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VESPER SPARROW, GRACKLE AND KILLDEER NEW ON SCHENECTADY'S CHRISTMAS COUNT

Hudson River Census Shows 4400 Ducks and Gulls of Eight Species ---
Jenny Lake Has Northern Finches --- Schenectady Total Is 5655
Individuals of 33 Species --- 43 Species Grand Total, Plus Eight
More on Near Days --- Warmth Sets Record

Schenectady, N. Y. (same overall area as in 1929 and subsequent counts). -- Dec. 26; 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Overcast, occasional light drizzle, steady rain after 5 p.m.; temp. 34 at start, 50 at noon, 48 at return; wind SE changing to W in p.m., 0 - 10 mph; all streams open, no snow, few marshes open. Thirty-five observers in 10 groups. Total hours, 34-3/4 (27 on foot, 7-3/4 by car); total miles 213 (52 on foot, 161 by car).

Great Blue Heron, 1; Black Duck, 4; American Merganser, 8; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 2; Marsh Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 7; Ruffed Grouse, 2; Ring-necked Pheasant, 10; Killdeer, 1 (first ever on count - S.P., G.M., P.R., R.G.); Herring Gull, 23; Mourning Dove, 1; Flicker, 6 (scattered); Pileated Woodpecker, 2; Hairy Woodpecker, 16; Downy Woodpecker, 32; Blue Jay, 54; Crow, 784; Black-capped Chickadee, 341; White-breasted Nuthatch, 30; Brown Creeper, 9; Robin, 5; Northern Shrike, 1; Starling, 3033 (including 2000 est. in downtown roosts); English Sparrow, 682; Red-wing, 11; Bronzed Grackle, 3 (first ever on count - with Red-wings, D.T., R.V.); Redpoll, 50; Goldfinch, 17; Vesper Sparrow, 2 (first ever on count - with Tree Sparrows and Juncos, A.A., A.H., P.S.M.); Slate-colored Junco, 75; Tree Sparrow, 420; Song Sparrow, 19. Total, 33 species, about 5655 individuals. Dead Great Horned Owl on refuse dump. Also seen during count week, Snowy Owl, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Goshawk, Kingfisher; 2 Ruby-crowned Kinglets at feeding station Dec. 18.

Alice Abel, James J. Anderson, Mrs. C. C. Bailey, Guy Bartlett, Mrs. Laura Beck, Mrs. W. E. Blowney, Mrs. R. M. Brockway, Mildred Crary, Agnes Eddy, Robert Goble, Mrs. C. J. Grace, Dr. Lawrence S. Hill, Alice Holmes, Gary Jameson, Mrs. H. A. Kelley, Frederick A. Klemm, Samuel A. Madison, Gloria Meader, Mr. and Mrs. B. D. Miller, P. Schuyler Miller, Mrs. W. S. McGraw, Stephanie Podrazik, Joan Pollak, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Pollak, Peter Rumsey, Vincent J. Schaefer, Mrs. E. W. Scott, Donald Tucker, J. M. Tucker, Robert Vessels, Leon A. Wiard, Arthur J. Woodward, Rudolph H. Stone (Schenectady Bird Club, Inc.).

Troy, N.Y. (Hudson River from above bridge, Stillwater, to below Congress Street Bridge, Troy; Hoosic River from above Valley Falls to mouth; Tomhannock Creek from Tamarack Swamp source to mouth; Tomhannock Reservoir; Mohawk River from above Dunsbach Ferry to mouth; Anthony Kill from Coons to mouth; about 30 miles of shore-line; urban and suburban 20%, open farm land 30%, brush land 10%, light deciduous woods 15%, mixed deciduous and evergreen woods 10%, cattail marshes 15%). - Dec. 31; 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Clear; temp. 15° to 32° to 30°; no wind; no snow; streams open but with broken and drifting thin ice, Tomhannock Reservoir 1/4 open. Two observers together. Total hours 7-1/2 (3-1/2 on foot, 4 by car); total miles 40 (5 on foot, 35 by car).

