be in by April 27. Address them to Miss Mildred D. Crary, 804 Locust Avenue. And please remember that first dates are not the only interesting facts -- nesting, song, and plenty of other notes are welcome.

### SCOPE AT WORK

### And So a Canvas-back

When testing a telescope it is always much more fun to actually try it on a real bird as a target. So, finding a duck below the dam at Cohoes, the possessors of a brand new telescope were prompted to put the instrument to work. Binocs told them that the duck was a big one, that it had a white body; but it was the telescope that revealed for them the brilliant red head above a black breast, and the long, straight outline of the head from the forehead to the tip of

the bill. It was a male Canvas-back, observed for the first time in that particular locality on March 6 this year.

-- M. B. S.

**MISSED, AS USUAL****What -- No Owl?**

Referring back to Mac Andrews' summary of SBC field trips in 1947, there are some conspicuous misses. And, as so usual, one is the Screech Owl. How about the Nighthawk, for another? And the Virginia Rail?

**S B C SPEAKERS****On the Air**

Clubtime, a regular feature of Station WSNY, had the story of S B C on the air March 8. Barrington S. Havens was interviewed for the Club.

B. D. Miller answered the call S B C received from the Men's Club of the Niskayuna Reformed Church for a speaker on birds at their dinner meeting of April 7.

**HOBBY SHOW****May 20-22**

S B C will have a booth at the Hobby Show to be held by the Schenectady Y M C A May 20 to 22. Included in our displays will be a collection of stamps featuring birds, an exhibit of antique bird buttons, Malcolm Rix's models of extinct and other birds; and books, publications and pictures.

Help is needed in arranging the exhibits and manning the booth. Let Miss Van Vorst know how you can help, with exhibits or attendance.

**MARCH WEATHER****End of the Snow**

The 18 inches of snow received locally during March were enough to raise the winter's record to 100 inches, setting a record for this century -- the three-quarters of an inch on Easter Sunday, March 28, did the trick. The end of the month, however, looked hardly wintry; the snow was gone.

Temperatures ranged from as low as 16 below on the 6th to 70 on the 31st, Morris M. Cohn, city weather man, reports. Readings were zero or below on five days, and above 50 degrees eight days.

There were 13-1/2 inches of snow on the ground on March 12; on the 23rd it was officially gone.

**ETERNAL TRIANGLES****Strange Sounds**

If you know the notes of the ducks, then it's a different story. But if you're where ducks are to be expected, and off in the distance you hear notes that seem somewhat like those of a Killdeer, and again sort of like a Bluebird, but maybe more like a Wood Duck, then look skyward. Maybe you will see a pair, or perhaps three, fast-flying ducks, circling widely and with intricate maneuvers. It's part of the

courtship of the Blue-winged Teal. Two males and a female were so behaving over the Vischer Ponds March 27. They were in the air several minutes, and their notes could still be heard when they were off in the distance. -- G. B.

MORE DUCKS?

About 54 Million

There are as many Ducks and Geese this year as last, says the Fish and Wildlife Service -- 54 million. There should be no relaxation of hunting regulations, however, the Service declares.

The count showed increases for the Atlantic, Mississippi and Pacific Coast flyways, but decreases in the central flyway, Mexico and Canada.

Schenectady can hardly be considered on a major flyway, but does show some of the migration from the middle Atlantic Coast into interior Canada and the north.

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S B C CALENDAR

April 17, Saturday -- Field trip, Watervliet Reservoir.

April 25, Sunday -- Field trip, Vischer-Crescent Lake.

April 28, Wednesday -- Audubon Screen Tour, "Canada West."  
Bert Harwell.

May 1, Saturday -- Field trip, Beaverdam Road.

May 2, Sunday -- Field trip, Central Park (Breakfast).

May 9, Sunday -- Field trip, Big Nose.

May 11, Tuesday -- Late evening field trip; night-calling birds and amphibians.

May 15, Saturday -- Freeman's Bridge Road, with Sassafras Bird Club of Amsterdam.

May 15, Saturday -- All-day Century Run.

May 20-22 -- YMCA Hobby Show, with SBC booth.

May 22, Saturday -- Field trip, Pleasant Valley Sanctuary, Pittsfield Mass.

May 24, Monday -- Regular SBC meeting, outdoors; details in May supplement.

May 30, Sunday -- Field trip, annual Memorial Day excursion into Karner Sand Barrens.



of the woodlands rather than of lawns and gardens, we were told.

The boat and the warden were waiting at the landing. The real fun began as we neared some mud flats where a mixed flock of some 50 Oyster-catchers, about 30 Marbled Godwits, and 20 or more each of Ruddy Turnstones, Dowitchers and Black Skimmers were busily feeding. The air was filled with myriads of Tree Swallows wheeling about, and a Willet flashes across our bow. As the boat threaded its way along the winding channels through the vast salt marshes, flocks of Red-wings flew out, plus an occasional Great or Little Blue Heron. Now and then we startled, or saw in the distance in the water, or overhead in flight, small companies of Black Ducks, Red-breasted and Hooded Mergansers, Buffleheads, Cormorants (either Florida or Double-crested), and Horned Grebes.

### 5,000 Acres of Refuge

The boat ride seemed far too short, but other delights awaited us as we became acquainted with Bull's Island. Even without a wealth of bird life to intrigue us, Bull's Island, the "gem of the Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge," with its 5,000 acres, its miles of fascinating trails and wood roads, its "lush forest of moss-festooned live oak, pine, magnolia, holly and palmetto -- an exquisite remnant of a forest that flourished along the southern coast when America was young," its rare combination of forest, ocean shore, salt marshes, and ponds, is an enchanting place. It was a wonderfully rich experience for a northerner just to walk its trails.

We proceeded cautiously and quietly along well-trodden ways, hoping in vain for a glimpse of the resident Wild Turkeys. This one pleasure was denied us, but we had close views of a Pileated Woodpecker at work and saw various other land birds. A high spot of the morning's walk, aside from the beauty of the walk itself, was the unbelievable concentration of Ducks and Coot in the small ponds that stud the island, and in the creeks that indent it -- Blacks and Mallards predominantly, but enough Gadwall, Shoveller and Ruddy Ducks to make birding decidedly interesting. Overhead were Turkey Vultures, Black Vultures, and an occasional Bald Eagle. The salt marshes gave us a Snowy Egret, Louisiana Heron, Clapper and Virginia Rails, and Long-billed Marsh Wrens among other things.

### Even a European Teal

After lunch at the delightful guest house, we sallied forth again. This time we headed for the ocean shore, where we watched Gannets diving, but did not see the usual Loons and Scoters. A small pond along the way gave us a good aggregation of ducks, including Green-winged, Blue-winged and

European Teal (one only of the latter, and it was the second record for the Island). We returned by a beautiful less-travelled trail in another vain attempt to steal up on a Wild Turkey. We did find Carolina and Short-billed Marsh Wrens, Mockingbirds, one Catbird, Hermit Thrushes, both Kinglets, Myrtle and Pine Warblers, Yellow-throat, and Cardinals.

Next day, after an excellent early breakfast, we set out in the truck for the northern end of the island. Again we missed out on the Wild Turkey, and again we saw incredible numbers of Ducks and Coot, adding Baldpate, Pintail, Scaup, and a huge raft of Ring-necks to our list, as well as more of most of the previous day's species. Myriads of Tree Swallows, even more Herons than the day before, plus a Florida Gallinule, Greater Yellowlegs and Boat-tailed Grackles, kept us busy.

#### The Tide Waits for No Man

Because of the exigencies of the tide, we regretfully left our beautiful island just about 24 hours after our arrival there, wishing our stay might have been for many days but most grateful for being there at all. The return trip by boat had good things in store for us, adding Black-bellied Plover, Spotted Sandpiper, Forster's and Caspian Terns to our lists, and giving us fine views again of the flock of Oyster-catchers. We had picnic lunch that day at Isle of Palms and saw our first Brown Pelicans and first Laughing Gulls of the trip. The list for the tour totalled 88 species, but even the fun of making a good list was a small portion of the deep satisfaction and inspiration of visiting such a place as Bull's Island and seeing conservation actively at work.

#### Wild Turkey - By Another Visitor

To return to the possibilities of birding at Bull's Island, a good friend of mine took one of the Audubon Tours there about two weeks after my visit. She was a member of a much smaller party, and her visit was made just after a heavy storm and an unusually high tide. Her stay was even more rewarding than mine. She saw practically all the species I did, plus Wood Duck, Redhead, Canvas-backs, various hawks, Wild Turkeys both days, more shorebirds, and more landbirds, including 10 Sharp-tailed and 20 Seaside Sparrows, listing 101 species for that tour. If all this does not convince you that Bull's Island is a paradise for bird students and conservationists, just read the Christmas Count lists. "Of recent years, Bull's Island has led all eastern localities in the number of species recorded on Christmas Counts and has regularly held first or second rank in the nation." Also read "Bull's Island - A Refuge Whither Birds and Naturemen Flock in Winter" in Audubon Magazine for November-December, 1946.



## THE BLUE JAY AS A VOCALIST

Barrington S. Havens

Some of our birds have an astonishing repertory of notes. The great vocabulary of the Robin has already been given some attention in these pages, and now I'd like to suggest the Blue Jay as a competitor in this field. And as a starter, here are a few of his utterances which I have noticed and which are sufficiently distinctive to be recognized as different from each other:

**Thief! Thief!** This is his commonest note, given as a loud scream. It is also heard as a softer note, when it tends to change from a one-syllable to a two-syllable word, thus: "Thee-yuf, thee-yuf!" It has a companion note:

**Half! Half!** This is one of the quieter utterances. Like the one immediately preceding, it tends to be uttered as a two-syllable word: "Ha-yuf, ha-yuf!"

**Phony! Phony!** It will be noticed that, on the basis of most of my interpretations, the Blue Jay is a vituperative bird. Take this note, for example. He seems to be calling names a good part of the time. This one is given deliberately and not in a hurry; perhaps it would be better indicated with a hyphen, thus: "Pho-ny! Pho-ny!"

**Ta-leedle-eedle! Ta-leedle-eedle!** This is a phrase which, in my earlier days of bird study, caused me a great deal of trouble; it took me about a year to track it down to the bird which made it. I call it the clothes-line note, for it sounds like a rusty clothes-line pulley and is very liquid in quality.

**Murderer! Murderer!** Another vituperative cry. It is similar to that next above in its quality.

**Kee-ee-yer! Kee-ee-yer! Kee-ee-yer!** This is the famous Red-shouldered Hawk note, in which the Blue Jay gives such a splendid imitation of that bird of prey that even experienced bird students have their troubles determining which bird they are hearing. It is a loud cry which can be heard for a considerable distance.

Of course the Jay has other notes; these are undoubtedly but a few of his amazing repertory. For example, he has a plaintive - almost mewling - note which can deceive the beginner in the woods who hears the note but doesn't see the bird which is making it.

And don't form the false impression that the Jay, based on the above, is a habitually noisy bird. When he wants to be stealthy, he can be utterly noiseless.

## A WHISTLER

Rudolph Stone



The day was Wednesday, April 7. The morning was cool and sunny, and the river glassy calm. With not a breath of wind, the songs of the early Savannah, Vesper and Field Sparrows carried clearly over the meadows as we walked the old canal towpath at the Vischer Ferry flats. Great clouds of Red-wings wheeled back and forth, causing a startling rush of air as they passed overhead. A lone Pipit called "siz-zit" from above, and we could see the white outer tail feathers as he vanished into the Northern sky.

Many beautiful trim little Tree Swallows coursed gracefully through the warming air. Not even the passing of that arch enemy of song birds, a Sharp-shinned Hawk, seriously disturbed them. They are too swift and shifty.

A sudden surprise and rare thrill was a Migrant Shrike, perched lazily on a roadside telephone wire, his black mask, clear breast and long tail very evident as we spied on him from inside the car. They are hook-beaked destroyers of large insects, mice and small birds.

Among the Waterfowl

But the real attraction on the flats is the waterfowl. We flushed great masses of Black Ducks, with a scattering of Pintail, Blue- and Green-winged Teal and Mallards mixed in. On one pond near the river a flock of about 45 Ring-necked Ducks was drifting lazily near the edge of old cattails. The rear crest on the purplish-black heads, and vertical white bar just in front of the wing of males showed up clearly in contrast with the few drab females. A few Baldpates and a Pied-billed Grebe mixed in with the Ring-necks.

The one totally unexpected visitor was found in some cattails bordering the near shore of the Mohawk. As soon as he raised his neck and exposed himself to full view it was immediately evident that we had a Swan. The question remained whether wild or domestic. A careful check showed the neck straight, not "S" shaped; the bill horizontal, not held at a downward angle, and without any knob or growth. This eliminated the Mute Swan, indigenous to Long Island and Metropolitan New York, and indicated a probable Whistling Swan. The final mark, a yellow line near the base of the bill, eliminated everything but the whistler.

This is only the second record of this species for Schenectady. A bird of this species was illegally shot, also at Niskayuna, November 4, 1935. A check on April 8 did not find the bird.

S B C FIELD TRIP REPORTS

NESTING DUCKSaratoga-Round Lakes, April 11

A Black Duck flushed from its nest with nine eggs, and three flocks of migrating Canada Geese were among the features of the Saratoga and Round Lakes trip of Sunday, April 11. The temperature was only 35°, there was a strong west wind, and it was cloudy -- in fact, it rained and hailed a little later. Fifteen S B C members participated, with Guy Bartlett as leader. The list of 38 species:

Common Loon, few; Pied-billed Grebe, one (VanVorst, Scotland); Great Blue Heron, one (GMA Andrews); Canada Goose, flock of 50 flying high to north at end of Saratoga Lake; flocks of about 10 each in flight at Malta and Round Lake; Black Duck, common, one nest with 9 eggs; Baldpate, three males in mixed flock; Pintail, one pair; Ring-necked Duck, several small flocks; Lesser Scaup Duck, three flocks; American Golden-eye, common; Hooded Merganser, five males; American Merganser, common.

Marsh Hawk, one male (NVV, MBS); Herring Gull, few; Mourning Dove (NVV, MBS); Kingfisher, few; Flicker, heard; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, one at close range in scrub pine, but hard to see; Downy Woodpecker; Phoebe; Blue Jay; Crow; Black-capped Chickadee; White-breasted Nuthatch; Brown Creeper, one; Robin; Bluebird; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Starling; English Sparrow; Red-wing; Rusty Blackbird, one flock, with Grackles and Red-wings; Bronzed Grackle; Cowbird; Goldfinch; Slate-colored Junco; Tree Sparrow; Song Sparrow.

BUT NO WOOD DUCKWatervliet Reservoir, April 17

It almost seems as though it's only necessary to indicate on the Field Trip Schedule that a certain species is to be expected, and thereupon it will be missed. On the trip for March 7 "early migrants" were indicated and not found; on this trip no Wood Duck was seen.

Ten observers were on the April 17 Watervliet Reservoir trip led by Nelle G. Van Vorst. The temperature ranged from 30 to 40 degrees, the sky was clear, and the west wind stiff. Of the 31 species, the Canada Goose was probably of most interest. The list:

Pied-billed Grebe, 1; Canada Goose, 2; Mallard, 2; Black Duck, common; Blue-winged Teal, 2; Lesser Scaup Duck, 8; American Merganser, few; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Ruffed Grouse, 1; Killdeer, several; Herring Gull, 2; Mourning Dove, 2; Kingfisher, 2; Flicker, 3; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Blue Jay, few; Crow, few; Black-capped Chickadee, several; Robin, common; Hermit Thrush, 1; Bluebird, 1; Starling; English Sparrow; Meadowlark, 1; Red-wing, 1; Bronzed Grackle, several; Cowbird, 1; Goldfinch, 30; and Song Sparrow, common.

FEWER DUCKS

Vischer Ponds, April 25

There was not much variety in ducks on the field trip of Sunday, April 25, but that had not been expected. Fourteen participated, with J. J. Anderson as leader, with stops in Niskayuna, at Crescent Lake, and a drive on the tow-path included. Early-morning songs of the sparrows, a large flock of Pipits in a plowed field, and the many ducks at the ponds were the features. The day was real spring -- 55 to 700, very slight southwest wind, and sunny. The 48 species:

Great Blue Heron, 1; Green Heron, 2; Black-crowned Night Heron, few; American Bittern, 3, "pumping"; Mallard, few (as well as released, clipped, drakes in rafts on river); Black Duck, well over 100 at ponds; Baldpate, five males, in with the Blacks; Red-breasted Merganser, about 10 pairs on river.

Red-shouldered Hawk, one heard; Osprey, three or more; Ring-necked Pheasant, one male and four hens close, others heard; Coot, two on Crescent Lake; Killdeer, one heard; Herring Gull, 30 or more; Ring-billed Gull, three.

Mourning Dove; Kingfisher, 2; Flicker, common; Downy Woodpecker; Phoebe, few; Tree Swallow, fairly common; Blue Jay; Crow, few; Chickadee, 2; House Wren, one heard; Robin; Bluebird, 6; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, one flock; American Pipit, one flock of 100 or more; Starling; Myrtle Warbler, two singing males; English Sparrow; Meadowlark; few; Red-wing; Rusty Blackbird, one; Bronzed Grackle; Cowbird; Purple Finch; Goldfinch, flock of 10; Towhee, one heard; Savannah Sparrow, common in song; Henslow's Sparrow, one colony in song; Vesper Sparrow, song common; Chipping Sparrow, three or more; Field Sparrow, heard commonly; White-throated Sparrow, one flock; Swamp Sparrow, heard frequently; and Song Sparrow.

RECENT S B C RECORDS

An immature Whistling Swan, showing some gray on the neck, was April's outstanding record. It was not a here-today-and-gone-tomorrow individual; the bird was variously recorded on the Niskayuna wide waters and Vischer Ponds from April 7 to 20.