Mallard, 128; Black Duck, 2800 (est.); Pintail, 4; Am. Golden-eye, 145; Old-squaw, 1; Am. Merganser, 365; Red-tailed Hawk, 3; Sparrow Hawk, 2; Ring-necked Pheasant, 1; Herring Gull, 800 (est.); Ring-billed Gull, 55; Hairy Woodpecker, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 5; Blue Jay, 4; Crow, 32; Black-capped Chickadee, 54; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Brown Creeper, 1; Starling, 45; English Sparrow, 16; Am. Goldfinch, 1; Tree Sparrow, 2; Song Sparrow, 1. Total, 23 species, about 4470 individuals. (Seen outside area same day, Snowy Owl, 1. Seen Dec. 24 in prescribed area by B. C. Gardner and E.G.: Common Loon, 1; Holboell's Grebe, 1; White-winged Scoter, 6 (J.J. Anderson); Belted Kingfisher, 1; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Slate-colored Junco, 7.

G. Malcolm Andrews and Ernest Geiser.

Corinth, N. Y. (Jenny Lake and environs, elevation of 1180 feet in Adirondack State Park; mixed deciduous and evergreen woods, with minimum of open land). - Dec. 25; 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Clear; temp. 10° to 20°; no wind; traces of old snow; running streams open, lake frozen. Observer alone. Total hours 8; total miles, 8 on foot.

Ruffed Grouse, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Blue Jay, 3; Black-capped Chickadee, 12; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 5; Brown Creeper, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 3; Evening Grosbeak, 4; Pine Grosbeak, 4; Pine Siskin, 1; A. Goldfinch, 1. Total, 13 species, 38 individuals.

Barrington S. Havens.

* * * * *

More than 50 kinds of birds were recorded in S B C territory during Christmas Count week -- 51 to be exact; but only 43 were included on actual Christmas Counts. The Schenectady Count itself, the oldest and with the most participants, of course had the highest totals -- 33 species, and 5655 individuals. The Upper Hudson-Tpmhannock circle showed it has real possibilities - two observers finding 23 species and about 4470 individuals. Jenny Lake again showed it can produce species missing to the south. The lists as sent to Audubon Magazine are on page 1 and above.

Table I shows the composite list of all three Christmas Counts. The first column, S, shows Schenectady; the next, T, shows Troy; and the other, J, shows Jenny Lake. Species found during the week, but not on the trip, are indicated by X.

Table I -- COMPOSITE LIST OF S B C CHRISTMAS COUNTS, 1 9 4 9

	<u>S</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>J</u>		<u>S</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>J</u>
Com. Loon		X		Flicker	6		
Hob. Grebe		X		Pileat. Woodp.	2	X	
Gr. Blue Heron	1			Hairy Woodp.	16	3	1
Mallard		128		Downy Woodp.	32	5	1
Black Duck	4	2800		Blue Jay	54	4	3
Pintail		4		Crow	784	32	
Am. Golden-eye		145		Chickadee	341	54	12
Old-squaw		1		Wh-br. Nuthatch	30	2	1
White-w. Scoter		X		Red-br. Nuthatch			5
Am. Merganser	8	365		Brown Creeper	9	1	1
Goshawk	X			Robin	5		
Cooper's Hawk	1			Gold-cr. Kinglet			3
Red-tailed Hawk	2	3		Northern Shrike	1		
Marsh Hawk	1			Starling	3033	45	
Sparrow Hawk	7	2		Eng. Sparrow	682	16	
Ruffed Grouse	2		1	Red-wing	11		
Pheasant	10	1		Grackle	3		
Killdeer	1			Evening Grosbeak			4
Herring Gull	23	800		Pine Grosbeak			4
Ring-billed Gull		55		Redpoll	50		
Mourning Dove	1			Pine Siskin			1
Great Horned Owl	X			Goldfinch	17	1	1
Snowy Owl	X			Vesper Sparrow	2		
Barred Owl	X			Junco	75	X	
Kingfisher	X	X		Tree Sparrow	420	2	
				Song Sparrow	19	1	

It will be noticed in Table I that the Screech Owl does not appear in any of the lists; and that Jenny Lake had no Crows, Starlings, English Sparrows, Tree Sparrows, or Hawks of any kind.

* * * * *

The Schenectady Count of December 26, chairmanned by Rudd Stone, included 10 field groups, plus urban and feeding-station observers. Included were:

Party 1 - Lisha Kill, Lock 7, Niskayuna to Mohawk View; 10 party-hours, 11 miles on foot, 36 miles by car. Gary Jameson, Joan Pollak, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Pollak, Rudolph H. Stone, and Arthur J. Woodward.

Party 2 - Meadowdale-Indian Ladder, Carman-Karner Pine Barrens; 5-1/4 party-hours, 5 miles on foot, 37 miles by car. Guy Bartlett.

Party 3 - Watervliet Reservoir; Central Avenue, Albany, between railroad overpass and Colonie; Fuller Road; Route 20 to Reservoir; 6-1/2 party-hours, 7 miles on foot, 25 miles by car. Samuel Madison and Leon A. Wiard.

Party 4 - Collins Lake and Creek, Sunnyside Road, Riverside Avenue, Gateway Bridge, Rice Road, Poentic, Schermerhorn Road, Lock 8. 7-1/2 party-hours, 9 miles on foot. Donald Tucker, J. M. Tucker, Robert Vessels, Dr. Lawrence S. Hill.

Party 5 - Central Park. 4 party-hours, 6 miles on foot; Robert Goble, Gloria Meader, Stephanie Podrazik, Peter Rumsey.

Party 6 - Woestina Sanctuary, Schermerhorn and Bluff Rds. Gordon Road bridge nearly to Rotterdam power station; River Road to pumping station. 2 party-hours, 3 miles on foot. Vincent J. Schaefer.

Party 7 - Vly and Consaul Roads, St. David's Lane, Balltown Road; north side of Mohawk to Lock 7 and Vischers Ferry. 7 party-hours, 2 miles on foot, 55 miles by car. Alice Abel, Alice Holmes, P. Schuyler Miller.

Party 8 - Niskayuna, Myron Street to north of Mohawk Golf Club. 2-1/2 party-hours, 6 miles on foot. B. D. Miller.

Party 9 - Urban and Suburban areas and feeding stations. Mrs. C. C. Bailey, Mrs. Laura Beck, Mrs. W. E. Blowney, Mrs. R. M. Brockway, Mildred Crary, Agnes Eddy, Mrs. C.J. Grace, Mrs. H.G. Kelley, Mrs. W. S. McGraw, Mrs. E. W. Scott.

Party 10 - Vischer Ferry back from Mohawk River. 2-1/2 party-hours; 4 miles on foot, 8 miles by car. James J. Anderson and Frederick A. Klemm.

SCHENECTADY	33 Species, 5655 Individuals										Dec. 26, 1949
Party	Total	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
No. Species	33	17	15	15	23	9	5	14	7	11	15
Total Count	5655	430	820	464	405	160	22	280	42	2451	597
Gr. Blue Heron	1				1						
Black Duck	4	2			2						
Am. Merganser	8	8									
Cooper's Hawk	1										1
Red-tailed Hawk	2				2						
Marsh Hawk	1		1								
Sparrow Hawk	7		1	2	1						3
Ruffed Grouse	2	1						1			
Pheasant	10	7	2		1						
Killdeer	1						1				
Herring Gull	23*	10			8			9			12
Mourning Dove	1	1									