- Common Loon One, Sar.Lk, Apr.4 (x); Sar.Lk.;Apr.18 (MWF)  
Holboell's Grebe Two, Sar.Lk, Apr.4 (x); Sar.Lk, Apr.18 (MWF)  
Pied-billed Grebe One, Vischers, Apr.7 (RS)  
Ducks 600 or more, divers only, Sar.Lk, Apr.6 (x); about 500, mostly dabblers, Vischers Ponds during April.  
Whistling Swan One immat, Apr.7 (RS) to 20 (JJA); see p. 41  
Canada Goose Two, Sar.Lk, Apr.4 (x), one of them dead.  
Mallard Correct March record (p.31) to indicate released drakes, of which 300 or more were put on Crescent Lake area by N. Y. State Conservation Dept.  
Black Duck Abundant, Vischers, Apr.7 (RS)

- Baldpate Few Apr.7, Vischers (RS)  
Pintail Vischers, Apr.7 (RS)  
Green-winged Teal Vischers, Apr.7 (RS)  
Blue-winged Teal Vischers, Apr.7 (RS)  
Ring-necked Duck 45, Vischers, Apr.7 (RS); Sar.Lk, Apr.18 (MWF)  
Lesser Scaup Duck 100, Sar.Lk, Apr.4 (x); 100, Sar.Lk, Apr.18 (MWF)  
American Golden-eye 300, Sar.Lk, Apr.4 (x)  
Buffle-head Pair, Normanskill, Mar.19 (MBS)  
American Merganser 100, Sar.Lk, Apr.4 (x)  
Red-breasted Merganser 15, Sar.Lk, Apr.4 (x); Sar.Lk, Apr.18 (MWF)  
Sharp-shinned Hawk Feb.1 & 6, Mar.6, Loudonville (MWF); Apr.7 (RS)  
Red-tailed Hawk Saratoga Lake, April 4 (x)  
Rough-legged Hawk Sar.Lk, Apr.4 (x); Apr. 20 (JJA)  
Marsh Hawk Sar.Lk, Apr.4 (x)  
Coot Comment by RS on his March record (p.32) -- "The March 20-26 Coot gone in early April, and no other recorded; the March one apparently a 'straggler'"  
Woodcock Heard, Guild.Ctr, Apr.18 (NVV); urban, Apr.23 (NVV)  
Kingfisher Arrived April 8 (MWF)  
Tree Swallow Apr.7 (RS); Apr.8 (MWF); partial albino at Wattervliet Reservoir April 23 (MBS)  
Rough-winged Swallow April 20 at GE (RS)  
Brown Creeper Two, Sar.Lk, Apr.4 (x)  
House Wren Three Apr.23 (RS); Apr.24 (GB, MWF)  
Winter Wren Vale Cem. to Mar. 30 (BSH)  
Brown Thrasher Central Pk, Apr.23 (DS); Wtvlt.Rsvr, Apr.23 (MBS)  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet Vale Cem, Apr.3 (BSH)  
Pipit One, Vischers, Apr.7 (RS)  
Migrant Shrike One April 7 (RS)  
Myrtle Warbler Vale Cem, Apr.20 (BSH, NVV); Apr. 20 (RS)  
Yellow Palm Warbler Vischers, Apr.23 (RS)  
Louisiana Water-thrush Tippecanoe, Apr.24 (RS)  
Rusty Blackbird Large flock, Sar.Lk, Apr.4 (x); Apr.18 (MWF)  
Bronzed Grackle Arrived March 17 (MWF)  
Cardinal One female with English Sparrows, Van Antwerp Rd. Apr.5 (Quentin)  
Purple Finch More common than usual  
Red-eyed Towhee Central Pk, Apr.19 (RS); Cent.Pk, Apr.23 (DS)  
Savannah Sparrow Vischers, Apr.7 (RS)  
Vesper Sparrow Vischers, Apr.7 (RS)  
Chipping Sparrow Apr.20 (RS); Apr.22 (GB); Apr.24 (MWF)  
Field Sparrow Vale Cem, Apr.7 (NVV); Vischers, Apr.7 (RS)  
White-throated Sparrow Vale Cem, Apr.16 (NVV); flock, in song, Scotia, Apr. 20 (GHB); Apr. 22 (MWF)

KEY: JJAnderson, GBartlett, GHBainbridge, MWFrench, BSHavens, DSawyer, MBScotland, RStone, NVVorst  
 (x)-- GB, GHB, MBS, NVV, Esly Hallenbeck, Alice Holmes

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## EGRET ONE OF 146 ON BIG DAY

Margaret A. Smith, Field Activities Chairman

Morning rattled her curtains, woke the Song Sparrow, who sang his happy song long before the slivers of light came up from the east. Or maybe it was the two pairs of headlights and the conversation of the octet of Early Birders who were really seeking the Whip-poor-will. But at any rate, the Song Sparrow awoke at 4:22 a.m. DST on the morning of Saturday, May 15, sang despite the light rain, and thereby became Entry No. 1 on the day's complete list of 146 species or varieties on the Century Run.

The Song Sparrow, incidentally, was one of only three kinds seen or heard by all the 14 groups of observers who were out that day; the Robin and Goldfinch were the other two. A dozen more were seen by nearly all the 55 observers: Flicker, Phoebe, House Wren, Catbird, Wood Thrush, Yellow Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Redstart, English Sparrow, Baltimore Oriole, Bronzed Grackle, and Chipping Sparrow. The Crow was found by only 10 of the 14 groups.

### Several Features for the Day

What were the day's highlights? There was the American Egret, one of which was found independently by Groups 1 and 11 at Meadowdale Swamp -- by past experience it should not have been here until July.

There was the Hooded Warbler, independently found by Donald Tucker and Mrs. H. G. Kelley in the same Scotia area. And there were the exceptionally large numbers of Cape May and Wilson's Warblers. Warblers did much to augment the day's list -- 22 varieties this year, 13 in 1947. And there was the Connecticut Warbler, with one at Indian Ladder by Group 1, and one at her home in Amsterdam by Mrs. Gerald Fitzgerald, who later in the morning was such a delightful hostess to Groups 1 and 12 on a bird walk and bounteous breakfast-luncheon.

### The Weather No Help

The weather was no help -- but it certainly was an improvement of the 1947. The time afield started at 3:30 a.m. and lasted to 7 p.m. The temperature was from 45 to 65, ac-

# 1948 CENTURY RUN

## May 15

### 146 Kinds

Common Loon	Turkey Vulture		Western Sandpiper	Least Flycatcher	X	Migrant Shrike	American Redstart	X
Red-throated Loon	Orehawk	8	Sanderling	Wood Pewee	8	Starling	English Sparrow	X
Holboell's Grebe	Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	Herring Gull	Olive-sided Flycatcher	X	White-eyed Vireo	Bobolink	X
Horned Grebe	Cooper's Hawk	1	Ring-billed Gull	Northern Horned Lark	X	Yellow-throated Vireo	Meadowlark	X
Pied-billed Grebe	Red-tailed Hawk	1	Laughing Gull	Prairie Horned Lark	1	Blue-headed Vireo	Red-wing	X
Double-crested Cormorant	Red-shouldered Hawk	X	Bonaparte's Gull	Tree Swallow	X	Red-eyed Vireo	Orchard Oriole	X
Great Blue Heron	Broad-winged Hawk	X	Common Tern	Bank Swallow	X	Philadelphia Vireo	Baltimore Oriole	X
American Egret	Rough-legged Hawk	X	Least Tern	Rough-winged Swallow	X	Warbling Vireo	Rusty Blackbird	1
Little Blue Heron	Bald Eagle	X	Caspian Tern	Barn Swallow	X	Black and White Warbler	Bronzed Grackle	X
Green Heron	Marsh Hawk	X	Black Tern	Cliff Swallow	X	Lawrence's Warbler	Cowbird	X
Black-crowned Night Heron	Osprey	X	Brünnich's Murre	Purple Martin	X	Golden-winged Warbler	Scarlet Tanager	X
American Bittern	Duck Hawk	1	Mourning Dove	Canada Jay	X	Blue-winged Warbler	Cardinal	X
Least Bittern	Pigeon Hawk	X	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Blue Jay	X	Tennessee Warbler	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	X
Whistling Swan	Sparrow Hawk	X	Black-billed Cuckoo	Eastern Crow	X	Orange-crowned Warbler	Indigo Bunting	X
Canada Goose	Ruffed Grouse	X	Barn Owl	Fish Crow	X	Nashville Warbler	Eying Grosbeak	X
American Brant	European Partridge	X	Screech Owl	Black-capped Chickadee	X	Parula Warbler	Purple Finch	X
Greater Snow Goose	Bob-white	X	Great Horned Owl	Acadian Chickadee	X	Yellow Warbler	Pine Grosbeak	X
Mallard	Ring-necked Pheasant	X	Snowy Owl	White-breasted Nuthatch	X	Magnolia Warbler	Redpoll	X
Red-legged Black Duck	King Rail	1	Barred Owl	Red-breasted Nuthatch	5	Cape May Warbler	Pine Siskin	X
Common Black Duck	Virginia Rail	X	Long-eared Owl	Brown Creeper	X	Black-throated Blue Warbler	Eastern Goldfinch	X
Gadwall	Sora	X	Short-eared Owl	House Wren	X	Myrtle Warbler	Red Crossbill	X
Baldpate	Florida Gallinule	X	Saw-whet Owl	Winter Wren	5	Black-throated Green Warbler	White-winged Crossbill	X
Pintail	Coot	X	Whip-poor-will	Long-billed Marsh Wren	X	Cerulean Warbler	Red-eyed Towhee	X
Green-winged Teal	Semipalmated Plover	X	Nighthawk	Short-billed Marsh Wren	11	Blackburnian Warbler	Savannah Sparrow	X
Blue-winged Teal	Killdeer	X	Chimney Swift	Mockingbird	X	Chestnut-sided Warbler	Grasshopper Sparrow	X
Shoveler	Golden Plover	X	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Catbird	X	Bay-breasted Warbler	Henlow's Sparrow	1
Wood Duck	Black-bellied Plover	X	Belted Kingfisher	Brown Thrasher	X	Black-poll Warbler	Vesper Sparrow	X
Redhead	Ruddy Turnstone	X	Flicker	Robin	X	Pine Warbler	Lark Sparrow	X
Ring-necked Duck	Woodcock	X	Pileated Woodpecker	Wood Thrush	X	Parula Warbler	Bluish-colored Junco	X
Canvas-back	Wilson's Snipe	X	Red-headed Woodpecker	Hermit Thrush	X	Western Palm Warbler	Tree Sparrow	X
Greater Scaup Duck	Upland Plover	1	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Olive-backed Thrush	X	Yellow Palm Warbler	Chipping Sparrow	X
Lesser Scaup Duck	Spotted Sandpiper	8	Hairy Woodpecker	Gray-cheeked Thrush	6	Oven-bird	Field Sparrow	X
American Golden-eye	Solitary Sandpiper	1	Downy Woodpecker	Bicknell's Thrush	X	Northern Water-thrush	White-crowned Sparrow	X
Barrow's Golden-eye	Greater Yellow-legs	X	Arctic 3-toed Woodpecker	Veery	X	Louisiana Water-thrush	White-throated Sparrow	X
Buffle-head	Lesser Yellow-legs	X	American 3-toed Woodpecker	Bluebird	X	Connecticut Warbler	Fox Sparrow	X
Old-squaw	Knot	X	Kingbird	Golden-crowned Kinglet	7	Mourning Warbler	Lincoln's Sparrow	X
King Eider	Purple Sandpiper	X	Crested Flycatcher	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	X	Northern Yellow-throat	Swamp Sparrow	X
White-winged Scoter	Pectoral Sandpiper	X	Phoebe	American Pipit	1	Yellow-breasted Chat	Song Sparrow	X
Surf Scoter	White-rumped Sandpiper	8	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Bohemian Waxwing	X	Hooded Warbler	Lepid Longspur	X
American Scoter	Lesser Sandpiper	8	Acadian Flycatcher	Alder Flycatcher	6	Wilson's Warbler	Snow Bunting	X
Ruddy Duck	Red-backed Sandpiper	X				Canada Warbler		X
Hooded Merganser	Dowitcher	7						
American Merganser	Stilt Sandpiper	8						
Red-breasted Merganser	Semipalmated Sandpiper	7						

NOTES:

X - Recorded by two or more groups

Numbers refer to parties, pages 47 and 49

ording to time and location. There was but little wind. It rained until 6:30 a.m., and intermittently after that. Sunshine was only occasional. The rain was a continuation of a long rainy session that apparently grounded many of the migrants.

### Ten-county Region

"Eastern New York" which has been taken as the home territory of S B C has been arbitrarily defined as 10 counties: Schenectady-Albany-Saratoga as the home grounds; and seven of the counties in their outer circle, including in rotation Washington, Rensselaer, Columbia, Greene, Schoharie, Montgomery, and Fulton. The day's observations extended from Jenny Lake at the north to five miles below Catskill, and included all the usual in-close areas except Saratoga Lake and Saratoga Springs. Had the territory been larger, to include Essex County, the list of P. Schuyler Miller and Werner Bachli would have added the Pine Siskin, Red and White-winged Crossbills.

High individual count for the day was 114 species, by Group 1. And they missed the White-breasted Nuthatch and Nighthawk. They had 55 species before 7 a.m., 75 by 8 a.m., and listed No. 100 about 1 p.m. in Central Park.

The day's 146 species and subspecies is the highest of all the six local Century lists. This year's count had 17 species not shown on previous counts. The grand total for all six counts is 177 species, with 67 kinds found all years, 15 in five of the six times, and 38 species recorded once only.

### Participants

Party 1 - G. Malcom Andrews, Guy Bartlett, Esly Hallenbeck, Alice Holmes, Chester N. Moore, Dr. Minnie B. Scotland, Nelle G. Van Vorst, Jack Voght. 3:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Vly Road, Crescent Lake, Mohawk View, Sparrow Bush Road, Vischer Ferry Ponds, Rosa Road, Central Park, Karners, Indian Ladder, Meadowdale Swamp, River Road. 114 species.

Party 2 - Donald Tucker, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunnyside Road, Collins Lake, Riverside Avenue. 43 species.

Party 3 - Gladys Zimmer and daughter. 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Gallupville and Schoharie. 25 species.

Party 4 - Laura and Francis Beck. Miles Standish Road. 21 species.

Party 5 - Barrington S. Havens. Jenny Lake. 47 species.

Party 6 - Mabel W. French. 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. Loudonville. 63 species.

Common Loon	2	Turkey Vulture	
Red-throated Loon		Goshawk	X
Hooded Merganser	1	Sharp-shinned Hawk	4
Horned Grebe	2	Cooper's Hawk	2
Pied-billed Grebe	2	Red-tailed Hawk	3
Double-crested Cormorant	2	Red-shouldered Hawk	6
Great Blue Heron	3	Broad-winged Hawk	2
American Egret	X	Rough-legged Hawk	
Little Blue Heron		Bald Eagle	X
Green Heron	6	Marsh Hawk	6
Black-crowned Night Heron	6	Osprey	3
American Bittern	6	Duck Hawk	4
Least Bittern	1	Pigeon Hawk	
Whistling Swan		Sparrow Hawk	6
Canada Goose	2	Ruffed Grouse	4
American Brant		European Partridge	1
Greater Snow Goose		Bob-white	
Mallard	3	Ring-necked Pheasant	6
Red-legged Black Duck		King Rail	3
Common Black Duck	6	Virginia Rail	3
Gadwall		Sora	
Baldpate		Florida Gallinule	6
Pintail	2	Coot	1
Green-winged Teal	1	Barn Swallow	6
Blue-winged Teal	1	Killdeer	6
Shoveller		Golden Plover	
Wood Duck	2	Black-bellied Plover	1
Redhead		Ruddy Turnstone	
Ring-necked Duck	1	Woodcock	4
Canvas-back		Wilson's Snipe	1
Greater Scaup Duck	1	Upland Plover	4
Lesser Scaup Duck	3	Spotted Sandpiper	6
American Golden-eye	1	Solitary Sandpiper	5
Barrow's Golden-eye		Greater Yellow-legs	1
Buffle-head		Lesser Yellow-legs	1
Old-squaw	2	Knot	
King Eider		Purple Sandpiper	
White-winged Scoter		Pectoral Sandpiper	2
Surf Scoter		White-rumped Sandpiper	X
American Scoter	1	Lesser Sandpiper	2
Ruddy Duck	X	Red-backed Sandpiper	
Hooded Merganser	X	Dowitcher	
American Merganser	X	Stilt Sandpiper	
Red-breasted Merganser	2	Barn Swallow	

<b>SIX CENTURY RUNS</b>			
Western Sandpiper		Least Flycatcher	6
Sanderling		Wood Pewee	X
Herring Gull	6	Olive-sided Flycatcher	
Ring-billed Gull	3	Northern Horned Lark	
Laughing Gull		Prairie Horned Lark	4
Bonaparte's Gull	1	Tree Swallow	5
Common Tern	3	Bank Swallow	6
Least Tern		Rough-winged Swallow	5
Caspian Tern	1	Barn Swallow	6
Black Tern	2	Cliff Swallow	3
Brunnich's Murre		Purple Martin	
Mourning Dove	6	Canada Jay	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo		Blue Jay	6
Black-billed Cuckoo		Eastern Crow	6
Barn Owl		Fish Crow	
Screech Owl		Black-capped Chickadee	6
Great Horned Owl		Acadian Chickadee	
Snowy Owl		White-breasted Nuthatch	6
Barred Owl	3	Red-breasted Nuthatch	5
Long-eared Owl		Brown Creeper	2
Short-eared Owl		House Wren	6
Saw-whet Owl		Winter Wren	3
Whip-poor-will	4	Loon-billed Marsh Wren	4
Nighthawk	2	Short-billed Marsh Wren	X
Chimney Swift	6	Mockingbird	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	4	Catbird	6
Belted Kingfisher	6	Brown Thrasher	6
Flicker	6	Robin	6
Pileated Woodpecker	4	Wood Thrush	6
Red-headed Woodpecker	1	Hermit Thrush	5
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	3	Olive-backed Thrush	5
Hairy Woodpecker	4	Gray-cheeked Thrush	2
Dowry Woodpecker	6	Bicknell's Thrush	5
Arctic 3-toed Woodpecker		Veery	6
American 3-toed Woodpecker		Bluebird	6
Kingbird	6	Golden-crowned Kinglet	X
Created Flycatcher	6	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	6
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	X	American Pipit	X
Acadian Flycatcher	2	Bohemian Waxwing	
Alder Flycatcher	3	Cedar Waxwing	3
		Northern Shrike	
		Migrant Shrike	6
		Starling	6
		White-eyed Vireo	
		Yellow-throated Vireo	6
		Blue-headed Vireo	6
		Red-eyed Vireo	5
		Philadelphia Vireo	
		Warbling Vireo	3
		Black and White Warbler	6
		Wood-casting Warbler	
		Golden-winged Warbler	2
		Blue-winged Warbler	X
		Tennessee Warbler	X
		Orange-crowned Warbler	
		Nashville Warbler	6
		Parula Warbler	6
		Yellow Warbler	6
		Magnolia Warbler	6
		Cape May Warbler	4
		Black-throated Blue Warbler	6
		Myrtle Warbler	6
		Black-throated Green Warbler	6
		Cerulean Warbler	
		Blackburnian Warbler	6
		Chestnut-sided Warbler	6
		Hay-breasted Warbler	4
		Black-poll Warbler	X
		Pine Warbler	5
		Prairie Warbler	2
		Western Palm Warbler	
		Yellow Palm Warbler	2
		Oven-bird	6
		Northern Water-thrush	5
		Connecticut Warbler	X
		Mourning Warbler	
		Northern Yellow-throat	6
		Yellow-breasted Chat	6
		Hooded Warbler	
		Wilson's Warbler	X
		Canada Warbler	3
		American Redstart	6
		English Sparrow	6
		Bobolink	6
		Meadowlark	6
		Red-wing	6
		Orchard Oriole	
		Baltimore Oriole	6
		Rusty Blackbird	2
		Bronzed Grackle	6
		Cowbird	6
		Scarlet Tanager	5
		Cardinal	
		Rose-breasted Grosbeak	6
		Indigo Bunting	2
		Evening Grosbeak	2
		Purple Finch	3
		Pine Grosbeak	
		Redpoll	
		Pine Siskin	1
		Eastern Goldfinch	6
		Red Crossbill	1
		White-winged Crossbill	
		Red-eyed Vireo	6
		Savannah Sparrow	6
		Grasshopper Sparrow	5
		Henslow's Sparrow	4
		Vesper Sparrow	6
		Lark Sparrow	
		Slate-colored Junco	5
		Tree Sparrow	2
		Chipping Sparrow	6
		Field Sparrow	6
		White-crowned Sparrow	4
		White-throated Sparrow	6
		Fox Sparrow	
		Lincoln's Sparrow	1
		Swamp Sparrow	6
		Song Sparrow	6
		Hooded Longspur	
		Snow Bunting	
		Gratecatcher	1
		Frothy-throated Warbler	1
		Lawrence's Warbler	X

NOTES:  Recorded 1948, 146 Kinds  
 1948 Only, 17 Kinds

Figures show number of years seen

Party 7 - J. J. Anderson and Fred Klemm.  
2 p.m. to 7 p.m. Round Lake. 69 species.

Party 8 - Ann and George Bainbridge,  
Henry Schmidt. 5:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. West Shore of Hudson River five miles below Catskill. 55 species.

Party 9 - Sam Madison and L. A. Wiard. 5:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Stops 30-31 of Albany Road, 6-mile Waterworks, Karners, Delmar. 73 species.

Party 10 - Mrs. H. G. Kelley and Girl Scouts. Sunnyside Road, Collins Lake. 30 species.

Party 11 - Pauline Baker, Mrs. Grace Cooley, Stephen Fordham, Byron Hipple, Mrs. Louise C. Stoner, Alice P. Schafer. 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. Washington Park (Albany), Water-vliet Reservoir, Meadowdale Swamp, 6-mile Waterworks, Delmar, Slingerlands. 85 species.

Party 12 - Viola Mabb, Alice Moore, Mrs. W. H. Norris, Frances Reeves, Beatrice Sullivan, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Wilson, Ethel Young; as well as Mrs. Gerald Fitzgerald and many of Sassafras Bird Club, Amsterdam. 8 a.m. to noon. Freeman's Bridge Road. 28 species.

Party 13 - Dr. W. C. Dunlap, Eugene Levitt. 6:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Central Park, Vischer Ferry. 51 species.

Party 14 - Kenneth Marx. Randolph Road. 20 species.

## S B C FIELD TRIP REPORTS

### ICE, HAWKS

### Beaverdam Road, May 1

There was a skim of ice on shallow ponds and a coating of frost and ice on roofs, fences and grass when 14 S B C members started their May 1 exploration of the territory in the vicinity of Margaret Smith's camp. The weather was partly cloudy; the temperature from 32 to 45 degrees; the wind at first zero, but strong from the west by noon. Soaring hawks were a feature. The list of 27 species, plus 7 in parentheses on the way to or from the trip:

Red-tailed Hawk; Rough-legged Hawk, 2; Marsh Hawk; (Osprey, 2); Duck Hawk; (Sparrow Hawk); (Killdeer); (Mourning Dove); Flicker; Phoebe; (Prairie Horned Lark); (Tree Swallow); (Barn Swallow); Blue Jay; Crow; Chickadee; Robin; Hermit Thrush, several, in song; Bluebird; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Starling; Black and White Warbler; Meadowlark; Cowbird; Purple Finch; Goldfinch; Towhee; Henslow's Sparrow, seen advantageously; Vesper, Chipping, Field, White-throated, and Song Sparrows; Slate-colored Junco.

BIRDS OUTNUMBEREDCentral Park, May 2

Observers outnumbered the species seen on the SBC Central Park trip of Sunday, May 2. The answer may have been tied in with the pancake breakfast which followed. At any rate, there were 45 observers, including a dozen Girl Scouts, out from 6:30 to 9 a.m. with Esly Hallenbeck as leader. The weather, clear; temperature, 32 to 50 degrees; wind, zero. The 28 species:

Flicker, Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, Phoebe, Blue Jay, Crow, Chickadee, House Wren, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Hermit Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Starling; Black and White, Nashville, and Myrtle Warblers; Red-wing, Rusty Blackbird, Grackle, Cowbird, Purple Finch, Goldfinch, Towhee; Chipping, Field, White-throated, and Song Sparrows.

SCENERY, AND BIRDSBig Nose, May 9

Seven SBC members with Helen Cole as leader joined with the Hiking Club for the annual Big Nose trip. The weather, building up to a rain that started by 3:30 p.m.; the wind, mild east; temperature, 50 degrees. The 20 species:

Ruffed Grouse, Kingfisher, Flicker, Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, Crow, Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Robin, Hermit Thrush; Black and White, Myrtle, and Black-throated Green Warblers; Louisiana Water-thrush; Red-wing, Baltimore Oriole, Goldfinch; Grasshopper, Field and Song Sparrows.

REALLY OUTNUMBEREDAfter Dark, May 11

Eight automobiles, 30 observers; only two species. But no more were sought when Barry Havens led the after-dark trip of May 11 along Balltown, Consaul and Vly Roads. They sought, and heard, the Whip-poor-will -- as well as a Woodcock just before leaving Union Street and Palmer Avenue.

There were other night songs -- of the various frogs and toads. There was a demonstration of how to cut down on the almost-painful high pitch notes by pressing down on the ear lobes, without blocking off the ear-drums. Conversation becomes surprisingly easy. There was a slight rain, a slight southeast wind, and the temperature 55.

LATE BREAKFASTFreeman's Bridge, May 15

Eight S B C members joined with even more Sassafras Bird Club members of Amsterdam to explore a new territory on the morning of the Century Run (page 45), and then had breakfast as guests of Mrs. Gerald Fitzgerald at the Pepsi-Cola plant. Their 28 species:

Killdeer, Mourning Dove, Hummingbird, Downy Woodpecker, Kingbird, Phoebe, Least Flycatcher, Tree Swallow, Blue Jay, Crow, House Wren, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Wood Thrush, Bluebird; Yellow, and Myrtle Warblers; Oven-bird, Yellow-throat, Meadowlark, Red-wing, Baltimore Oriole, Grackle, Goldfinch; Vesper, Field and Song Sparrows.

PLEASANT VALLEY SANCTUARY

Pittsfield, May 22

There were 50 species on the list of the several S B C members who spent Saturday, May 22, at the Pleasant Valley Sanctuary, outside Pittsfield, Mass. The list:

Great Blue Heron, Wood Duck; Red-tailed, Red-shouldered, and Broad-winged Hawks; Ruffed Grouse, Mourning Dove, Chimney Swift, Hummingbird, Flicker, Hairy Woodpecker, Kingbird, Phoebe, Least Flycatcher, Blue Jay, Crow, Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Robin; Wood, Hermit, and Olive-backed Thrushes; Veery, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Blue-headed Vireo; Golden-winged, Parula, Yellow, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Myrtle, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, and Canada Warblers; Ovenbird, Louisiana Water-thrush, Yellow-throat, Redstart, Redwing, Baltimore Oriole, Bronzed Grackle, Scarlet Tanager, Goldfinch, Slate-colored Junco; White-throated, Swamp and Song Sparrows.

PRAIRIES PLENTIFUL

Karners, May 30

Prairie Warblers were seen, and heard, commonly on the annual Memorial Day trip into the Karners sand barrens, led this year by Leon A. Wiard. There were 13 birders, the weather was cool and practically windless, there was an early-morning rain, and 53 kinds were noted. A couple Early Birders attained a list of 76 for their day, but they started at daybreak and covered additional territory. The Karner list:

Black Duck (flying over); Marsh Hawk, Killdeer, Black-billed Cuckoo, Hummingbird, Flicker (in nest); Downy Woodpecker, Kingbird, Crested Flycatcher, Phoebe, Least Flycatcher (constructing nest), Blue Jay, Crow, Chickadee, House Wren, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Wood Thrush, Veery, Bluebird, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo,

Black and White, Golden-winged, Nashville, Yellow, Pine, Chestnut-sided, Black-poll, Prairie, and Canada Warblers, Ovenbird, Northern Water-thrush, Redstart,

English Sparrow, Bobolink, Meadowlark, Redwing, Baltimore Oriole, Bronzed Grackle, Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Goldfinch, Towhee; Vesper, Chipping, Field and Song Sparrows.

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RECENT S B C RECORDS

May was a big month, naturally, and not enough space remains in this issue to tell the full story — the records will be mostly held for the next issue. Many of the dates of importance are shown in the Century Run and other trip reports, but there were plenty more.

There was an abundance of rain from the 10th to 20th, and it seemed to ground enormous flocks of migrants in our local

territory. It can probably be said that White-crowned Sparrows were never before so common here in the spring. They were everywhere, throughout city and country, in large, singing flocks. Cape May and Wilson's Warblers similarly were unusual in their numbers -- and so were plenty of other species. Among the month's warbler records:

Black and White Warbler - May 1  
Worm-eating Warbler May 9, Ravena (RS)  
Golden-winged Warbler May 9 (RS)  
Lawrence's Warbler May 15  
Blue-winged Warbler May 15  
Tennessee Warbler May 10 (RS)  
Nashville Warbler May 2  
Parula Warbler May 10  
Yellow Warbler May 5 (RS)  
Magnolia Warbler May 10  
Cape May Warbler May 10 (CNM)  
Black-throated Blue Warbler May 9 (RS)  
Black-throated Green Warbler May 5 (RS)  
Blackburnian Warbler May 9 (RS)  
Chestnut-sided Warbler May 15  
Bay-breasted Warbler May 15  
Black-poll Warbler May 15  
Pine Warbler May 15  
Prairie Warbler May 15  
Oven-bird May 9 (RS)  
Northern Water-thrush May 10  
Connecticut Warbler May 15  
Yellow-throat May 10  
Yellow-breasted Chat May 10 (RS)  
Hooded Warbler May 15  
Wilson's Warbler May 10 (RS)  
Canada Warbler May 15  
Redstart May 10

The Myrtle Warbler, Yellow Palm Warbler, and Louisiana Water-thrush were first recorded in April.

KEY: CNMoore, RSStone; other dates from SBC trips, except May 10, when numerous individual records checked.

Still other arrival dates for May included:

Sora May 5 (RS)  
Florida Gallinule April 30 (MBSScotland)  
Wilson's Snipe May 10 (RS)  
Spotted Sandpiper May 5 (RS)  
Solitary Sandpiper May 4 (RS)  
Greater Yellow-legs April 30 (MBS)  
Lesser Yellow-legs May 5 (RS)  
Chimney Swift May 2 (GBartlett)  
Hummingbird May 11 (AHolmes)  
Crested Flycatcher May 10

## BIRDS AND CHERRIES

Ann and George Bainbridge

About twenty years ago we planted on our lot back of the house several fruit trees of the so-called dwarf type. Among these, and nearest to the house, are two cherry trees, one sweet and one sour. While we were then aware that Robins like cherries, we had yet to learn that, like pancakes and sausages, birds and ripening cherries are not to be considered separately. Thus through the years we have had Robins, Catbirds, Orioles, Grackles, Starlings, Cedar Waxwings, Yellow-throated Vireos, and probably other species, not caught in the act, reducing our cherry desserts very materially. Maybe this is a figment of our imagination, but every year when the first arriving robins fly into the sweet cherry tree and seemingly examine it carefully, we wonder whether or not they are estimating the number of fruit buds, to determine the prospects for good desserts later.

Now we don't begrudge the birds a few cherries, but they are extravagant rascals. If they would stick to a cherry until it was cleanly eaten from the pit, there would be plenty for both the birds and us. But no! They have a sampling habit. Thus, while cherries are plentiful on the trees, it seems that they never take more than one bite out of a cherry. This spoils a lot of cherries. This, and the fact that they never wait for the cherries to ripen, really annoys us. Only after the crop has been gathered, leaving injured fruit on the tree, will the birds deign to take a second bite from the same cherry.

### Penitent Prisoners

For several years our trees really were dwarf size. During this period it was easy to save our fruit by the simple expedient of covering the trees with mosquito bar or fly netting. Even then we had some trouble because, as the trees grew, it became difficult to keep the laps in the netting closed tightly enough to prevent the birds getting in. And get in they did! When this happened, it was a real chore to get them out. We have distinct recollections of a Catbird and Yellow-throated Vireo who seemed to have a very penitent look, as much as to say, "Mister, let us out and we'll never do it again." But they had short memories.

Well, the trees seemed to forget that they were supposed to be dwarfs, and soon became too large to cover with netting. Also, during the war netting was not to be had. So

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 Guy Bartlett, Editor  
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the problem became to find some other means for keeping the birds away from the cherries while they were ripening. Now we've heard it said that birds are not good at distinguishing color. We don't believe it, because the minute a cherry develops even a pinkish spot there is a bird after that spot. Also on canoe trips in Canada, when the distaff side of the house wore a red scarf to keep her looks from getting too wind-blown, she was repeatedly dive-bombed by Hummingbirds which zoomed upwardly as soon as they discovered their mistake.

Back in 1905 on a farm in the lower Hudson River valley, the male side of the house experimented with Roman candles and firecrackers to keep Robins out of cherry trees. The results were nil. So we decided to forget this method, particularly since no fireworks could be purchased. Nevertheless it was decided to try devices which would create surprise noises of audible frequencies. Thus on several occasions we placed the loudspeaker unit of our phonograph equipment in an open window near the cherry trees and played the Barred Owl portion of one of our bird records. This scared the birds, but only temporarily. Moreover, it was a nuisance to operate. An automobile horn proved ineffective. A motor-driven rattler was then contrived somewhat along the lines of our youthful Hallowe'en days. This was most effective, especially on intermittent operation. But all audible-frequency noise devices had to be abandoned; otherwise we are certain our neighbors would have just cause for complaint, especially one next door who works nights.

### Unheard Noises

Well, we then tried noise devices generating inaudible or high frequencies, on the strength of an article telling how a Pigeon annoyer was developed to drive the Pigeons away from the Minneapolis Court House. The frequency used there was 17,000 cycles per second. The electronic oscillator which our sons built did not prove effective, however, as far as the birds were concerned. The reason seems to be the low impedance factor of the air, as we discovered upon looking up the construction of the device used at Minneapolis. That device proved to be a miniature power house in its output. In connection with the high-frequency angle, we also tried a Galton whistle. This is an air-pressure device. The audible hiss of the escaping air seems to be more alarming to the birds than any high-frequency note it emitted. Another device we tried is a dog whistle. This was adjustable as to frequency of output and was effective to some extent, but only when the adjustment was varied to produce an audible note of varying pitch. But the power required, as with the Galton whistle, is out of all proportion to the noise produced. Apart from the noise devices, we also tried many different visible alarm devices. Among these was a bird, devised by our distaff member from a netting bag such

as onions are packed in. This was stuffed with old stockings, and the body portion penetrated with the wing feathers of a white turkey. The head was provided fore and aft with shiny metallic buttons for eyes. No ornithologist would try to name this bird. Suffice to say, its effectiveness was short-lived.

### And Still More Tries

Streamers, shiny articles, and the like are of little if any value. Somewhere we read that an imitation snake set up in the tree would scare birds. So we constructed a "snake" out of old hose for the body, and for the head a piece of red rubber inner-tube decorated by the artistic member of the family. Even our esteemed reptile specialist, Ditmars, would have marveled as to what species of snake this could be by any manner of means be intended to represent. Anyway, to all intents and purposes it was ineffective.

It finally remained for our distaff member to produce the most effective bird boogie. This was a raccoon-skin neck-piece having glittery eyes and suitably mounted on a stick. This was tied in the tree so as to project above the top. When the Grackles came in for their dessert they literally screamed all kinds of bird epithets, but they left the cherries alone. So did the other birds. Result, we had enough cherries to make up for previous years in which the birds got the lion's share.

One suggestion we had but never tried was to operate, intermittently and automatically, a water jet under reasonably high pressure. It seemed to us that the cost of the experiment was unwarranted since the birds would likely welcome a shower bath with their dessert. Incidentally, we were dubious about the effect of repeated showerings on the trees and their fruit.

In spite of the foregoing and some facts recited in a recently published article entitled "I Hate Birds," we still like birds, even though they have claimed many of our cherry desserts. We wonder whether the authoress, Ann Atkinson, ever heard, high in the mountains, the challenging song of the undaunted White-throated Sparrow when weather conditions were so bad as to defy description -- or ever watched Starlings and Grackles extracting from lawns the grubs of harmful insects such, for example, as the Japanese beetle.

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### S B C CALENDAR

July 25, Sunday - Niskayuna and Mohawk View; Dorothy Sawyer.  
Meet at Palmer Avenue and Union Street, 7:30 a. m.

August 22, Sunday - Watervliet Reservoir; Margaret Smith.  
Meet at Bridge, Routes 20 and 158, at 8 a.m.

## OUR FRIEND

Fred Neufeld, Franklin School

Under the eaves of Franklin School is a nest. It cannot be seen from the ground and that is probably why it was put there. Every year it is occupied by a family of Sparrow Hawks.

"What is a Sparrow Hawk?", you may ask. Well, it is a small hawk, rusty red, brown, and slaty blue above, with yellowish white feathers below. It is the smallest of the Hawk family and feeds on Sparrows and other small birds, insects, and animals.

This year the mother was especially happy when her children were born. Small, blind, and without the ability to fly, they were her children, and I suppose she thought they were beautiful. Of course, we couldn't see them in the nest; it was too high.

Then one day it happened. I guess she still hates the day when she came home to her nest and found one of her babies gone! The little bird had gone too near the edge of the nest and fallen to the ground. A group of school children took it to the principal of our school. Under Miss Bateman's guidance it was shown to the children in several rooms.

All had a chance to see its hooked bill and sharp claws adapted for catching and eating its food. They also enjoyed hearing the story of Hawks and the help they are to man. This surprised many of us as we had thought they were enemies. When the young Sparrow Hawk came to our room it gave us a concert of squeaks and frightened calls.

The bird was soon set on the ground outside our window and it hopped around in a manner very amusing to us. The mother appeared and flew round and round and I imagine taught the baby to fly that day.

Since then we haven't seen much of the Sparrow Hawks but hope that they use our school for shelter and accept our friendship another year.

## NUTHATCH DISTRIBUTION

Barrington S. Havens

Evidently the distribution of our two Nuthatches is not entirely a matter of latitude or altitude. Our normal resident Nuthatch in this section is the White-breasted, and we have always considered the Red-breasted Nuthatch a more northern species -- or one found at higher altitudes. This conclusion seems borne out by observations at Jenny Lake, in

the foothills of the Adirondacks, at an altitude of a little over 1100 feet. There the common resident species is the Red-breasted, and the White-breasted is not found at all.

But recent observations seem to indicate that latitude or altitude is not the influencing factor -- at least in this case. A trip was made from Jenny Lake up the slopes of Nigger Hill, southward toward Black Pond and Lake Desolation. While still in the same general vicinity, but at a considerably higher altitude, a section of woods was found where the indigenous species seemed to be the White-breasted, to the exclusion of the Red-breasted.

This was in a deciduous forest, whereas the woods around Jenny Lake proper are predominantly evergreen in character, even in the areas of mixed growth. So the conclusion seems inescapable that the White-breasted Nuthatch is a bird of deciduous woods and the Red-breasted of evergreens or mixed growth predominantly evergreen, to some extent at least regardless of latitude or altitude.

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### RECENT S B C RECORDS

This year's May will be long and favorably remembered by many local birders. It has already been mentioned (p. 51) that the mid-month was cold and had continuing rain which seemed to hold the migrants grounded; and that White-crowned Sparrows were abundant, and Cape May and Wilson's Warblers outstandingly common. So were many other species.

Many observers, for instance, commented on the numbers of Scarlet Tanagers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and other species which, while present commonly, escape notice in the tree-tops. Other areas experienced the same conditions, and the New York Sun of May 28 featured an explanation by Charles Mohr, director of the Greenwich, Conn., Nature Center of the National Audubon Society.

#### Food Supply Low

The cold and rainy weather had so depleted the natural food supply of the birds, he pointed out, that the birds had dropped lower in the trees, and to the ground, in their hunt for food. The usual insects either had not yet emerged or had been killed by cold and rain -- it will be remembered that local orchardists were worried about lack of bees and other insects just when their fruit trees were in blossom.

"I do not need to comment on the well-known large numbers of Warblers present during much of May," wrote Mrs. Mabel W. French in turning in her records for the month. "I recorded

twenty-two species in Loudonville, of which the Northern Water-thrush and the Mourning Warbler were the only ones represented by only one bird apiece. Some species, notably the Nashville, Magnolia, Black-throated Green, Black-throated Blue, and Chestnut-sided, showed a conservative monthly count of 30 to 40 individuals. I was often led to wonder if the fact that individual birds appeared to linger for days at a time at a given spot did not enhance the effect of the real abundance."