FEATHERS

January, 1950

Party	Total	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Flicker	6			3	1					1	1
Pileated Woodprkr	2		2								
Hairy Woodpecker	16	4	1	3	2				1	4	1
Downy Woodpecker	33	7	2	4	4	1		4	1	9	1
Blue Jay	54	12	4	2	2	4	3	6		18	3
Crow	784	6	382	23	47	2	3	12	3	6	300
Chickadee	341	57	33	23	50	6	10	40	3	69	50
White-br.Nuthatch	30	7	1	4	3	1		1	1	12	
Brown Creeper	9	4		2	3						
Robin	5							2		3	
Northern Shrike	1				1						
Starling	3033	145	317	336	50	21	4	16	3	2091	50
English Sparrow	683	14	33	33	35	117		88	30	233	100
Red-wing	11				11						
Grackle	3				3						
Redpoll	50										50
Goldfinch	17			5	2	7		3			
Vesper Sparrow	2							2			
Junco	75	20	3	2	11		2	25			12
Tree Sparrow	420	125	37	10	150			81		5	12
Song Sparrow	19		1	2	15						1

It will be noticed in the Schenectady summary, above, that only the Crow, Chickadee and Starling were found by all parties. The high Starling Count shown under Group 9 includes 2000 estimated for the downtown roosts.

TWO S B C MEMBERS ARE PARTICIPANTS IN RECORD-SETTING SOUTH CAROLINA COUNT

The names of Dr. Minnie B. Scotland and Nelle G. VanVorst are missing from this season's local Christmas Counts. They were out, however, but in a decidedly different area. They participated in the Count out of Charleston, S. C. All sections of the country had not reported in when this issue of FEATHERS went to press, but indications were that they had participated in a record-breaking Count -- 146 species. Miss Van Vorst reports:

When visiting new country it is always a pleasant surprise to find old friends. We had this experience when we started sight-seeing in and near Charleston. In the first of the famous Charleston gardens - Pierate Cruze, Isle of Palms - we were greeted by a White-throated Sparrow singing. As we wandered through the garden, enjoying the beautiful Camellia japonica filling every corner shaded by the large live-oak trees heavily draped with Spanish moss and trunks covered with ivy, we heard many of our familiar spring birds -- Cat-birds, Hermit Thrushes, both Kinglets, Towhees, Brown Thrashers, and Wrens. Later we learned that the Towhee was

a White-eyed, whose song is more slurred than that of the Red-eyed. The Cardinal and Mocker were always around the parks and yards, so we soon learned their calls.

One day as we visited a marshy place we were somewhat amazed to see an American Egret rise from the marsh and settle down again. Snowy Egrets in a small group took off from the edge of a small pool, showing their golden slippers, and chose their next place with some adult Little Blue Herons.

We stopped to see what was in this marsh -- the familiar call of the Yellow-legs greeted us while the Gulls, mostly Ring-billed, kept near the water; Marsh Hawks searched the fields for food; and Vultures soared high overhead.

Bull's Island

The day had come for the trip to Bull's Island, which had been looked forward to for more than a year. It was far more than had been anticipated. The station wagon took the group of nine from seven different states to the landing, and then the boat transported them to a different world, 25 miles north of Charleston. This boat trip had its thrills, for the oyster beds were feeding grounds for the brilliant Oystercatchers, and exposed sand bars were filled with Willets, Marbled Godwits, and Dowitchers. As the island waterway was approached, Horned Grebes and a few Terns - Forsters and Caspian - entertained the group.

The island had magnificent old live oaks festooned with Spanish moss. Tall magnolia trees, many pines - long leaf and loblolly, palmettoes, and holly trees with their crimson berries canopied the many old wood roads. The observers walked these roads, finding many Myrtle Warblers, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Ruby- and Golden-crowned Kinglets, Red-eyed and White-eyed Towhees, Carolina Wren, and many herons in a small pond. To mention all they found would fill columns, and would be repeating the ones given in the Bull's Island article in FEATHERS of February, 1945, and May, 1948.

To see the hundreds of Canvas-back and Ring-necked Ducks, with a few Wood, Shovelers, Baldpates, Ruddies, and Green-winged Teal was a sight they will long remember.

The old colonial home afforded the Audubon Bird Tourists a very pleasant place to stay and to enjoy the typically southern meals.