"Monday, May 10, is a date which may be circled in red on the avian calendar. It was one of those days," was the report of Barrington S. Havens. "Nelle Van Vorst and I, meeting in Vale Cemetery on our way to work to see if any new arrivals had dropped in overnight, found that they had, indeed -- some hundreds of thousands of them, it seemed."

### Birds Everywhere

"Probably the most outstanding feature of this Wave of Waves was the abundance of White-crowned Sparrows. White-crowns were everywhere. Their songs greeted me almost the moment I left the house; they flew up from in front of me in flocks as I walked over the grass of St. John's Cemetery; their singing rose in a chorus of whistles and pipings in such disordered volume from all directions that I wondered if I could ever again forget the simple melody which is so characteristically their own. They were found on all the high lands, feeding in the grass. When one hit the ravines and thickets, they gave way to their cousins, the White-throated Sparrows, which were just about as abundant in their own zones.

"But the Big Wave was not confined to White-throats and White-crowns. Everything else had come in. Saturday and Sunday had been comparatively unproductive for those who had been chasing up and down the local highways and byways with binocular and telescope -- but the birds were here now. It was almost a case of 'name it and you can have it.'

"Take Warblers, for example. Previously we had logged but two on our morning trips through the cemetery: Myrtle and Black and White. On the morning of May 10, however, I counted over a dozen species, practically all of which were logged by ear (neither of us had binoculars, and there wasn't any time to spare except to make note of the more obvious species). All told, my own list totals 43 species picked up during about one hour; there is no question but what the list could have been considerably expanded with more time and a pair of binoculars."

From throughout our area came in reports of White-crowns on the 10th, and of the Warblers and other species in similar large numbers.

Another Gnatcatcher

Last year's Century Run featured a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher seen in Schenectady's Central Park. It became a bird new to the Central-Washington Park lists of many years' standing. Washington Park, Albany, was not long to be outdone, however. That bird is now on the Washington Park list, recorded by Mrs. French May 12.

"The bird was in a blossoming white thorn bush on a side hill near the Lake House," she reports. "I watched it for about 15 minutes as it flitted, carted, and hovered from tree to tree, much in Redstart fashion. The most noticeable feature about it, to my eye, was its extreme slimmness."

182 Kinds through May

On the numerous SBC field trips of May there were records of 149 species. They included the 146 species of the Century Run (page 46) plus the Broad-winged and Rough-legged Hawks, and Black-billed Cuckoo. The SBC field-trip list total for the year through May stands at 155 species. The count for all reports was 158 species in May, and the total for the year 182 kinds. The May additions:

American Egret - One at Meadowdale Swamp May 15

Ducks - Mallard, Black Duck, Blue-winged Teal, and Wood Duck all established as breeding summer residents

Canada Goose - Flock May 6 at Cohoes (MBSScotland); flock at Scotia May 15 (Mrs. EWSScott)

Duck Hawk - Recorded May 15

King Rail - "One was seen lurking among the reeds and calling in its resonant note at Vischers Ponds on May 9. Another was answering, from another part of the swamp."  
(MWFFrench)

Sora - May 5 (RStone)

Florida Gallinule - April 30 (MBS)

Wilson's Snipe - May 10 (RS)

Upland Plover - May 15

Spotted Sandpiper - May 5 (RS)

Solitary Sandpiper - May 4 (RS) to May 15

Greater Yellow-legs - April 30 (MBS)

Lesser Yellow-legs - May 5 (RS)

White-rumped Sandpiper - May 15

Least Sandpiper - May 15

Black Tern - May 15

Black-billed Cuckoo - May 30

Barred Owl - May 15

Whip-poor-will - May 11

Nighthawk - May 15

Chimney Swift - May 2 (GBBartlett)

Ruby-throated Hummingbird - May 11 (AHHolmes)

Kingbird - May 15

Crested Flycatcher - May 10

- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher - May 10. "A pair were observed May 19 in Washington Park, not far from where the Gnatcatcher was previously located" - MWF
- Acadian Flycatcher - May 15
- Alder Flycatcher - May 15
- Least Flycatcher - May 10
- Wood Pewee - May 15
- Bank Swallow - May 5 (RS)
- Barn Swallow - May 1
- Cliff Swallow - May 10 (RS)
- Long-billed Marsh Wren - May 10 (RS)
- Short-billed Marsh Wren - May 15
- Catbird - May 10
- Wood Thrush - May 5 (RS)
- Olive-backed Thrush - May 10 (RS)
- Gray-cheeked Thrush - May 15 to May 30 (Mrs. WHNorris)
- Veery - May 10
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher - May 12, Washington Park (MWF)
- Golden-crowned Kinglet - Must be shown as a decidedly uncommon migrant this spring.
- Cedar Waxwing - Previously recorded in small numbers; common in flocks May 29 through June 14.
- Yellow-throated Vireo - May 9 (RS)
- Blue-headed Vireo - May 9 (RS). Less common migrant this spring than usual
- Red-eyed Vireo - May 12 (RS)
- Warbling Vireo - May 4 (RS)
- Warblers - Arrival dates for the Warblers have already been summarized (p. 52). Additional records are:
- Cape May Warbler - "These Warblers were more common than I have ever known them in any migration before. Besides those seen elsewhere, from one to three were present in our yard from May 10 to 24. On May 20 a female discovered the suet on the suet tree and ate as though she had never tasted anything so good before. She continued to eat there frequently every day through the 24th" - MWF
- Mourning Warbler - May 27 (MWF)
- Bobolink - May 9 (RS)
- Baltimore Oriole - May 5 (GHBainbridge)
- Scarlet Tanager - May 10
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak - May 10
- Indigo Bunting - May 10 (RS)
- Grasshopper Sparrow - May 9
- White-crowned Sparrow - Arrived abundantly May 10; here through May 17. "From May 10 until May 17 from one to six males ate crumbs and chick feed at our back door. White-crowns have eaten at that same spot in the driveway every May since the winter of 1945, when we fed a wintering one for over two months. I do not recall them doing so before. Could there be any connection?" - MWF
- Lincoln's Sparrow - "On May 10 I heard a Lincoln Sparrow sing for the first time. The song is a soft, sweet, low warble" - MWF. One feeding on his lawn, May 13 and 14 (RS)

## 1947 IN REVIEW

Mildred D. Crary, Records Committee

The Greater Snow Goose, Great Black-backed Gull, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Prothonotary Warbler, and the Hoary and Greater Redpolls were among the most unexpected of SBC records during 1947. But there were plenty more worthy of special comment -- "out-of-season" winter records, unusually early arrivals or late departures, and exceptional abundance or scarcity of normally common species.

Among winter records, for example, were those during the 1946-1947 season of the Canada Goose, Baldpate, Pintail, Greater and Lesser Scaup Ducks, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Robin (numerous), Hermit Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Bluebird (several), and Red-wing. That winter also had very large numbers of Redpolls, Evening Grosbeaks, and other typical northern finches and sparrows. The 1947-1948 winter had its Common Loon, Old-squaw, Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks, Ring-billed and Great Black-backed Gulls, Mourning Dove, Sapsucker, Robin (again numerous), Bluebird (several), Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Myrtle Warbler, and White-throated Sparrow. Most of these winterers had been seen in previous years, but there were some new ones. The 1947-1948 winter, incidentally, showed almost total absence of northern grosbeaks and finches, with even the Golden-crowned Kinglet and Black-capped Chickadee scarce.

On the local S B C trips of 1947 there were records of 171 kinds of birds; these have already been summarized by G. Malcolm Andrews (April FEATHERS, p. 25). Altogether the composite list of local observers had 199 varieties. In the following tabulation the items not otherwise credited are from the SBC trips or, in a few cases, were widely reported by different observers.

In the list the particularly interesting items, and dates beyond those in the S B C record books have been underlined. The abbreviations are:

C - Mildred D. Crary  
F - Mabel W. French  
H - Esly Hallenbeck  
S - Dr. Minnie B. Scotland  
V - Nelle G. Van Vorst  
W - Dr. Franklin H. West

ab - abundant  
com - common  
res - permanent resident  
sr - summer resident  
tv - transient visitor  
unc - uncommon  
wv - winter visitor

1947 - 199 Kinds

- Common Loon: Tv, Apr.13 to May 10, Nov.9 to 16; one, Hudson River December 28
- Holboell's Grebe: Tv Apr.13 to May 10, Nov. 9
- Horned Grebe: Tv, Apr.13 to May 10, Nov.9 to 16(S)
- Pied-billed Grebe: Sr, Apr.13 to Sept.14
- Double-crested Cormorant: Sept. 7, Kingston trip
- Great Blue Heron: Few sr, arrived Mar.30; common autumn tv, July 20 to Nov.15(W)
- American Egret: Usual numbers and localities, July 20 to Sept.7
- Green Heron: Sr, Apr.13 to Sept.7
- Black-crowned Night Heron: Sr, Apr.27 to Sept.27
- American Bittern: Sr, Apr.27 to Sept.27
- Canada Goose: Tv, Mar.30(V) to May 10; several hundred in flight Jan.19; 36 flying north Jan.24
- Greater Snow Goose: Flock of 19, Apr.9, independently recorded grounded at Delmar Game Farm and later that morning in flight by Mrs. W. E. Blowney; flock of three in flight over Schenectady Apr.18(V)
- Mallard: Sr; wv (about 300 each winter on Hudson); com. tv.
- Black Duck: Fc sr; com wv; ab tv
- Baldpate: Wv 1946-47, Cohoes; tv Apr.13 and Nov.16(V)
- Pintail: Wv 1946-47, Cohoes; tv to May 10
- Green-winged Teal: Tv to May 10
- Blue-winged Teal: Tv Apr.27 to May 10, Sep.1(V) to Sep.7; local sr
- Wood Duck: Sr, Apr.13 to Sep.27; sev. breeding records
- Redhead: Tv April 13
- Ring-necked Duck: Common tv, Apr.5 to May 10, Nov.9 to 16(S).
- Canvas-back: Tv Nov.9
- Greater Scaup Duck: Wv; to May 10, arrived Dec.7(V)
- Lesser Scaup Duck: Tv, Apr.5 to May 10; Nov.9. Wv Jan.19
- American Golden-eye: Wv, to May 10, arrived Nov.9
- Bufflehead: Com tv on Nov.16(S)
- Old-squaw: Tv Apr.13 to May 11(GBartlett), Dec.7(S)
- White-winged Scoter: Tv Nov.16(S) to Dec.7(V)
- Surf Scoter: Tv Dec.7 (S, V)
- Ruddy Duck: May 10; flock of 13, Sarat.Lake, Nov.9
- Hooded Merganser: Tv Apr.13, Nov.9 to Dec.7(V)
- American Merganser: Wv to Apr.13, arrived Nov.16(S)
- Red-breasted Merganser: Tv Mar.2(F) to Apr.30(W), Nov.9
- Turkey Vulture: Two, Indian Ladder, Sept.21
- Goshawk: Feb.7(F)
- Sharp-shinned Hawk: Sr; also Dec.21
- Cooper's Hawk: Sr, arrived Apr.12(W); also two Dec.21
- Red-tailed Hawk: Wv and local sr
- Red-shouldered Hawk: Sr, Mar.23 to Sep.23
- Broad-winged Hawk: Recorded Apr.27 and Sept.21
- Bald Eagle: Recorded Jan.19, Mar.30, and May 20
- Marsh Hawk: Sr, arrived Apr.27; wv Dec.21

Osprey: Tv Apr.13 to May 11, Aug.24 to Sept.21

Duck Hawk: One killed by automobile, Schenectady Airport, mid-July

Sparrow Hawk: Resident (or sr and wv)

Ruffed Grouse: Resident

Ring-necked Pheasant: Resident

King Rail: Recorded May 30 as sr

Virginia Rail: Sr; nest June 15(F)

Sora: Sr, recorded June 15(F)

Florida Gallinule: Sr, Apr.27 to Sept.27

Coot: Tv May 10 and Sept.6(C)

Semipalmated Plover: Tv Aug.24

Killdeer: Sr, Mar.16(W) to Oct.26

Woodcock: Sr, Apr.30(V) to July 30(W)

Wilson's Snipe: Tv May 10

Upland Plover - Sr, Apr.29 (A.G.Guy) as arrival

Spotted Sandpiper: Sr, Apr.20 to Sept.20(C)

Solitary Sandpiper: Tv May 16, and Aug.24 to Oct.12

Greater Yellow-legs: Tv May 17, and Oct.10 to 12

Lesser Yellow-legs: Tv May 10, and Aug.24 to Oct.12

Pectoral Sandpiper: Tv Aug.24 to Oct.12

Least Sandpiper: Tv Aug.24 to Oct.15(W)

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Tv Aug.24 to Sept.7(W)

Sanderling: Tv Aug.24 to Sept.1(V)

Great Black-backed Gull: Tv Mar.23(W) and Dec.20(W)

Herring Gull: Wv and tv; departed May 30; arrived Sept.7

Ring-billed Gull: Tv Mar.30(V) to Apr.5, Sep.27; and Dec.21

Common Tern: Tv May 10

Black Tern: Tv May 3(V) to May 10

Mourning Dove: Sr, arrived Mar.23; wv Dec.21

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Sr, recorded June 29(F) and July 18(C)

Black-billed Cuckoo: Sr, May 21 to August 3

Screech Owl: Resident

Great Horned Owl: Resident

Barred Owl: Resident

Saw-whet Owl: Ballston Lake, late Jan. (R.K.Lepper)

Whip-poor-will: Sr, Apr.30(V) to Aug.28(C)

Nighthawk: Sr, arrived May 4; large flocks in Sept. to 13th; one Oct. 5 to 7(F)

Chimney Swift: Sr, May 7(W) to Oct.5(F)

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Sr, May 10 to Sept.13(H)

Belted Kingfisher: Sr, arrived Apr.2; wv Dec.21

Flicker: Sr, Mar.23 to Oct.21(V)

Pileated Woodpecker: Resident

Red-headed Woodpecker: One only at feeder, May 24 through July (Cora T. Brockway)

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Tv Apr.1(C) to May 10; 1946-47 wv through season at feeder (Mrs.W.L.Butler), and 1947-48 wv at feeder (Mrs.L.S.Davenport)

Hairy Woodpecker: Resident

Downy Woodpecker: Resident

- Kingbird: Sr, May 2(W) to Sept.1(W)  
 Crested Flycatcher: Sr, arrived May 3(W)  
 Phoebe: Sr, Apr.4(W) to Oct.15(W)  
 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Tv May 10(V) to May 30  
 Acadian Flycatcher: Tv May 21(F) to May 30  
 Alder Flycatcher: Sr, arrived May 25  
 Least Flycatcher: Sr, May 3(W) to Aug.31(V)  
 Wood Pewee: Sr, May 25 to Sept.27  
 Tree Swallow: Sr Apr.18(V) to Sept.21  
 Bank Swallow: Sr Apr.27 to Sept.9  
 Rough-winged Swallow: Sr, arrived April 27  
 Barn Swallow: Sr Apr.25(V) to Sept.7  
 Cliff Swallow: Sr, arrived Apr.27  
 Purple Martin: Sr at Saratoga; four arrived Apr.15 (report to S), but then cold and rain eliminated them; more arrived weeks later.  
 Blue Jay: Resident  
 Crow: Resident  
 Black-capped Chickadee: Resident  
 White-breasted Nuthatch: Resident  
 Red-breasted Nuthatch: Res. in northern section; ww in southern section of "Eastern New York"  
 Brown Creeper: Wv to May 10, arrived Oct.8  
 House Wren: Sr May 1(C) to Sept.27  
 Winter Wren: Wv to May 11, arrived Oct.15(W)  
 Long-billed Marsh Wren: Sr to Sept.27  
 Short-billed Marsh Wren: Sr, recorded June 20  
 Catbird: Sr, May 3(W,F) to Oct.1(V)  
 Brown Thrasher: Sr, arrived Apr.30(V)  
 Robin: Arrived Mar.15(Cora T. Brockway); numerous as ww  
 Wood Thrush: Sr Apr.16(C) to Aug.30(C)  
 Hermit Thrush: Sr Apr.11(V) to Oct.13; at feeder Jan.4 (Ernest Geiser)  
 Olive-backed Thrush: Sr (June 11 at Indian Ladder), May 10 to Sept.23(F)  
 Gray-cheeked Thrush: Two ww to Apr.21(Mrs.W.E.Blowney); tv May 10  
 Veery: Sr, arrived May 8(C)  
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: One in Central Park May 10  
 Golden-crowned Kinglet: Wv to Apr.13; exceptionally scarce as 1947948 ww  
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Tv Apr.11(C) to May 17, and Sept.27; ww, Scotia Dec.20(H) and two in Central Park Dec.21 (Stephanie Podrazik)  
 American Pipit: Tv Sept.28(C) to Oct.12  
 Cedar Waxwing: Several 1946-47 ww, including Feb.13 (Mrs. Cora T. Brockway), Feb.15 at Cohoes, early tv flock Mar. 23, flock of 50 Apr.16 to late May (Mrs.Brockway); sr May 10 to Oct.25(F)  
 Northern Shrike: Wv Dec.21  
 Migrant Shrike: Recorded Nov.16(V)  
 Starling: Resident

- Yellow-throated Vireo: Sr May 4 to Sept.14(W)  
 Blue-headed Vireo: Local sr, Apr.25(W) to Sept.23  
 Red-eyed Vireo: Sr May 13(H) to Sept.14  
Philadelphia Vireo: Recorded May 17(F)  
 Warbling Vireo: Sr May 12(F) to Sept.7  
 Black and White Warbler: Sr Apr.30(C,F) to Sept.20(H)  
Prothonotary Warbler: May 10 (Mrs.George C. Bainbridge)  
 Golden-winged Warbler: Sr, arrived May 18(W)  
 Tennessee Warbler: Tv May 21(F) to May 28(W)  
 Nashville Warbler: Sr May 2(C) to Aug.24  
 Parula Warbler: Tv May 4 to May 23, and Sept. 26  
 Yellow Warbler: Sr May 2(W) to Aug.24  
 Magnolia Warbler: Tv May 3(W) to May 30(V), and Oct.3  
 Cape May Warbler: Tv May 12(V) to May 23(V)  
 Black-throated Blue Warbler: Tv May 4 to 19, Oct.1(F); lo-  
 cal sr  
 Myrtle Warbler: Tv Apr.24(W) to May 23, and Sept.14(F) to  
 Nov.4(W,F); few sr; at feeder Dec.21 (Mrs.W.E.Blowney)  
 Black-throated Green Warbler: Sr May 2(V) to Sept.26  
 Blackburnian Warbler: Few sr, arrived May 3(V,W)  
 Chestnut-sided Warbler: Sr May 2 to Sept.1  
 Bay-breasted Warbler: Six tv May 21(F)  
 Pine Warbler: Sr, arrived Apr.26  
 Prairie Warbler: Sr, arrived May 23(HVDAllen)  
 Western Palm Warbler: Tv Apr.24(W) to May 10(W)  
 Yellow Palm Warbler: Tv Apr.27 to May 10  
 Oven-bird: Sr, arrived Apr.27  
 Northern Water-thrush: Sr, arrived May 3(W)  
 Louisiana Water-thrush: Sr, arrived May 10  
 Northern Yellow-throat: Sr May 7(W) to Sept.27  
 Yellow-breasted Chat: Sr, arrived May 10  
 Wilson's Warbler: Tv May 13(F) to May 21(F)  
 Canada Warbler: Sr, arrived May 17(C)  
 American Redstart: Sr May 10 to Sept.14(W)  
 English Sparrow: Resident  
 Bobolink: Sr May 10 to Aug.24  
 Meadowlark: Sr Mar.23 to Oct.12  
 Red-wing: Sr, arrived Mar.15(V,W); wv Feb.7 (Cora T. Brook-  
 way) and Dec.21  
 Orchard Oriole: Local sr, June 9(W) to Aug.24(W)  
 Baltimore Oriole: Sr May 2(C) to Sept.1(W)  
 Rusty Blackbird: Tv Apr.4(W) to May 10, and Sept.27  
 Bronzed Grackle: Sr Mar.5 to Oct.29(H)  
 Cowbird: Sr Mar.23 to Sept.1(V)  
 Scarlet Tanager: Sr May 4 to Sept.16(W)  
 Cardinal: Female at Amsterdam to Mar.21  
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Sr May 4 to Sept.16(W)  
 Indigo Bunting: Sr May 20(W) to Aug.13(V)  
 Evening Grosbeak: Common wv, to May 23 at Troy; missing in  
 1947-48 winter  
 Purple Finch: Sr Apr.5 to Oct.27; wv Mar.4 (Mrs.Laura Beck)  
 and Dec.21  
Hoary Redpoll: Recorded March 9 (S,V)

Common Redpoll: Abundant wv to Apr.4; scarce 1947-48 wv, arrived Nov.23  
 Greater Redpoll: Recorded March 9(S,V)  
 Pine Siskin: Tv May 13(W) to May 17(F); no wv either season  
 Goldfinch: Sr, and wv  
 Red Crossbill: Seven Feb.28(S), Mar.1(S)  
 Red-eyed Towhee: Sr Apr.22(V) to Sept.27  
 Savannah Sparrow: Sr Apr.12(W) to Sept.27  
 Grasshopper Sparrow: Sr May 4(W) to Aug.1(V)  
 Henslow's Sparrow: Sr Apr.30(V) to Aug.5(V)  
 Vesper Sparrow: Sr Apr.13 to Oct.12  
 Slate-colored Junco: Wv, local sr; tv to May 10, ar.Oct.12  
 Tree Sparrow: Wv to May 10, arrived Sept.12  
 Chipping Sparrow: Sr Apr.24(V) to Oct.26(V)  
 Field Sparrow: Sr Apr.12(V) to Sept.27  
 White-crowned Sparrow: Tv May 2(C) to May 19(W), and Sept. 27 to Oct.10(W)  
 White-throated Sparrow: Local sr; tv Apr.10(C) to May 10, and Sept.27 to Oct.15; one Dec.24 (R.Stone)  
 Fox Sparrow: Tv Apr.1(V) to Apr.22  
 Lincoln's Sparrow: Tv May 13 (C,W) and May 14(F)  
 Swamp Sparrow: Sr Apr.13 to Oct.12  
 Song Sparrow: Sr, arrived Mar.23; numerous wv  
 Snow Bunting: Common 1946-47 wv, flock of 1,000 Scotia Feb. 18(V), departed Mar.2; also Dec. 7 and Dec.24(R.Stone)

## S B C FIELD TRIP REPORTS

### ALONG THE HUDSON

June 5

Eight S B C members joined with a similar number from the Hoffman Bird Club of Pittsfield, Mass., in covering the Hudson River and the western edge of Massachusetts on Saturday, June 5. Their fifty species:

Mallard, Black Duck, Blue-winged Teal, Wood Duck, Red-tailed Hawk, Duck Hawk, Virginia Rail, Florida Gallinule, Killdeer, Mourning Dove, Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Flicker, Kingbird, Crested Flycatcher, Phoebe, Least Flycatcher, Wood Pewee, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Blue Jay, Crow, Chickadee, House Wren, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Catbird, Robin, Wood Thrush, Cedar Waxwing, Starling, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Oven-bird, Northern Yellow-throat, Redstart, English Sparrow, Bobolink, Meadowlark, Red-wing, Baltimore Oriole, Bronzed Grackle, Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Goldfinch, Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, and Song Sparrow.

The trip was an all-day affair, and the weather just right -- temperature from 50 to 70 degrees, the wind zero, and the weather clear. The arrangements were made by the Hoffman group.

ALMOST RAINED OUTHelderbergs, June 9

Ornithologically, the SBC trip of June 9 -- picnic in the Helderbergs -- was a wash-out. The rain, and wind, saw to that. In fact, they were so noisy that the evening songs of the Thrushes, if any there were, could not be heard. But thanks to the graciousness of the hostess, Miss Antemann, an enjoyable indoor picnic was held.

SUMMER BIRDSBerne, June 12

Eight SBC members found 65 species in the Berne area June 12: Mallard, Black and Wood Ducks, Red-tailed Hawk, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Mourning Dove, Chimney Swift, Hummingbird, Flicker; Pileated (nest only) and Hairy Woodpeckers; Kingbird, Phoebe, Pewee; Crested, Acadian, Alder and Least Flycatchers; Tree and Barn Swallows; Blue Jay, Crow, Chickadee, House Wren, Catbird, Robin; Wood and Hermit Thrushes; Veery, Bluebird, Cedar Waxwing, Starling, Red-eyed Vireo; Parula, Yellow, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Black-poll and Canada Warblers; Oven-bird, Northern Yellowthroat, Redstart, English Sparrow, Bobolink, Meadowlark, Red-wing, Baltimore Oriole, Bronzed Grackle, Cowbird, Purple Finch, Goldfinch, Towhee; Savannah, Henslow's, Vesper, Chipmunk, Field, White-throated, Swamp and Song Sparrows.

NEST OF THE SAW-WHETGreylock, June 19(Pauline E. Baker)

At 3 o'clock Saturday, June 19, Mrs. Lillian C. Stoner and I started eastward from Albany. At Lanesboro, Wicks Cabin No. 5 was reserved. It was pleasant to set the cabin table on the porch, draw up chairs to our picnic supper, and watch the sunset. It was 5:45 too soon -- we hastened to meet the others at the Pittsfield Museum.

Viola Mabb and Stephanie Podrazik were there from Schenectady. The Hoffman Bird Club was represented by our leader, Alvah Sanborn of Pleasant Valley Sanctuary at Lenox, Mr. and Mrs. Shaw, Mrs. Clara Vreeland, Mrs. Emma Shepardson and Miss Martha Glander. Mr. McCarty of the Hoffman Club had five junior members with him: Fred Gale, Garry Shampang, Ronald Shampang, John Harmon, and Ralph Cianflone.

Again we were moving. At Brielman's Swamp we concentrated on the shy but obliging Virginia Rail, a Green Heron on the wing, a Florida Gallinule showing its red shield, and a Swamp Sparrow that called. Many Red-wings were busy with household tasks. Several warblers came out for vesper songs, including the Yellow, Northern Yellowthroat and Redstart.

Over at the Sewage Disposal Plant, Spotted Sandpipers, Killdeer, and a Brown Thrasher were added. All agreed to retire early, for at 6 a.m. Mr. Sanborn would stop at Wicks Cabins to add the four S B C members.

It was a beautiful day! Yes, the Mourning Warbler is there! The Bicknell's Thrush eyed us from her nest beside the stone wall; we heard no song, however. We drove to the top, and what a view all the way up! The valley was filled with rolling, waving, white morning mist; green hilltops protruded; and we on Greylock were in full sunshine. It was a morning for White-throats, and they were there. There were many Olive-backed Thrushes, too, and Black-polls. Juncos were continuously alarmed and betrayed their hidden chests of jewels -- either eggs or babies. At Thunderbolt Ski Trail the dead trees afforded a grand place for a duet of a Mourning Warbler and an Indigo Bunting. Then the duet became one of a Mourning Warbler and a White-throat. All the while the Olive-backed Thrush sang, one drawing nearer and nearer.

The party descended, following the Notch Road, to get the Winter Wren, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Scarlet Tanager, Purple Finch, Blackburnian Warbler, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Redstart, Towhee, and Olive-sided Flycatcher. Yes, he said it once -- "Hic, hic, three beers." There were a few widely spaced "pip" calls. The Least Flycatcher was on the list, and a busy Brown Creeper gave us a new musical note.

The choice bit of all was the walk on Long Trail, which leads to the summit. It was a beautiful trail, narrow, soft, needle-covered. Some pinksters were blooming along its sides. Old autumn leaves still lay brown. As we passed a mound of them -- an oven-bird's nest -- she did her old trick of dragging a wing and struggling as a cripple. The little oven with its door open revealed four day-old little ovens; all mouths were uplifted to the roof of their neatly molded home. For a long time we admired, peeked, and lay on the ground for a better look, all to Mr. Sanborn's accompaniment -- "Oh, if I only had my camera!" On we went, rustling the leaves. Suddenly a voice called out, "Here's an Owl -- a Saw-whet Owl."

The owl had flown from its nest in an old tree stump and perched where we all could see clearly every bit of its eight inches. The big eyes took us in -- blinked and rolled, but no fear was shown. Mr. Sanborn hoisted up one of the boys and the lad put his arm down into the cavity, giving out the report "There are four eggs in the nest." The Saw-whet was a life-bird for several in the group.

On the return over the trail, Mother Oven-bird did her same trick and went off at a right angle from her nest. One of the boys followed her, just to make her feel her trick was working.

Our leader left at 11:30 to receive the Albany Chapter of ADK, and shortly after 12 the party had said its good-byes and was returning homeward.

The count was 68. Although we were 10 short of the 78 of the 1946 trip, we added in novelty with the Oven-bird's act and the Saw-whet Owl at its nest. Fred Gale found the Oven-bird's nest, and Gary Shampang discovered the owl.

Maybe there's something against being

## A ONE-DIET BIRD

J. Muney Hollister

The thrill from watching birds and adding up the number of species observed on a field trip is one thing; but no greater than the thrill I received on finding specimens of the land snail Pomacea caliginosa, as well as the eggs, and baby snails recently hatched.

The place was not far from the headwater of the St. John's River in Central Florida during April and May. The groups of eggs, varying from 20 to 60 per cluster, were on flag stems, rush stems, and even fence posts, well above the water line.

The pearl-like eggs were creamy white and about three sixteenths of an inch in diameter. As they hatched, the perfect snail dropped to the muck to start its life cycle on a vegetable diet.

It was not necessary to sit in the swamp to watch the process, as a flag stem could be taken home with a good supply of muck, and the hatching process watched at leisure. The mature shells I found averaged one and one-half inches in diameter.

### Everglade Kite -- Too Stubborn?

The Everglade Kite, which depends 100 per cent on this species of land snail for existence, was not found in this section. The Limpkin, however, which also feeds on the eggs, was present.

Much publicity has been given concerning the drainage of swamp land, causing the depletion of the snail and therefore the restriction of the feeding ground for the Kite. At present the Everglade Kite, or "Snail Hawk," is found only in the vicinity of Lake Okeechobee.

My thrill has a sad feature when I recall the time I saw the interesting bird, a few years ago, for the first time. It seems that commercialism is starving this unusual species to death.

On the other hand, the stubborn bird might be criticized for not changing its diet to meet an emergency.

Perhaps you're not acquainted with this

## FLIGHT SONG OF THE PURPLE FINCH

Barrington S. Havens

For years I have been familiar with the song of the Purple Finch -- a rich, melodious, rolling warble of great variety. We hear it particularly during the spring and early summer in this territory; presumably the birds uttering it here are on migration, for the songs are recorded from places where the bird does not breed, judging by the records.

But it has been at my summer camp at Jenny Lake where I have become most familiar with the song of this species in recent years. Beginning about the first of April, the Purple Finch is in full song there, coupled with courtship activity; the species is a common summer resident, breeding there.

Now it appears that much of this singing -- although not all of it -- is in the form of flight song. A typical early April observation found the singing bird taking flight in the midst of the song and going through quite a performance of wing fluttering before it alights, just about as the song concludes. In behavior it is very similar to the performance of the Oven-bird during its evening flight song -- but the Purple Finch flight singing was done in early morning.

It's quite a show to see; watch for it the next time you are in an area where the Purple Finch breeds.

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It was hard to tell whether it was a

## BUG, BEAST, OR BIRD

Guy Bartlett

There was hardly a ripple on Jenny Lake, except for those of our own oars as the two of us worked slowly along the shore. It was Friday, July 16, almost midnight (daylight-saving time). The moon was nearly full in a clear sky, and the temperature was about 60 degrees -- maybe a shade cooler than the water itself.

It was an ideal night for bass. And strike they did! So attention was given more to the whirl of the reel, the slight splash of the bait, and the much less frequent but much louder splash of striking fish.

There were some additional sounds that registered with us. The notes of bull and green frogs were easily heard along the shore. Closer at hand, or face, was the occasional whine of a mosquito. The last of the Thrushes had been heard only shortly after dusk. The Whip-poor-will's call had continued after that, but it too had been quiet now for some time.

### Maniacal Shriekers

Owls were heard an hour earlier, back near Turtle Cove, across from the camps, while we fished a few hundred yards away at the outlet. It was then shortly before 11 o'clock. They were not simply calling with that loud, rhythmic series of "who-who-...ah" notes that distinguish the Barred Owl. These two indulged for almost a minute in their rapid, insane, cacophonous screams and wails and whoops -- outlaughing the Loon, outwailing the cat, and outooting themselves. Then they too were quiet.

### We Are Hissed

As we rowed away from the outlet and along the far shore, the silence was real. We were still more than a hundred yards from the cove when a new note was heard repeatedly. It could have been an insect, but what? It might have been a mammal, but what? Or perhaps a bird, but again what? There had been the Barred Owls there earlier, but none of their recognizable calls was heard now.

Again and again there was a loud, shrill, high-pitched, insect-like, grating hiss, of at least three seconds duration. It was a monotone, at the end rising very quickly in a less grating, clearer note to an abrupt ending -- so abrupt that it seemed to conclude with an audible click, and so high as to almost be beyond range of the human ear. Repeatedly and without variation the call continued, about four times a minute. It was at least as loud as the song of the cicada.

### Too High to be Heard

That the note was high-pitched was evident from the fact that the other of us could not, for quite a time, hear any of the call, even though he considered his hearing normal (Probably he would also have trouble in hearing some of the notes of the Chickadee, Kinglet, Creeper, or Hummingbird, among others). After a while, though, he did hear the first part of the call but not the ending; we were then closer to the caller.

It was apparent that the call was coming from a tree close to the water's edge at the entrance to the cove. When we were within fifty feet of the tree -- having noisily paid attention to our fishing during the approach -- there were a couple minutes of silence, and then the calls began again from a pine at the back edge of the cove.

We worked the boat as far as we could into the shallow edge of the cove and flashed the light into the tree. The call continued without interruption. The light beam flashed

no eyes. The foliage was dense, and the source of the call remained hidden from us. To wade ashore would have meant wet feet and, after all, this was a fishing trip -- and they were biting.

### An Easy Answer

Barry Havens quickly answered the question the next day. Both he and Rudd Stone had repeatedly heard this note, and Rudd a few years ago had investigated and found a young Barred Owl. Consulting Bent's "Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey" (Part 2) further proved the point. Barry, staying at Jenny Lake, reported that the call continued through July.

## RECENT S B C RECORDS

Mid-summer offered a variety of unexpected bird records locally. A Barn Owl that sat for weeks in one Scotia tree; American Egrets without doubt more abundant than in any previous season, not to mention the presence of a Snowy Egret and at least two Little Blue Herons; the rediscovery of the recently missing Worm-eating Warbler; and additional reports for May of the Hooded Warbler -- such were among the items.

Great Blue Heron - Few at Round Lake by early July.

American Egret - Before the end of July it was easily apparent that this season would show this Egret as particularly common. Reports were coming in from all around. Even Collins Lake and the Gateway Bridge, so close to the center of things, had several of them. Watervliet Reservoir, Meadowdale Swamp, and the Niskayuna wide waters had more than usual; they settled at the Menands Bridge marsh; they were all along the Hudson below Albany; and they were reported repeatedly from various small ponds and marshes, as well as the larger lakes.

It will be recalled that one appeared on the Century Run report of May 15. An SBC group returning from the Berne Swamp trip of June 12 tried unsuccessfully to locate that individual.

Reports of arrivals began to appear about July 21. The July 25 SBC river trip showed 14. By the end of the month it was hopeless to attempt a count.

Snowy Egret - One August 10 at edge of marsh along Niskayuna River Road. Black bill and legs, and small size, noted as bird stood; yellow feet seen when bird flew. (GB)

Little Blue Heron - Two at marsh near coal pocket at Mohawk View, August 10; both in white plumage. (GB)

Black-crowned Night Heron - Common summer resident at Round Lake.

Least Bittern - An S B C group returning from the Berne trip June 12 saw a Least Bittern at Meadowdale Swamp.

Ducks - Reports from along the Hudson below Albany indicate an increase in breeding ducks this season, particularly for Wood Ducks, but also for Blacks and Blue-winged Teal.

American Merganser - During mid-July a female was repeatedly seen in early-morning flight along the Conklingville end of Sacandaga Reservoir.

Turkey Vulture - One over fields at river edge, Mohawk View, August 10 (GB).

Bald Eagle - As I was driving north on Route 146 on July 10, about one-half mile south of the Old Fort Hunter Road I saw an immature Bald Eagle. While it was soaring and banking low over a barren, sandy field I had several minutes in which to watch its characteristic flight --N.V.V. In mid-August Bald Eagles, both mature and immature, were being seen regularly along the Hudson River near Catskill -- George H. Bainbridge.

Solitary Sandpiper - Arrived July 31, Chatham (GB).

Herring Gull - One, in mature plumage, seen regularly in mid-July over the northern part of Sacandaga Reservoir.

Mourning Dove - After Robins finished with their nest in a tree in George Bainbridge's neighbor's yard, a pair of Mourning Doves took over the nest, and were incubating in late July. The nest was relatively high in the tree.

Barn Owl - Every now and then there is a Barn Owl in the city. The most recent is one first reported by Schuyler Miller, and since seen by several S B C members. For more than three weeks in July -- and still there into mid-August -- a Barn Owl was roosting regularly in a large elm at a corner in Scotia. It was high in the tree, away from the trunk, and rather well concealed by the foliage.

Pellets and droppings revealed the bird. None of the pellets examined contained other than bones and fur of small rodents.

On Sunday, August 8, when photographs were to be tried, the bird was absent for the first time. It returned that night, however. It usually remained on its perch until well after darkness, and was back again before early observers were out.

Occasionally Robins, Blue Jays, or other birds would scold at the Owl, but it never seemed to have flown.

Screech Owl - If a certain Screech Owl did not quickly mend his ways and fly higher over Balltown Road, he may be dead by now. On the nights of July 22 and 25 he swooped across the road just in front of the same automobile, and at just about the same time and place -- midnight, just west of Consaul Road (GB).

Great Horned Owl - Heard repeatedly in woods near Guilderland Center during evenings in late July and early August. On at least one occasion one or two heard as late as midnight (N.V.V.).

Kingbird - On the hot afternoon of July 31 two Kingbirds were observed repeatedly splashing into a pond. From their perches on dead twigs atop a tall maple, they chattered and dropped, with fluttering rather than closed wings. They would level off just before the water, their bellies splashing. Then they returned to the tree-top, shook off the water, and repeated the performance (GB).

Swallows - Seemingly exceptionally common in large flocks on roadside wires at end of July and in early August. Mostly Barns, but with Banks predominant in several flocks. Tree and Cliff Swallows noticeably more common than usual in most of the flocks.

Cedar Waxwing - Nesting date indicated by recovery of a young bird from the pavement of the Plaza; the bird just out of nest, and unable to fly; August 11.