On the second day a trip to the north end of the island rewarded the group with many new birds - Yellow-throated Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. The shore here was most unusual, for it had many fallen trees weathered to the silver-gray sheen as only driftwood will do. But no Turkeys yet. After lunch the party started the last try for the Turkeys. Mr. Sprunt led a few along fami-

liar paths. When they came to a food patch in a fire lane Mr. Sprunt signalled them to hurry - and they knew he had the prize Audubon picture as a reality for there stood a cock Turkey and some hens. The birders were speechless as they watched these stately birds eat a little, listen, and then disappear into the woods.

It was with regret that the two-day visitors to Bull's Island left the beautiful island and all its life.

Along the highway on the main land the station wagon was stopped long enough for the Red-cockaded Woodpecker and the Brown-headed Nuthatch to be found, making the list for the two days 104 varieties.

A day was spent visiting the cypress garden, mulberry plantation, and the formal Middleton Gardens, with the highlight for them the finding of an Anhinga by Dr. Scotland.

Christmas Count -- 146

Saturday was the day of the Christmas count, and we had been invited. As the sun rose clearly over the Cooper river the participants were assigned to groups and were ready to go. It was the good luck of the Sohenectady members to accompany Mr. and Mrs. Sprunt. He drove through the wooded areas where vast tracts had been or were being lumbered and the slash left, inviting a forest fire. The pines in this pine-barren country seemed alive with birds - adding Pine Warblers and Blue-headed Vireos to the list. At times the station wagon stopped to allow some half-wild pigs with their families of very small ones cross the road.

To complete the list of 75 for the day Mr. Sprunt drove through some cultivated fields, finding many Pipits, Sparrows, Mourning Doves and Ground Doves. Bluebirds had been plentiful, feeding on the Cassina and holly berries. Robins in huge flocks had flown over the path, and Loggerhead Shrikes had been observed on poles and wires. As the searchers left the shore, where Snowy Egrets had joined some Little Blues, they drove toward Charleston searching for Starlings. No Starlings did they find!

Later it was learned that the combined list was 146. What a census it had been for the SBC guests - no snow or ice to hamper them - no hills, and plenty of birds. They came home from this interesting country with a deeper appreciation for the new book, South Carolina Bird Life, by Messrs. Sprunt and Chamberlain.

(A map of Bull's Island appears on page 37 of FEATHERS of May, 1948, accompanying Miss Dorothy Caldwell's article on her trip there. Audubon Magazine of November, 1946, has a detailed description of the island and its birds.)

S B C FIELD TRIP REPORTS
Margaret A. Smith, Field Activities Chairman

SNOW GEESE

Saratoga-Round Lakes, Nov. 13, 1949

The ten SBC members on the field trip of November 13 to Saratoga and Round Lakes had no question as to the most interesting of the day's 40 species. Not the three dozen Common Loons more the 38 Canada Geese, or any of the numerous other birds beyond the day's prize -- 25 Greater Snow Geese off the point in Saratoga Lake opposite Snake Hill. The day was cloudy, 38°, and wind northeast. The day's list:

Loon, 36; Holboell's Grebe, 5; Horned Grebe, 9; Pied-billed Grebe, 1; Canada Goose, 38; Greater Snow Goose, 25; Mallard, 1; Black Duck, 100; Ring-necked Duck, 12; Canvas-back, 2; Greater Scaup Duck, 4; Lesser Scaup Duck, 56; American Golden-eye, 30; Buffle-head, 1; White-winged Scoter, 3; American Scoter, 4; Hooded Merganser, 10.

Sparrow Hawk, 1; Pheasant, 1; Coot, 10; Lesser Yellow-legs, 1; Herring Gull, 15; Ring-billed Gull, 1; Bonaparte's Gull, 2; Kingfisher, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 2.

Blue Jay, 26; Crow, 10; Chickadee, 12; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Brown Creeper, 2; Pipit, 1; Starling, 15; English Sparrow, Red-wing, 5; Pine Siskin, 60; Goldfinch, 1; Junco, 5; Tree Sparrow, 25; and Song Sparrow, 2.