Worm-eating Warbler - For many years in succession it was assumed that the Worm-eating Warbler could be seen as a certainty along the Old Carriage Road leading up to Indian Ladder. In the past few years, however, the bird has been found there rarely.

This locally rare warbler has again been located. On July 20 Misses Scotland and Van Vorst found it atop the escarpment, at Miss Antemann's home. No nest was found, but the bird was observed carrying food. Miss Antemann reports the birds as close to her home regularly.

Hooded Warbler - Two reports of this locally rare warbler showed on the Century Run record of May 15. They were by Mrs. H. G. Kelley and Donald Tucker who independently observed one in Scotia; their records were probably for the same individual.

On the following day Benton Seguin found a pair of the birds in low trees on the grounds of the Schenectady Museum. They were gone the next day.

Bronzed Grackle - During the return trip on June 12 from Berne, two Bronzed Grackles flew parallel to an automobile for about one-quarter mile, against a very slight wind. The speedometer read 45 miles an hour.

SEP						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## S B C CALENDAR

OCT						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

September 12, Sunday - Stoner (Albany-Kingston boat) trip; Mrs. Lillian C. Stoner and Miss Myrtice A. Blatchley, Albany, leaders; boat leaves Albany dock at 9:20 a.m.; meet on upper deck when boat leaves; bring picnic lunch.

August reports indicate this year's trip should be a record-breaker. Egrets have been abundant (and other southern herons seen); Eagles have been found regularly; Ducks have increased in numbers.

September 24, Friday - Open meeting, Central Park Junior High School Auditorium, 8 o'clock. No admission charge, but by tickets only.

Miss Hazel R. Ellis, Keuka College, last year accepted Dr. Arthur A. Allen's challenge and found -- and photographed -- the nest of the Hudsonian Godwit. (See Audubon Magazine, May-June, 1948, pages 154-159).

"Northward Bound for Godwits" will be illustrated with slides.

September 26, Sunday - Hawk Day in the Helderbergs; see this month's supplement for details.

October 3, Sunday - Vischer Ponds and Crescent Lake; G. M. Andrews, leader; meet at Palmer Avenue and Union Street at 8 a. m.

October 11, Monday - First of the Fourth Series of S B C - Audubon Screen Tours, Central Park Junior High School Auditorium; 8 p.m. Laurel Reynolds, "Southern Exposures," Admission by season ticket only.

October 17, Sunday - Watervliet Reservoir; Mr. and Mrs. Fraser Price, leaders; meet at Reservoir Bridge, Routes 158 and 20, at 8 a. m.

## S B C FIELD TRIP REPORTS

### EGRETS ARE IN

Niskayuna, July 25

Fourteen American Egrets along the river at Niskayuna and Mohawk View featured the S B C trip of Sunday, July 25, in which 10 participants accounted for 33 species. The day was exceptionally clear, the temperature from 60 to 75 degrees, and the wind slight northwest. Dorothy Sawyer was the leader. The record:

Great Blue Heron, 10; American Egret, 14; Green Heron, 5; Black Duck, 4; Florida Gallinule, several; Killdeer, 2;

Spotted Sandpiper; Mourning Dove, 2; Chimney Swift, 2; Kingfisher, 1; Flicker, 6; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Kingbird, 7; Pewee, 1; Tree Swallow, 4; Barn Swallow, 6; House Wren, 2; Long-billed Marsh Wren, common; Catbird, 2; Robin, 4; Wood Thrush, 1; Starling, abundant; Yellow Warbler, 1; Northern Yellow-throat, 1; Bobolink, 8, molting; Red-wing, common; Scarlet Tanager, 1; Indigo Bunting, 1; Goldfinch, 3; Grasshopper Sparrow, 1; Henslow's Sparrow, 1; Chipping Sparrow, 2; and Song Sparrow, 3.



## NEWS AND NOTES IN BRIEF

### GREASY, GOOD

Liked by Birds

Here is a hint for the bird-feeder. My sister-in-law had a batch of doughnuts that absorbed too much fat in the frying to be palatable. She tied them in an onion-sack, fastened it to their bird-feeder at the top of a pole, and the Chickadees, Nuthatches, Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers ate them through the wide meshes of the bag as avidly as though they were suet.

-- Label W. French

### FEDERATION MEETING

Rochester, Nov. 13-14

The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, of which our own S B C is a charter member, will meet at Rochester November 13 and 14. Misses Nelle Van Vorst and Beatrice Sullivan have been designated as the S B C delegates.

### BUFFALO'S CENSUS

And Rochester's

The Buffalo Ornithological Society conducted its spring census May 16, covering western New York -- west of the Genesee River, west into Canada to Grand River and Welland Canal. The count was 189 species and 36,138 individuals. Through May the Buffalo group had a total of 231 species.

On the spring census of the Genesee Ornithological Society, Rochester, also taken May 16, there were 180 species.

### FEATURED

Egrets Are Common

Probably never before did a bird receive such publicity as did the American Egret when the New York Herald-Tribune of August 10 ran a three-column picture and banner-headed story on its page one, with run-over of copy and two pictures inside. The point was the exceptional abundance of the species in the metropolitan vicinity. Presence of the Snowy Egret and Little Blue Heron was also mentioned.

Incidentally, the American and Snowy Egrets and Yellow-crowned Night Heron are now New Jersey nesters. We may yet have the American Egret nesting locally.

Sixty-two Participants All Agreed It Was an

## EGRETFUL BOAT TRIP

Lillian C. Stoner and Myrtice A. Blatchley

When a group of people who are interested in the study of birds can observe and actually count 239 American Egrets on a 50-mile stretch of the middle Hudson River, they feel that it is certainly a happy and outstanding occasion. The increase in count over previous years demonstrates what the protective laws instigated by the National Audubon Society years ago have done to save this bird from extinction.

The great number of American Egrets held the main interest and attention of the 62 members and guests of the Schenectady Bird Club on September 12 when they participated in the annual Albany-Kingston Boat Trip called the "Stoner Bird Trip."

These large, stately white birds were observed again and again in many picturesque settings on both the east and west shores of the Hudson River. Since the tide was high on the down trip, many of the Egrets were resting in the trees. One to six or seven individuals often chose low perching places, while other groups of two to twenty or more could be seen in higher branches. Occasionally one individual rested at the very top of a high tree.

### 170 on Trip Down

At infrequent intervals the SBC group on the "Alexander Hamilton," on the southward journey, had ample time to admire at close range a lone Egret standing perfectly still in a shallow pool. Here it would watch intently for food, paying no attention to the noisy steamer passing close by. On the down trip 170 American Egrets were recorded, and two more were seen during the lunch time at Kingston Point.

Our bird counts continued at a brisker pace on the return trip soon after our group settled in the hot sun on the top deck of the "Robert Fulton." The tide was now going out, and large numbers of herons were standing in the low water of the marshy areas. Others were flying in to feed, and only a few still remained perched in the trees. The large white birds were seen all the way up the river in scattered places. While the greatest number occurred in Catskill and Hudson sections, they were not as concentrated there as we have seen on some previous trips. Our 239th American Egret for the trip north was noted within a few miles of Albany.

## FEATHERS



A total of 45 species and 1621 individuals made up the list for the day. Conservative estimates have been made of the numbers of birds observed in the large flocks of Red-wings, and the small flocks of Robins and Cedar Waxwings.

It is of interest that six species (including the one adult and one young Little Blue Heron) of the heron family, four of the duck family, and five of the hawks are found in this tabulation. Of these, except for the Egrets, the Black Duck was noted in the greatest numbers.

### Half-dozen Eagles

We are always impressed when we see six Bald Eagles and six Ospreys in one day within a relatively short distance of our State Capitol. One Osprey was especially interesting as it carried off a red carp in its talons.

In summing up our September 12 count given in the accompanying table, it is noticeable that there were few species of the large sparrow-family, and no vireos or warblers.

As to the weather on this sunny day, the temperature of 64° at sailing time increased to 84° by late afternoon in Albany. The slight breeze became a strong southwest wind by noon, thus making it difficult to use either telescope or binoculars. Therefore, not many additions were made to our list during the last hour of our southward voyage, nor were many additions made by song recognition alone as few could be heard from the passing shores during the entire day. The very warm sun of early afternoon made this trip memorable as perhaps one of the hottest boat trips the Club has taken.

### From Massachusetts, and Sweden

On this annual boat trip the 29 Schenectady Bird Club members were glad to play host to 27 members of the Hoffman Bird Club of Pittsfield, Mass., and to seven other guests. One of the latter group was Olle Ahrne of Salköping, Sweden. Mr. Ahrne has specialized in conservation study in several schools in Sweden and Germany and now is completing six months in the study of incubation, breeding and rearing methods of game birds in America. His headquarters while here have been at the Delmar Game Farm.

Our ever-ready binoculars were supplemented by a twenty-power prism telescope which proved to be very helpful in locating and identifying many birds. The interest and active participation by so many members of the group made possible the large count. Mental pictures of a solitary large white bird perched at the tip of a tall tree or standing motionless in shallow water will long remain among our cherished memories.

STONER BOAT TRIP Sept. 12, 1948	To Kingston	At Kingston	From Kingston	Maximum or Total
Pied-billed Grebe	1	3	1	5
Dbl-cr. Cormorant			1	1
Great Blue Heron	20		69	69
American Egret	170	2	237	239
Little Blue Heron (1 im., 1 ad., Bailey)	2			2
Green Heron	3			3
Blk-cr. Night Heron			8	8
American Bittern	1			1
Mallard	3		35	35
Black Duck	85	20	174	194
Blue-winged Teal	12		2	12
Wood Duck			10	10
Ducks (sp?)			41	41
Sharp-shinned Hawk			2	2
Broad-winged Hawk	1			1
Bald Eagle	2		6	6
Marsh Hawk	1		1	1
Osprey	4		6	6
Killdeer	21		35	35
Spotted Sandpiper			1	1
Solitary Sandpiper	2			2
Yellow-legs (sp?)			6	6
Least Sandpiper	1			1
Herring Gull	103		99	103
Ring-billed Gull	1			1
Chimney Swift	4		1	5
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	1	1		2
Belted Kingfisher	10	2	19	21
Flicker			1	1
Downy Woodpecker			1	1
Crested Flycatcher		1		1
Phoebe		2		2
Tree Swallow			12	12
Barn Swallow	3		37	37
Crow	48		60	60
Blk-cap. Chickadee		1		1
Catbird		4		4
Robin	1	10		11
Cedar Waxwing		10		10
Starling	7		24	24
English Sparrow	18			18
Red-wing	400		607	607
Bronzed Grackle		1	3	4
Purple Finch		2		2
Goldfinch		11		11
Song Sparrow	1	1		2
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>28/926</b>	<b>15/71</b>	<b>28/1499</b>	<b>45/1621</b>

Along New England's Coast You Think of

## PILGRIM'S PRIDE AND BIRDS

Beatrice Sullivan

When Nelle Van Vorst starts out to teach you shore-birds, you learn them or else! July 25 found us at Rockport, Massachusetts; and a mix-up in watches found us up at four o'clock looking out at a crimson, turquoise and golden dawn, out by the silhouette of dark rocks shaped like baby Helderbergs. But that was really earlier than the schedule, and so the few Herring Gulls were left to float peacefully by themselves.

### One's Outlook Is Important

Nine o'clock at Newburyport, however, was another story. The spot we chose seems to be known as the Yacht Club or the sewer beds, depending upon one's outlook on life, but the birds loved it. There were Double-crested Cormorants, Herring Gulls, Great Black-backed Gulls, chunky Laughing Gulls hooded in black, a Glaucous Gull, Ring-billed Gulls, and flocks of dapper little Bonaparte's Gulls. Rushing about on the shore were the Semipalmated Sandpipers, Greater and Lesser Yellow-legs, Sanderlings, and their chubby cousins the Dowitchers, broad-beamed like dories and seemingly always standing on their noses.

Out on Plum Island there was a Sharp-tailed Sparrow, but by the time we had been shovelled out of the sand by an irate land-owner we thought it better to say no more about that bird. Along the causeway an Upland Plover did show himself under happier circumstances.

The next place on the list for birding presented some difficulties; there were "No Parking" signs along the roads at Point of Pines and all the length of Nahant Neck. We did, nevertheless, find Gulls and Terns and Cormorants.

### We Learn a Newspaper Trick

One evening we turned inland. There had been rumors of Egrets, American and Snowy, near a golf course in Sudbury. Here we met men from one of the Boston papers, also looking for the birds (later we learned more of the ways of newspapers -- the article on those Egrets had already been written). The Americans were numerous, standing like sticks in the marsh, and there was a group of Little Blues, but we could not definitely identify the "golden slippers" of the Snowy that evening.

Falmouth was the next stop, and here there were Terns aplenty: Common Terns in their black caps, looking very much like big, sea-going Chickadees; Arctic Terns with their blood-red bills, a bit grotesque on their stubby little

legs; and, here and there, the swallow-like tail feathers of the Roseate Tern.

We had been told we should find the Hudsonian Curlew at Cackle Cove, beyond Chatham. We did. Along the way we also found something else -- small fiddler crabs, thousands of them, little blue things all scampering along the sand, often with their oversize claw extended. It was a question which was more fascinating, the sight of this seething horde on the beach, or the sound of the patter of their tiny legs.

#### Encounter at Encounter

Nauset Beach offered nothing unusual, and we crossed up to the bay side of the Cape. At First Encounter Beach we encountered Ring-necked Plovers -- not many, but they were there.

Next day we went to Manter's Point, near Plymouth. A three-mile hike over the sand in literally blistering sun (but relieved by a glorious swim in a cool green sea so calm it was almost motionless) gave us Ruddy Turnstones, Knots, and Piping Plovers. At the end of the point the state maintains a sanctuary which the Terns have taken over. Our presence caused a wild din, especially when we paused near the brown-flecked, tan eggs resting each by itself in a depression in the sand.

By now the sun was beginning to sink (and so were we) and we left the Terns to settle down while we started the long trek back to Plymouth -- and Noxema.

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## S B C FIELD TRIP REPORTS

### SHORE-BIRDS AND OWL

Watervliet Reservoir, Aug. 22

(G. M. Andrews)

Some exposed mud bars along the Watervliet Reservoir inlet channel gave the eight SBC members on the August 22 trip a chance to look for the vanguard of the fall shore-bird migration. Although the Killdeer outnumbered the other members of the shore-bird group by almost six to one, careful scrutiny with the telescope helped to locate the Pectoral, Solitary and Spotted Sandpipers, plus a lone Lesser Yellowlegs. The morning being quite foggy made distant identification difficult, even with the scope.

Three American Egrets were found, two almost as soon as we arrived, their white plumage contrasting vividly with the green foliage. An obliging American Bittern flew in, landing in plain sight where all could watch him at their leisure, stretched to his full length with bill pointed skyward.

An unusual sight for all was a Great Horned Owl, perched in full sunlight high up on a dead tree limb overlooking a portion of the stream forming the reservoir inlet. Through the telescope we could watch him slowly turning his head, blinking his large yellow eyes and carefully scanning the area, apparently in search of food.

A lone Duck Hawk was seen over the reservoir bridge, flying rapidly in the direction of the Indian Ladder escarpment, a locality where this species is known to nest.

Included in the 34 species seen on the trip, but not mentioned above, were the Green Heron, Wood Duck, Sparrow Hawk, Mourning Dove, Hummingbird, Kingfisher, Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Pewee, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, Crow, Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Catbird, Robin, Cedar Waxwing, Black and White Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Northern Yellow-throat, Redstart, Baltimore Oriole, Goldfinch, and Song Sparrow.

## RECENT S B C RECORDS

American Egret - August and early September records of the American Egret were numerous, widespread and interesting; as were the birds themselves.

They were in new areas at Lake George; Sacandaga Reservoir had them widespread and common; and, out of our own state, they had reached as far up the Connecticut River as Second Lake, at the upper tip of New Hampshire.

For well over 20 years counts have been made along the Hudson from train and boat. Boat counts are always higher, but train counts do show up some areas not to be seen from the boats. One of this year's train counts was by Samuel Madison on September 13. He listed 104 American Egrets and 19 Great Blue Herons between Albany and Kingston Point.

Mildred Crary reported a couple Egrets and a Great Blue at Galway Lake and Cummings Pond, a half mile south of the lake, in mid-August.

Four reached Jenny Lake in early September, Barry Havens reported. This may have been the first record there.

Thirty or more of the birds fed regularly in a compact, fearless, easily approached flock in the marshy area beside Campbell Road, adjacent to G.E., during August. These may have been the same birds which were seen to roost regularly in trees on the Meyers farm, in back of G.E. And probably this group contributed the more-than-occasional Egret seen in back of the Hotel Van Curler.

On a quick trip to Watervliet Reservoir on August 21, just before dark, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Norris saw 22 fly in to roost close together in a tree beside the water. Probably some of the birds were those which for weeks had been seen flying over Guilderland Center each evening

from the direction of Meadowdale Swamp and toward the reservoir. After August 21 the roosting birds were observed on several occasions by various observers.

Incidentally, just before the boat sailed from Albany on September 12 -- when 239 were counted -- the First Mate commented that the Egrets and Eagles had both seemed more frequent earlier in the summer.

Snowy Egret - A Snowy Egret near Niskayuna on August 10 was recorded in last month's Record (p.72). A few days later, word was received from Mildred D. Crary that she saw two of these birds at Sacandaga Reservoir August 9.

Little Blue Heron - The two immature (white) Little Blue Herons first recorded a few days previously were seen August 14, still near the coal pocket at Mohawk View. One was standing out on the very dense water-chestnut. A Great Blue Heron came in for a real good size comparison. -- M.B.S. & N.V.V.

A Little Blue Heron was seen August 30 at Watervliet Reservoir and several times up to mid-September. It was in the white plumage, but with an indication of slate in its wings. -- N.V.V.

Bald Eagle - On a train trip down the Hudson September 13, Samuel Madison observed one mature Bald Eagle perched in a tree.

Osprey - One over, and in, Crescent wide waters August 14; G. M. Andrews and Bill Bartlett.

Coot - A Coot summered at the Delmar Game Farm. Samuel Madison first saw the bird there June 13, and saw it on several occasions from then until July 20. On August 23 the bird was still there.

Black-billed Cuckoo - One in song and action in Scotia August 24; recorded by Esly Hallenbeck.

Screech Owl - At the lower end of Ballston Lake August 20, with a full moon, three or four Screech Owls were vociferous, at least until almost midnight. They seemed to remain a hundred yards or so from each other. The "concert" was heard again August 25 and 27.

Great Horned Owl - After hearing Barred Owls commonly at Jenny Lake for several years, Barry Havens added the notes of the Horned Owl there several nights in early September.

Barred Owl - Most of the Barred Owls he had heard so frequently at Jenny Lake were off in the distance. That the birds are extremely loud talkers was very apparent to Barry Havens when one selected a nearby tree for its singing perch -- if singing it be -- on September 19.

Nighthawk - Loose flocks of Nighthawks were seen shortly before dark August 20 in the vicinity of the Edison Club.

During early afternoon the next day Mrs. W. H. Norris recorded a flock of at least 50 in low, silent flight around Waverly Place.

Upwards to 60 of the birds were seen both August 20 and 23 by Mrs. Laura Beck in the vicinity of her Miles Standish Road home.

From then through Labor Day, September 6, there were numerous reports of flocks of a dozen or so over various parts of the city. Perhaps the last were the ones September 14 (GM Andrews) and September 15 (GB).

Pileated Woodpecker - In mid-August I finally saw a pair of Pileated Woodpeckers at the south end of Galway Lake. I had known they were around since early spring.