Dr. Scotland was leader of the trip.

NO WARBLERS

Central Park, Oct. 19, 1949

The field trip of October 19 in Central Park was advertised in advance as featuring warblers -- whereupon a lone Myrtle Warbler was the only representative of such birds. The trip, led by Crawford Dunlap, accounted for 19 species. The day was clear and cool, and the air calm. The list:

Pheasant, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Blue Jay, 6; Crow, 5; Chickadee, 20; Robin, 2; Bluebird, 6; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 1; Starling, 20; Blue-headed Vireo, 1; Myrtle Warbler, 1; English Sparrow, 5; Red-wing, 30; Grackle, 15; Goldfinch, 4; Junco, 1; White-throated Sparrow, 1; and Song Sparrow, 4.

NEWS AND NOTES IN BRIEF

1949 WEATHERWISEWarm, Dry

City Meteorologist Morris M. Cohn reports 1949 warm and dry - with an average daily temperature excess of 2.3 degrees, and precipitation 4-1/2 inches below normal for the year. The year had no below-zero reading.

A Winter Vacation in Florida Shows

GULLS CAN BE TAME

Beatrice Sullivan

In Florida even the Gulls are tourist-minded. Ring-bills, about a hundred of them, sit out on a wharf at St. Augustine, but let a tourist come along the sea-wall with a package and they are after him! Of course they are often fed, and are really expert at snatching bits of sandwich or whatever is thrown to them while they are still in the air, fluttering and screaming. They will even walk along the sea-wall, coming fairly close to a person -- but not all the way.

It is probably just coincidence but it seems as if, when a particularly adventuresome mottled youngster creeps almost up to the hand that is trying to feed him, he is bumped off the wall by a flash of gray and white hurtling down upon him.

And then they will go up into the trees. "Graceful as a Gull" is anything but appropriate when said Gull is bobbing around in a cabbage palm, pecking at the fruit.

The Gulls, however, are not lords of all. A man dropped part of his hot dog on the sand right beside his car. A couple of Gulls edged in, but while they were getting up courage to reach under the running board, a Pigeon darted in. With great flapping they drove the Pigeon off, but back he came in a moment with three others, and under they went. The Gulls squawked, more Gulls came, there was a scramble -- but the Pigeons got the hot dog.

The Laughing Gulls who rode in on a northeaster are more aloof. They prefer to swim about by themselves, dap-dapping into the water first on one side and then the other. They apparently like their own food better than the tourists' offerings. That same week, incidentally, Laughing Gulls made news in a Miami paper. Someone in the city found a great number of them sitting in a parking lot. And "sitting" was the term he insisted best described them. A member of the Miami Audubon Society was called. He identified them and explained that they were exhausted after having been driven in by a bad storm. Apparently they all left again next day. There was no word that they were any the worse for a night's free parking.

But, to return to St. Augustine, there are the Brown Pelicans. Flying not too high, their grotesque bills tucked in and pointed straight down, they breeze along on a fair

day, but it is in heavy weather they really show their flying ability -- they can make the Gulls look like amateurs.

Turnstones are there in numbers, tossing oystershell-encrusted stones as big as themselves, fluttering out over the sea when frightened but wheeling back to shore again in formation, their wings flashing in a beautiful striped pattern.

Sanderlings, like balls of white fluff, stand their ground at the water's edge, and Black Skimmers line up on a sand bar with a military precision that would delight a sergeant. Sometimes at dusk a line of Cormorants skim low and fast across the bay, and once, high above them all, thirty Geese triangled down the coast.

Two Horned Grebes keep up a perpetual disappearance act as they dive down out of sight. Scaups, nearly as numerous as the Gulls, ride so close inshore that with binoculars we may easily tell which feathers are black and which are not.

The Heron family is there, too. The big Ward's Heron flops down on a sand bar now and then. A few Little Blues, both immature and adult, are about. There is at least one American Egret, and a Snowy.

Of course there are birds inshore as well as around the water -- an Anhinga clinging to a dead branch, Cardinals, Mockingbirds, Towhees, Catbirds and Jays -- but never a Florida Gallinule, which in St. Petersburg will follow you around.

The foregoing is not a remarkable list, neither in number nor kind. Its most outstanding feature is that all these birds were seen along a main highway, or from a village street.

When You're Next in Brazil, Visit

VILA DOS PASSAROS

Dr. Minnie B. Scotland

Vila dos Passaros: This is the Portuguese for Village of Birds. In Santos, Brazil, there lives a banker who has this nameplate at the side of his front door. He is a hospitable gentleman who permits tourists to enjoy his hobby, which is the collecting of wild birds. In the gardens of his home he has hundreds of beautiful specimens from the jungles away up the Amazon River. The cost of getting these rare birds is great, reaching even to a thousand dollars for one that was acquired last summer.

The birds are housed in cages of varying sizes arranged in tiers on platforms. In addition there are a few large

enclosures where the birds can fly about easily. These cages are kept clean and supplied with food and water by caretakers employed especially for these tasks.

The aviary is not a noisy place even though the chatter and occasional song of a bird is heard. A few of the birds bear resemblances to North American species but the majority are very different. They are much more colorful. The tourist is tempted to take pictures of these beautiful creatures but on his return home he discovers that the light in the cages was insufficient to bring out the gorgeous colors. However, they linger in his mental images of South American birds seen in the gardens of Vila dos Passaros.

S B C FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Margaret A. Smith, Field Activities Chairman

PLENTY OF DUCKS

Tomhannock-Upper Hudson, Jan. 15

The Upper Hudson trip of January 15 produced no avian sensations like the Iceland Gull of last year. In fact, the high spot of the trip had nothing to do with birds -- it was a deer which was seen standing in the center of the Hudson a few miles above its confluence with the Mohawk.

We expanded the trip by taking a swing over to Tomhannock Reservoir, which proved to have considerable open water. The Hudson, of course, was entirely open. Ducks were quite numerous along both routes, the Blacks leading with over a thousand equally divided between the Hudson and Tomhannock.

An Evening Grosbeak perched in the sun atop a 15-foot tree near the road above Troy proved a beautiful sight.

The 20 species for the trip (H=Hudson, T=Tomhannock): Mallard, 6H, 20T; Black Duck, 500H, 500T; Pintail, 4T; Greater Scaup Duck, 1T; American Golden-eye, 5H, 200T; American Merganser, 40H, 800T; Red-tailed Hawk, 3H, 1T; Sparrow Hawk, 4H, 1T; Herring Gull, 150H, 400T; Ring-billed Gull, 20H; Downy Woodpecker, 2H; Blue Jay, hf,T; Crow, 40H; Black-capped Chickadee, 15H, 12T; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2H; Northern Shrike, 1H; Starling; English Sparrow; Evening Grosbeak, 1H; Goldfinch, 1H. -- Samuel Madison

NEWS AND NOTES IN BRIEF

GLAUCOUS AGAIN

And Again

Two independent records have been turned in for the Glaucous Gull this winter. On Sunday morning, January 29, Ernest Geiser saw one below the Crescent Bridge. The following Sunday, at Cohoes, Nelle Van Vorst and Minnie Scotland, one.

There Were 203 Kinds of Birds on

SBC FIELD TRIPS - 1949

Margaret A. Smith, Field Activities Chairman

SBC's scheduled field trips during 1949 -- of which there were 26 -- added up to a record-breaking total of 203 species. The answer to the high count is easy -- the State Federation's field work on Long Island at the end of May was one of the SBC scheduled trips. It accounted for 25 species not found on any of the other reports. The ten-county local count of 178 species was, however, a new high.

Of course the mid-May Century Run was the heaviest contributor, with 130 kinds. Owl records were, as usual, poor; and so were those of shore-birds.