-- Mildred D. Crary

Cedar Waxwing - A flock visited the home of Mrs. W. H. Norris September 9 and 10; honeysuckle and other berried shrubs were the attraction.

Scarlet Tanager - While at Meadowdale Swamp September 10 to look for American Egrets, Mrs. Norris recorded a Scarlet Tanager in autumn plumage.



## NEWS AND NOTES IN BRIEF

### ANOTHER BOAT TRIP

### Two Little Blues

On Tuesday, August 31, Rudd Stone wished to go down the Hudson River to study shore-birds, and asked Mrs. Charles E. Whitney if she cared to go too. She in turn called me as she knew it was my vacation. I surely was glad to go, so I invited an eight-year-old neighbor girl to come along; Mrs. Whitney followed suit by bringing a teen-age boy, as did Mr. Stone.

Going down to Kingston on the Hendrick Hudson we saw 128 American Egrets (twice 35 in a flock), 10 Great Blue Herons, 5 Kingfishers, 13 Crows, 17 Herring Gulls, 2 Green Herons, 1 Barn Swallow, 3 adult and 1 immature Bald Eagles, 17 Black Ducks, 2 Ring-billed Gulls, 2 Sandpipers (sp?), and 1 Hummingbird.

At Kingston Point we saw a flock of female and one male Red-wings, 2 Cedar Waxwings, 1 Goldfinch -- and one leopard frog.

On our return trip to Albany on the Robert Fulton we saw 144 American Egrets, 2 Little Blue Herons, 20 Ducks in a flock and 28 singles, a flock of Sandpipers (probably Peepers), 22 Herring Gulls, 4 Ring-billed Gulls, 15 Blue-winged Teal, 3 Great Blue Herons, and 6 Killdeer.

Winter's Coming -- There Can Be

## AN ADVENTURE IN SNOWSTORM BIRDING

Rudd Stone

Don't let anyone tell you that a snowstorm is a poor time to find birds. "It ain't necessarily so." I once saw a Great Blue Heron and a Bluebird in a January 5 snowstorm, as well as several such records of Kingfishers and Snow Buntings.

On February 1, 1942 while I was attending Cornell University at Ithaca, I flushed six Short-eared Owls and a Cooper's Hawk from the marshes adjacent to Ithaca Airport, at the head of Cayuga Lake. Then following the lake shore, I combed over the great rafts of Redheads, Canvas-backs and Greater Scaup that customarily winter and to my delight picked out four Gadwalls and two Baldpates. This was a snowy day with very limited visibility. The birds are loath to flush however, under these conditions and the ducks cling closely to the shore. These factors operated strongly in my favor, despite the rigors of observation.

My outstanding recent experience in snowstorm birding occurred on March 11, 1948. Starting at 8:30 a.m. with a light west wind and temperature at 10 degrees F, the Schenectady sky was overcast, but no snow was yet falling. About a foot of snow covered the ground.

Visiting the swampy section near Sunnyside Road and the NYCRR tracks, only one bird skulked furtively in the bare springy spot -- a Swamp Sparrow, always scarce and elusive in winter. About then snowing commenced and it was "coming down" when I saw a Sparrow Hawk near the Gateway Bridge. At the Rice Road and Poentic Kill our dependable Kingfisher was stolidly sitting out the storm in plain sight.

Then I visited Gordon Road, by which time the snowfall was heavy. Walking up the road I heard a flock of Cedar Waxwings overhead and watched 22 of them converge on some cedars. Closer observation revealed they were interested in the cedar "berries" and nearby bittersweet (*Celastrus*) fruits. Further up the road I spotted a male Marsh Hawk flying over fairly low. By this time the air felt very cold and it was almost impossible for me to keep my binoculars free from snow and from frosting over.

Moving on to Featherstonough Lake I walked a bit along the road around the lake and back, finding only the eight Chickadees of the day. But upon returning to the Mariaville

Road, I suddenly spotted a large bird perched low about 500 feet ahead. I struggled anxiously to keep my glasses clear enough to identify this fellow before he bore off, and decided him to be an adult Goshawk. Then he noticed me and flew off low over the brushlands with his characteristic rapid wing beats alternated with long sailing. This is a regular winterer, but rare even then and represented one of the high spots of the day.

### Still Pelting Down

Of course the snow was still pelting down and it was cold enough so the slight wind numbed my poor immobile and sparsely gloved fingers. Adjusting my binocs was out of the question.

Heading back towards Schenectady and not far from Rynex Corners, I spotted a lone bird perched at the tip of a tall but skinny tree near the road. At first I thought it a Sparrow Hawk. But the narrow drooping tail and general grayness that showed up even in the soft gray light, were all that were needed to mark him as a Northern Shrike. Under the circumstances it did not seem reasonable to expect the Migrant Shrike.

### Reluctant to Fly

Efforts to flush the Shrike proved him reluctant to fly. He fluttered at his perch with peculiar rapid wing beats several times before flying off. He was about as miserable with the weather as I. But I had much more pleasure finding him than he had seeing me!

Those were the highlights, although I later saw several Purple Finches on Crawford Road. But it should be quite apparent that what may seem poor birding weather because it is uncomfortable, is not necessarily so. Indeed I have birded many a time in March, when the weather was balmy without finding nearly so many interesting species.

### Northward Lunge

A possible explanation in hindsight, for this frosty luck is the two preceding days of relatively mild weather relaxing the protracted zero weather. Typical winter residents and migrants cooling their heels past migration schedule time, grasped the opportunity to lunge northward. I am sure that if we could comprehend avian linguistics, the birds' opinion of last winter would be utterly unprintable.

The day's total species reached 18, with few individuals excepting the Waxwings. Few individuals of few species characterized that most unusually snowy and severe winter.

**RECENT S B C RECORDS**

Compiled by G. Malcolm Andrews

- Pied-billed Grebe - Sept. 24 and Oct. 5 (NVV) and Oct. 24, (GMA), three; all at Watervliet Reservoir.
- Great Blue Heron - Oct. 8 and 18 along Hudson between Albany and Poughkeepsie, several; Oct. 24, Wtvlt.Rsvr. (GMA).
- American Egret - October reports by various observers; Niskayuna, Wtvlt.Rsvr., and along Hudson between Albany and Harmon. Last report for Niskayuna 4 or 5 Oct. 17, after opening of hunting season (JJA); three still at Wtvlt. Rsvr. bridge Oct. 5; recent trips by train down the Hudson have resulted in records up to 34 Oct. 8 (GB) and at least 5 still seen Oct. 18 (SM).
- Little Blue Heron - Two, Stockport, from train Oct. 8 (GB).
- Canada Goose -- Two, Ashokan Rsvr, mid-Aug. (MBS). Fifteen in Crescent Lake section of Mohawk Oct. 17 (JJA).
- Mallard - Reports indicate a high percentage of the state-liberated male birds at Niskayuna were shot during the first days of hunting season.
- Baldpate - Male, Niskayuna, Sept. 11 (RS).
- Green-winged Teal - Three, Niskayuna, Sept. 11 (RS).
- Wood Duck - Apparently another successful breeding season in this area. Thirty, Niskayuna, Sept. 10 (RS). Wood Ducks in several hunting bags.
- Greater Scaup Duck - Five, Niskayuna, Oct. 17 (JJA).
- American Scoter - Flock approx. 50, Crescent Lake section, Oct. 15-17 (JJA).
- Ruddy Duck - Four, Niskayuna, Oct. 17 (JJA).
- Coot - Niskayuna, Aug. 20 (RS); ten, Niskayuna, Sep.24 (GMA)
- Semipalmated Plover - Watervliet Rsvr, Sept. 19 (GMA).
- Black-bellied Plover - Three, Niskayuna, Sept. 10, to four there Sept. 21 (RS); Watervliet Rsvr, Sep.19 (GMA).
- Wilson's Snipe - Two Sept.8, Wtvlt.Rsvr. (RS); two, Niskayuna, Sept. 10-11 (RS).
- Greater and Lesser Yellow-legs - Reported regularly at Wa-

tervliet Reservoir bridge from Sept. 19 to Oct. 1 (Lesser) and Sept. 19 to Oct. 24 (Greater).

Sanderling - One, Wtvl.t.Rsvr. bridge, Sept. 19 (GMA).

Bonaparte's Gull - Two immature, Wtvl.t. Rsvr., Sep.2 (RS).

Ring-billed Gull - Two, Hudson below Albany, Aug.31 (RS).

Black Tern - Eight, Niskayuna, Aug. 20-21 (RS).

Screech Owl - One heard, Consaul and Vly Rds, Oct.9 (LAW).

Red-bellied Woodpecker - Two immature about 3 miles west of Seward, near Schoharie, in Otsego County, Sep.5 (LAW).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - One, Colonie, Oct. 10 (LAW).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher - Two at Otsego locality as Red-bellied Woodpecker, above (LAW).

Purple Martin - Two in large flocks of swallows at Niskayuna Aug. 21 (RS).

Wood Thrush - Colonie, Oct. 10 (LAW).

Olive-backed Thrush - Colonie, Oct. 10 (LAW).

Pipit - In flocks up to 30, Wtvl.t.Rsvr., Sept. 15-20 (NVV) (RS). At Niskayuna Sept. 10 (RS).

Starling - Two huge, swirling flocks over South Schenectady Oct. 10 (GMA), probably numbered in the thousands in each flock.

Yellow-throated Vireo - In song, Niskayuna village, Sept.8 (RS).

Blue-headed Vireo - Wtvl.t.Rsvr, Sep.29 (NVV); Colonie, Oct. 10 (LAW).

Warbling Vireo - In song, Niskayuna village, Sept. 10 and 11 (RS).

Myrtle Warbler - Colonie, Oct. 10 (LAW); Wtvl.t. Rsvr., Oct. 24 (GMA).

Cape May Warbler - Indian Ladder, Sept. 26 (AH).

Pine Warbler - Karners, Sept. 12 (LAW).

Prairie Warbler - Karners, Sept. 12 (LAW).

Yellow Palm Warbler - Karners, Sept. 12 (LAW).

Connecticut Warbler - Watervliet Reservoir, Sept. 2 (RS).

Northern Yellow-throat - Karners, Sept. 12 (LAW).

Wilson's Warbler - Watervliet Reservoir, Sept. 2 (RS).

Meadowlark - Wtvlt. Rsvr., Sept. 24 (GMA).

Indigo Bunting - Flight song, Niskayuna, Sept. 21 (RS).

Lincoln's Sparrow - Three of four in flock, Niskayuna, Sept. 21 (RS).

KEY -- JJAnderson, GMAAndrews, GBartlett, AHolmes, SMadison, MBScotland, RStone, NVVorst, LAWiard.

## S B C FIELD TRIP REPORTS

### HAWK (?) DAY IN THE HELDERBERGS

Sept. 26

Extensive plans were made this year for SBC's second attempt to find out the popularity (to the hawks) of the Indian Ladder and Helderberg hawk flyway(?). The observers were separated into four groups, each assigned to a different point of vantage. The stations included: Miss Anteman's home at the escarpment; King's Crest, near Osterhaut's; in back of the WRGB-WGFM transmitters; and Miss Smith's camp on Beaverdam Road.

In a repeat performance of last year the observers this September 26 outnumbered the observed (hawks) by a ratio of over two to one. Some nine or so hawks of six species were recorded during the day. These included the Turkey Vulture (one seen by two parties), Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk 3 (two probably seen by two parties), Red-shouldered Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, and Duck Hawk 2 (one probably seen by two parties).

Records were kept of the time observed and direction of flight, in the hope of establishing a general flight route and, incidentally, checking on reports of the same bird by two or more groups. In analyzing these records one rather definite, although discouraging, point is evident in that in the case of the few hawks seen, no definite flight route was evident. In fact, the random directions of flight seem more to point to the probability that the birds seen were representative of what any fixed group of observers might record during any day this time of year at any locality in the area.

The topography of the Indian Ladder - Helderberg area may have a bearing on the matter. Anyone who has visited Hawk Mountain or Mt. Tom will remember that, in general, these hawk flyways consist of isolated ridges, usually

bounded on either side by a considerable stretch of valleys. This condition does not exist, to a large extent, in our area. Instead, the escarpment is bounded on one side only by a valley and on the other the Helderbergs rise gradually above the escarpment to the west and south. The point is that similar topography exists in the Hudson River valley and other nearby areas, and therefore the hawks, even though possibly favoring certain types of topography because of thermal updrafts and other reasons, would be more likely to disperse widely over this part of the state.

In spite of the few hawks seen, the observers were in general agreement that their reward was in the almost ideal fall weather -- warm and clear throughout the day.

One of the four groups saw no hawks all day, but did record a number of fall land-bird migrants. Included in the total of 29 species for the day were: Nighthawk, Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Phoebe, Wood Pewee, Blue Jay, Crow, Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch (?), Catbird, Robin, Bluebird, Cedar Waxwing, Starling, Cape May Warbler, English Sparrow, Rusty Blackbird, Goldfinch, Towhee, Junco, and Field, White-throated and Song Sparrows.

-- G. M. A.

#### DUCKS ABUNDANT

Vischer-Niskayuna, Oct. 3

Ducks were abundant, various other water and shore-birds relatively common, and numerous additional species observable, the five SBC members on the October 3 trip learned. The list included:

Pied-billed Grebe, 8; Great Blue Heron, few; American Egret, 18 or more; American Bittern, 2; Canada Goose, flock of 12 in flight, Alplaus Creek mouth; Mallard, common; Black Duck, common; Green-winged Teal, flock of 8; Blue-winged Teal, one female.

Cooper's Hawk, 2, in each case observed diving into a large, maneuvering flock of hundreds of Starlings; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Broad-winged Hawk, 1; Marsh Hawk, 2; Ring-necked Pheasant, one male; Florida Gallinule, about 6; Killdeer, 6; Lesser Yellow-legs, 1; Herring Gull, common.

Louping Dove, 2; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Blue Jay; Crow, Chickadee, 3; Catbird, 2; Robin, several; Bluebird, 1; Cedar Waxwing, 2 flocks; Starling, common, two large flocks; Yellow-throated Vireo, 1; Myrtle Warbler, 6; Yellow Palm Warbler, 1; English Sparrow; Red-wing; Rusty Blackbird; Bronzed Grackle; Cowbird; Goldfinch; Savannah Sparrow, 4; Tree Sparrow, one flock; White-throated Sparrow; Swamp Sparrow, few; and Song Sparrow, common. --GB.

#### RESERVOIR, AND COUNT, LOW

Oct. 17

(Samuel Madison)

The Watervliet Reservoir trip October 18 was none too successful. The temperature (at Delmar) was 53 F at 7:30 a.m., rising to 63 at noon, but a strong, raw wind made it seem much colder. It was very cloudy -- not to mention

three short showers -- so that visibility was poor. The weather, plus a record low attendance of three, counting myself (Did word get out that I was the leader?) accounted for a species count of only 20. The reservoir was very low, much lower than on August 22.

The most-numerous bird was the Killdeer, of which we saw about 50, one flock of 23 being counted in flight. The star performer was a Greater Yellow-legs, which fed in the shallow water close to the bridge for about an hour. Once he was observed suddenly thrusting his head under the water. After making a short flight to the shore, a small fish was seen in his beak. Two quick swallows, and the fish disappeared. Another Greater Yellow-legs was spotted flying overhead.

Several flocks of ducks were observed, one of about 50 in flight, but the only ones we were certain about were the Black and Mallard. Others appeared to be Teal and Merganser but are not listed because of uncertainty. We had no telescope or duck experts.

A Rough-legged Hawk was seen, very hotly pursued by two Crows which took turns at harassing him. One Great Blue Heron was observed overhead, as well as one Wood Thrush. The complete list:

Black Duck, 25; Mallard, 2; Rough-legged Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Great Blue Heron, 1; Killdeer, 50; Spotted Sandpiper, 1; Greater Yellow-legs, 2; Mourning Dove, 1; Crow, 25; Chickadee, 1; Wood Thrush, 1; Robin, 1; Bluebird, 8; Myrtle Warbler, 2; Bronzed Grackle, 1; Blue Jay, 3; Goldfinch, 20; Song Sparrow, 3; White-throated Sparrow, 1.

## NEWS AND NOTES IN BRIEF

### ANOTHER BOAT TRIP

Who Wrote It?

There was an unintentional omission in connection with the item under this heading last month (Page 84). The writer was not identified; it was written by Adeline Heitkamp.

### WREN PERVERSITY

And Bees Too

Away back in Volume 1, Number 1 of FEATHERS, the issue of June, 1939, there was published an item headed "Wren Perversity." It said:

"Frank Randall, the artist responsible for our page-one heading, is quite fond of birds and for many years wished he could have Wrens nesting about his home on the Saratoga Road. He was told he'd never have Wrens until he built wren houses for them.

"So last year Frank built a wren house, and sure enough a pair of Wrens spent the summer at his home. But they didn't nest in the wren house; they set up housekeeping in

the little building with a crescent on the door."

Frank now has another chapter to his story. A swarm of bees took over the bird house.

FLOW FOLLOWERSContrasty Background

Last April along about a quarter of a mile strip of road slightly back of Lake Ontario near Adams Center, I was interested in the Ring-billed Gulls following the plows in the fields and reaping the wormy benefits of the farmers' labors. I estimated there was an aggregate of at least 100. The dark, freshly turned earth made an excellent background to bring out the distinguishing points of these gulls, particularly their greenish yellow legs as compared with the flesh-colored legs of the Herring Gull. -- Mabel W. French

ANOTHER FOR G-ESo Young

Mac Andrews repeatedly saw a young Goldfinch in one of the trees adjacent to GE's office building 2 September 21, 22 and 23. But he heard it even more frequently. He located the bird after he listened to its food call repeatedly.

PARTI-WHITESnow-buntingish

At first glance it seemed as though a Snow Bunting had already arrived, but a closer look showed that a female, or immature English Sparrow in the vicinity of Parkwood Boulevard September 18 and 19 was partly albino. The whiteness was fairly symmetrical, and included the shoulders, sides of breast, center of tail, and crown. The eyes were normal. The Sparrow was easily approached in an automobile. -- G.B.

CHRISTMAS CENSUSSunday, Dec. 26

This year's annual Christmas Count will be the Club's tenth, and the 20th consecutive locally. Dates for the Count are determined by the National Audubon Society, and SBC went to press ahead of time with its calendar of field trips. Hence, as previously announced, the date shown in the SBC schedule is wrong by a week. The Count will be made Sunday, December 26. It will cover the same territory as in other recent years.

Are you operating a feeder? If so, watch for those unusuals; last year a Sapsucker and a Lyrtle Warbler reported to feeders at a time to be counted. Maybe this year there will be similar possibilities at still other feeders. Let the leader of this year's Count -- Miss Margaret Smith -- know if you have any unusual birds in your vicinity in the two weeks before Christmas -- and if you know of any place at all within our area where owls are probabilities.

Speaking of feeders, if you do intend to operate one now is the time to start it, while the birds are still arranging their rounds, if such they do.

## A Forty-year Record of THE SHORT-EARED OWL

Ernest Geiser

Feb. 21, 1909 -- Saw three or four Short-eared Owls about noon time, flying around rather low among the apple trees and young spruce trees at Lover's Lane. The Crows kept them moving about. They have an immense spread of wings, which have two dark bands on the underside, very conspicuous during flight.

Feb. 22 -- Saw one at the same place as on the 10th of February, at the Gulf off West Ave. At that time I did not know what kind of a bird it was. It first took refuge in a tree, then on the ground, then on a stump, and again in a tree.

March 21 -- I noticed some peculiar things at the foot of an Old stump, and on examining them found them to be pellets of fur and bones which had been regurgitated by the Short-eared Owl. They were about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches long,  $\frac{7}{8}$  of an inch in diameter, and 3 inches in circumference. On taking one home and thoroughly dissecting it, I found that the particular pellet which was  $2\text{-}\frac{3}{4}$  inches long contained the remains of three mice, which I have preserved.

I found enough pellets at the foot of one stump, if put together, to measure 14 inches. Taking the average per inch from the pellet I examined, it would prove that the pellets found at the foot of that one stump would contain at least fourteen mice.

The Crows seem to take great delight in bothering these birds. While watching a flock of at least seven of these Owls, I saw a Crow take particular delight in bothering a certain one of the flock. The Owl was well able to keep out of the way of the Crow by maneuvering with its stronger spread of wings, and yet the Crow persisted. These birds do alight in trees quite frequently, and are not as tame as some people would have you believe.

April -- In the latter part of April I found pellets with 66 per cent birds.

Feb. 13, 1937 -- Seen along the road near Snyder's Lake.

March 23, 1941 -- Near Cobblestone Schoolhouse, Voorheesville, I saw at least six.

March 5, 1946 -- Seen between home and Snyder's Lake.

Among Birds to Watch for Is

## THE LECONTE'S SPARROW

Mabel W. French

All bird watchers are probably haunted by certain "almost" identifications. I have such a haunt from September 26, when I believe I saw two Leconte's Sparrows. They were in a low, swampy strip of land running through fields, and were mingling with migrating White-throats and Song Sparrows, which were abundant on that day.

It had never occurred to me that Leconte's Sparrows would be a possibility in our area, and hence I had never familiarized myself with its diagnostic points, which would have helped me at the time. The two birds most closely resembled Henslow's Sparrow, but the sides of the head, which I saw clearly, showed absolutely no olivaceous tint. The line over the eye was the deepest yellow I ever saw on a sparrow, the crown stripe being somewhat lighter.

The picture of Leconte's Sparrow Sparrow in Eaton's "Birds of New York" looked exactly like my birds, as I carried the impression of them home. I went back the next day, hoping to clinch my identification by checking certain doubtful points but, although the other Sparrows plus five Savannah Sparrows were there still, I failed to find my desired birds. For the reason that my Leconte is a "think-so" and not a "know-so" I have not previously reported it for the records.

However, in Ludlow Griscom's "Summary of the Nesting Season" in Audubon Field Notes for September, 1948, I noted with interest that Leconte's Sparrow is among the western species moving eastward, and this year nested in Ontario near Buffalo. It made the supposed identity of my two Leconte's seem more probable. Therefore I thought I would suggest that when migrations roll around again we may be alert for the possible presence of this species.

**RECENT S B C RECORDS**

Compiled by G. Malcolm Andrews

Records additional to those obtained on recent SBC field trips have included:

Double-crested Cormorant - Two seen in October, Watervliet Reservoir (CG).

Little Blue Heron -- One in early September at Lock 7 (CG).

Snowy Egret - Several in late August at both Otsego and Goodyear Lakes, Otsego County (CG).

Canada Goose - About 15 seen in field near Delanson on November 18 (CG).

## FEATHERS

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- Pintail - About a dozen were taken by hunters at Niskayuna in October (CG).
- Old-squaw - One female taken at Niskayuna in October (CG).
- Shoveller - Two taken at Niskayuna by hunters, October (CG).
- American Scoter - Large raft (600-700) seen at Niskayuna in early October (CG).
- Ruddy Duck - Four opposite Niskayuna coal pocket Nov. 21 (RS).
- Turkey Vulture - One seen regularly all summer and fall through November 11 in Princetown Road area (CG).
- Bald Eagle - Pair nested this year and for several recent years, Otsego Lake, Otsego County (CG).
- Red-tailed Hawk - Four along Route 9W south of Albany November 18 (CG).
- Hungarian Partridge - Covey of six in October, Swaggertown Road area near Buhrmaster's orchards (CG).
- Woodcock - One November 16 at close range near Indian Ladder (GHB).
- Wilson's Snipe - One November 21, Niskayuna (RS).
- Saw-whet Owl - One captured by Schenectady police in Owen Optical Company office, Barrett Street, October 26. Bird later died in captivity.
- Barred Owl - One along Sunnyside Road in evergreen on November 11 (GHB).
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - One immature at Loudonville September 26 (LWF).
- Olive-backed Thrush - One, Washington Park, Albany, September 23 (LWF).
- Hermit Thrush - One Oct. 5 and five Oct. 10, Loudonville (LWF)
- Golden-crowned Kinglet - Very scarce autumn migrant; one Sept. 28 (RS) and two Oct. 10 (NVV).
- Blue-headed Vireo - One Sept. 17 and one Oct. 3, Loudonville (LWF).
- Magnolia Warbler - One Sept. 23, Washington Park, Albany (LWF)
- Black-throated Blue Warbler - One female, September 22, Loudonville (LWF).
- Black-throated Green Warbler - One Oct. 3, Loudonville (LWF).
- Nashville Warbler - One Oct. 3, Loudonville (LWF).
- Northern Yellow-throat - One Sept. 26, Loudonville (LWF).
- Purple Finch - Almost daily in September, and five or six birds to October 15, Loudonville (LWF).
- Lincoln's Sparrow - Four or five September 28, at Niskayuna (RS).

Savannah Sparrow - Five, Loudonville, September 27 (MWF).

White-crowned Sparrow - Two, Loudonville, October 10 (MWF).

KEY: Mr. and Mrs. GHBBainbridge, MWFFrench, CGGriffith, RStone, NVVVorst.

## S B C FIELD TRIP REPORTS

### ROBINS APLENTY

Saratoga Lake, Nov. 7

Ducks and Gulls were listed as the attractions-to-be-expected on the Saratoga-Round Lakes trip of Sunday, November 7 -- and they were found. But Robins really featured, along with a couple of Pine Siskins which were at first difficult to see and then tamely in front of the group of 13 observers led by Dr. Winnie B. Scotland. The temperature was about 50°; the weather clear; and the wind slight from the west. The record of 30 species included:

Common Loon, 2; Horned Grebe, 12; Pied-billed Grebe, 13; Great Blue Heron, 1; Black Duck, large raft plus occasional pairs; Buffle-head, 4; American Scoter, 6; American Merganser, 5 females; Sparrow Hawk; Herring Gull, 10; Ring-billed Gull, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker; Blue Jay; Crow; Black-capped Chickadee.

Robin, more than 100 in flocks in swamp and light hill-side woods, as well as along the shore, at first Saratoga Lake stop.

Bluebird; Cedar Waxwing, flocks; Starling; English Sparrow; Myrtle Warbler, 1; Red-wing; Bronzed Grackle; Pine Siskin; Goldfinch, abundant in flocks; Slate-colored Junco; Tree Sparrow; Fox Sparrow; and Song Sparrow.

After completion of the regular trip, still other species were added by some of the observers at other sites during the return trip. There was a Killdeer at Watervliet Reservoir; and at the Niskayuna wide waters the American Bittern, Lallard, Old-squaw, Coot, and Pipit.

## NEWS AND NOTES IN BRIEF

### 40-YEAR RECORDS

Ernest Geiser

Leader of the annual Upper Hudson February trip of S B C in the past two seasons was Ernest Geiser (page 93). Shortly after the last trip he moved to Long Eddy, Sullivan County, to live with his daughter. His card index of bird observa-

tions in SBC territory cover a period of more than 40 years. Plans are now being made to summarize them for SBC records.

STATE FEDERATIONCongratulations to Rochester

Rochester is to be congratulated and thanked for the excellent manner in which it conducted the annual meeting of The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, held at the Rochester Museum November 13 and 14. Beatrice Sullivan attended as the SBC delegate, and Guy Bartlett as treasurer of the organization; five attended from the Sassafras Bird Club of Amsterdam; and practically all groups in the state were represented. Officers were reelected, and the invitation of the Linnaean Society, New York City, accepted for the spring meeting.

There was a Council meeting Saturday morning, and a series of papers by members in the afternoon. After the dinner that evening Dr. Arthur A. Allen, Cornell University, told about and showed motion pictures of "The Quest of the Bristle-thighed Curlew," made in Alaska this year -- the bird had been known 113 years, but its nest now found for the first time.

The field trip of Sunday was also something -- and it had surprises, too, for the at-home Rochesterians and the neighboring Buffalonians. Ducks and Gulls were abundant and of numerous species -- and telescopes in common use. The features were an Eared Grebe, a Red Phalarope, and two Purple Sandpipers, not to mention an American Egret. Both the Phalarope and Purples permitted close approach by the sixty or more observers. It was very apparent that Crows and Jays do not in that vicinity approach the numbers we have.

IN THE AUKNot Far Away

The Auk of October, 1948, contains items of interest from several neighboring areas:

A Yellow-headed Blackbird was recorded on Long Island on April 17, 1947.

The Cape May Warbler bred in North Elba Township, Essex County, at an elevation of 1900 feet in July, 1947.

Several pairs of Gadwalls have bred, 1946 and 1947, at Jones Beach and Oak Island, Long Island.

The first Long Island breeding record of the Brown Creeper was at Smithtown in 1947.

Lotion pictures in color were obtained of a Painted Redstart at Marblehead Neck, Mass., October 18, 1947.

Three observers recorded a Bell's Vireo in Redding, Conn., on May 11, 1947.

The Wilson Bulletin of September, 1948, contains a record by Allan D. Cruickshank of a Wheatear studied at close range on November 15, 1947, at Peekskill.

Five previous records of the species in the New York City region are listed.

**THREE MONTHS OF WEATHER****Normal, Plus**

For the benefit of those who tie their bird records in with weather observations there are these facts on the fall weather:

It was the warmest September in two decades, with readings above 90 degrees on several days. Lowest was 39, on the 17th. It was dry, with only 1.87 inches precipitation. Temperature was 80 or more on 11 days.

October, too, was drier and warmer than normal. Rain totalled 2.50 inches, 1.21 below normal. First killing frosts were on the 21st and 22nd. Average temperature was 50.3; normal is 49.7. Three days reached 70 degrees or above, and ten others the 60's. There were light frosts Oct. 4, 5, 16 and 19. There was sleet on the 18th. On 14 days the thermometer dropped into the 30's or lower.

November was the warmest in the 30-year history of local weather records, with a daily average of 45.5 -- 38.5 is normal. High of 72 was reached Nov. 6. On only four days were below-freezing readings attained. There was rain on 14 days and a trace of snow on the 29th -- normal snow for the month is 4 inches. Precipitation was 4.22 inches, 1.37 above normal, raising the year's surplus to 4.79 inches. At the end of the month the year's average daily temperature showed a deficiency of a degree per day -- a total of 335 degrees.

**CHRISTMAS COUNT****December 26**

SBC's tenth annual Christmas Count is scheduled for Sunday, December 26. It's the biggest event of the Club's schedule -- and there's opportunity for all to participate. Margaret A. Smith, Field Activities Chairman, is making the arrangements; communicate with her in advance -- telephone 4-4396.

**TEN YEARS OLD****Or Young**

This December issue of FEATHERS is Volume 10, Number 12 -- S B C is ready for its second decade.

**NO MORE BOAT TRIPS****Day Line Quits**

Unless some S B C member offers the use of his yacht next season, the Club has made its last Kingston Boat trip, with its Egrets, its Eagles, its Ducks -- and its good time for all. At any rate, the Hudson River Day Line has announced it has decided to quit.

**A REMINDER****Plan on It**

Somewhat as a repetition -- the annual Christmas Count is something in which all S B C members can and should participate. Sunday -- December 26.



**JANUARY** Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Sapsucker among the 37 Species on Christmas Count, G. Malcolm Andrews, 1; An Adirondack Count, Barrington S. Havens, 4; Open Water - and Ducks, Guy Bartlett, 5; At the Vischer Ponds, David Pelton, 6; Before the Ice Closed Saratoga Lake, Nelle G. Van Vorst, 6; Tomhannock Records, Dr. Minnie B. Scotland, 7; Classes in Bird Study Will Start January 26, 8.

**FEBRUARY** January Was So "Most Unusual," 9; A Northerner Visits the Piedmont Section, Dorothy W. Caldwell, 13; Myrtle Warbler Also on Christmas Count, 14; Fewer Upper Hudson Ducks, 15.

**MARCH** Birds at Number Four (with map), P. Schuyler Miller, 17; Gourmet and Bird, Dr. Minnie B. Scotland, 21.

**APRIL** SBC Field Trips - 1947, G. Malcolm Andrews, 25; Schoharie County Birds, Mrs. Chester Zimmer, 33.

**MAY** Bull's Island (with map), Dorothy W. Caldwell, 37; The Blue Jay as a Vocalist, Barrington S. Havens, 40; A Whistler, Rudolph Stone, 41.

**JUNE** Egret One of 146 on Big Day, Margaret A. Smith, 45.

**JULY** Birds and Cherries, Ann and George H. Bainbridge, 53; Nuthatch Distribution, Barrington S. Havens, 56.

**AUGUST** 1947 in Review, Mildred D. Cray, 61.

**SEPTEMBER** A One-Diet Bird, J. Murray Hollister, 69; Flight Song of the Purple Finch, Barrington S. Havens, 70; Bug, Beast, or Bird, Guy Bartlett, 70.

**OCTOBER** Egretful Boat Trip, Lillian C. Stoner and Myrtice A. Blatchley, 77; Pilgrim's Pride and Birds, Beatrice Sullivan, 80.

**NOVEMBER** An Adventure in Snowstorm Birding, Rudolph Stone, 85.

**DECEMBER** The Short-eared Owl, Ernest Geiser, 93; The Leconte's Sparrow, Label W. French, 94.

**NEWS AND NOTES** February, 15; March, 21; April, 34; September, 76; October, 84; November, 91; December, 96.

**RECENT RECORDS** February, 9; April, 30; May, 43; June, 51; July, 57; September, 72; October, 82; November, 87; December, 94.

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### HIGH LIGHTS OF 1948

**LOCAL RECORDS** Common Loon, 5,43,62; Holboell's Grebe, 43; Double-crested Cormorant, 79,94; Great Blue Heron, 31; American Egret, 45,72,77,82,87; Snowy Egret, 72,83,94; Little Blue Heron, 72,78,83,87,94; American Bittern, 43; DUCKS, 31,43,59,73; Whistling Swan, 41; Canada Goose, 31,42,62,87,94; Greater Snow Goose, 62; Lallard, 43; Black Duck, 42; Baldpate, 31,62; Pintail, 31,62; Blue-winged Teal, 35; Shoveller,

31,95; Wood Duck, 87; Redhead, 31; Ring-necked Duck, 62; Canvas-back, 31,34,62; Scaup Duck, 62; American Golden-eye, 6; Buffle-head, 7; Old-squaw, 6,32,62,95,96; White-winged Scoter, 6,7,62; Surf Scoter, 6,62; American Scoter, 87; Ruddy Duck, 87,95; Hooded Merganser, 7; Red-breasted Merganser, 22,43; HAWKS, 32; Turkey Vulture, 62,73,89,95; Goshawk, 86; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 22,62; Cooper's Hawk, 62; Rough-legged Hawk, 89,91; Bald Eagle, 21,32,73,78,83,95; Osprey, 78; Duck Hawk, 82,89; Sparrow Hawk, 56; Hungarian Partridge, 95; Ring-necked Pheasant, 10; Coot, 32,44,83,96; Black-bellied Plover, 87; Woodcock, 95; Wilson's Snipe, 95; Greater Yellow-legs, 91; White-rumped Sandpiper, 59; Ring-billed Gull, 32,63; Great Black-backed Gull, 32,63; Bonaparte's Gull, 88; Black Tern, 88; Mourning Dove, 63,73; Barn Owl, 73; Screech Owl, 11,83; Great Horned Owl, 74,82; Barred Owl, 70; Short-eared Owl, 93; Saw-whet Owl, 95; Nighthawk, 84; Pileated Woodpecker, 11,84; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 88; Red-headed Woodpecker, 63; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Kingbird, 74; Prairie Horned Lark, 24; SWALLOWS, 74; Purple Martin, 88; Black-capped Chickadee, 12,33; White-breasted Nuthatch, 56; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 56; Robin, 10,23,96; Gray-cheeked Thrush, 64; Bluebird, 10; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 59,64; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 60; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1,64; American Pipit, 33,96; Cedar Waxwing, 74,85; Northern Shrike, 86; Migrant Shrike, 7,44; Blue-headed Vireo, 60; Philadelphia Vireo, 65; WARBLERS, 58; Prothonotary Warbler, 65; Worm-eating Warbler, 52,74; Lawrence's Warbler, 46; Blue-winged Warbler, 52; Cape May Warbler, 45,60; Lyrtle Warbler, 14,65; Prairie Warbler, 51,88; Connecticut Warbler, 45,89; Yellow-breasted Chat, 52; Hooded Warbler, 45, 74; Wilson's Warbler, 45; English Sparrow, 22; Red-wing, 11,65; Bronzed Grackle, 74; Cowbird, 34; Cardinal, 11,22,44; Evening Grosbeak, 65; Purple Finch, 70; Pine Grosbeak, 22; Hoary Redpoll, 65; Common Redpoll, 66; Greater Redpoll, 66; Pine Siskin, 96; Goldfinch, 96; Leconte's Sparrow, 94; White-crowned Sparrow, 22,33,52, 58,60; White-throated Sparrow, 58,66; Fox Sparrow, 11; Lincoln's Sparrow, 60,89,95; Swamp Sparrow, 33,85; Snow Bunting, 34,66.

LOCALITIES Local: Albany 22,59,94; Berne 67; Big Nose 50; Central Park 50; Christmas Circle 1; Delmar 83; Gallupville 33; General Electric 92; Helderbergs-Indian Ladder 49,67,89; Hudson River above Albany 5,15,21,34; Hudson River below Albany 66,82,83 (also see Kingston); Jenny Lake 4,56,70; Karners 51; Kingston Boat Trip 77,84; Niskayuna 75,90; Saratoga-Round Lakes 6,42,96; Schermerhorn Road 30; Scotia 22, 30,73; Tomhannock Reservoir 7; Vale Cemetery 58; Vischer Ponds 6,31, 33,41,43,90; Watervliet Reservoir 42,81,90. Non-local: Berkshire County, Massachusetts 15,23,51; Bull's Island, S.C. 37; Mt. Greylock 67; Massachusetts shore 80; Number Four (Adirondacks) 17; Piedmont Section, Georgia 13.

S.B.C. TRIPS 1947 Christmas Count, 1; Vischer Ponds 9.27.47, 6; Upper Hudson 1.18, 15; Upper Hudson 2.15, 21; Scotia 3.7, 30; Schermerhorn-Campbell Roads 3.21, 30; Saratoga-Round Lakes 4.11, 42; Watervliet Reservoir 4.17, 42; Vischer Ponds 4.25, 43; Beaverdam Road 5.1, 49; Central Park breakfast 5.2, 50; Big Nose 5.9, 50; Night Galls 5.11, 50; Century Run 5.15, 45; Pleasant Valley Sanctuary 5.22, 51; Karners 5.30, 51; Little Hudson 6.5, 66; Helderberg Picnic 6.9, 67; Berne 6.12, 67; Mt. Greylock, 6.19, 67; Niskayuna 7.25, 75; Watervliet Reservoir 8.22, 81; Kingston Boat 9.12, 77; Helderberg Hawks 9.26, 89; Vischer-Niskayuna 10.3, 90; Watervliet Reservoir 10.17, 90; Saratoga-Round Lakes, 11.7, 96.

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