Among the most interesting species of the local trips were the Greater Snow Goose, Turkey Vulture, Duck and Pigeon Hawks, Glaucous and Iceland Gulls, Blue-winged and Connecticut Warblers, and Sharp-tailed Sparrow.

In the following table the page references in parentheses indicate detailed trip reports in FEATHERS during 1949. Species shown in parentheses in the other table were recorded only on the Long Island federation trip.

FIELD TRIPS - 1949

A	Upper Hudson (p.11)	Jan.16	15
B	Green Island - Cohoes (p.17)	Feb.20	12
C	Sunnyside Road, Scotia (p.26)	Mar. 6	18
D	Campbell-Schermerhorn Roads (p.26)	20	20
E	Round-Saratoga Lakes (p.25)	27	38
F	Watervliet Reservoir (p.50)	Apr. 3	38
G	Gordon Road (p.51)	9	19
H	Vischer Ponds - Crescent Lake (p.52)	24	41
I	Wolf Hollow (p.52)	30	34
J	Central Park (p.53)	May 1	42
K	Vly Road (p.53)	4	2
L	Copake Falls (overnight) (p.45)	5-7	64
M	Century Run (p.41)	14	130
N	Niskayuna-Crescent Lake (p.54)	15	49
O	Helderbergs (p.54)	22	62
P	Long Island (State Federation) (p.47)	28-30	96
Q	Karner Sand Barrens (p.64)	30	42
R	Helderbergs, Evening Picnic (p.65)	June 8	1
S	Consalus Vlaie (p.65)	12	61
T	Niskayuna-Mohawk View (p.63)	July 17	70
U	Watervliet Reservoir (p.85)	Aug.21	60
V	Mariaville Lake (p.86)	Sep.18	38
W	Vischer Ponds - Crescent Lake (p.86)	Oct. 8	45
X	Central Park (p.8, 1950)	16	19
Y	Saratoga-Round Lakes (p.8, 1950)	Nov.13	40
Z	Christmas Count (p.1, 1950)	Dec.26	33

FEATHERS

February, 1950

SPECIES	ABCD	EFGH	IJKL	MNOP	QRST	UVWX	YZ
Common Loon							y
Holboell's Grebe							y
Horned Grebe		f					y
Pied-billed Grebe		f h		m p	t	w	y
Double-crested Cormorant			l				
Great Blue Heron			l	m	t	w	z
American Egret (Snowy Egret)				p	t	u w	
(Little Blue Heron)				p			
Green Heron				p			
Black-crowned Night Heron				m p	t	u	
(Yellow-cr. Night Heron)		h		m o p	st		
American Bittern				p			
Least Bittern		h		m o p	t		
(Mute Swan)				p			
Canada Goose		h		m			y
Greater Snow Goose							y
Mallard	ab	h		m p	t	u w	y
Black Duck (Gadwall)	ab d	e h		m o p	t	u w	yz
Baldpate		e h		p		w	
Pintail						w	
Green-winged Teal		f				w	
Blue-winged Teal		h		m		u	
Wood Duck		f h	j l	m	t	u w	
Ring-necked Duck		e					y
Canvas-back							y
Greater Scaup Duck		e					y
Lesser Scaup Duck							y
American Golden-eye	abc	e					y
Buffle-head							y
White-winged Scoter							y
American Scoter (Ruddy Duck)		e		p			y
Hooded Merganser		e					y
American Merganser	abc	efgh		m			z
Red-breasted Merganser		e					
Turkey Vulture			l				
Goshawk	d						
Sharp-shinned Hawk			i	m	q		
Cooper's Hawk			i	m		u	z
Red-tailed Hawk	ab	ef	j	p			z
Red-shouldered Hawk			l	m p	s		
Broad-winged Hawk			i l	p		u	
Rough-legged Hawk		g					
Bald Eagle					t		
Marsh Hawk			l	m p q		vw	z
Osprey		h	l	m			
Duck Hawk		e	l	m			
Pigeon Hawk				m			
Sparrow Hawk	cd		i l	m o p	s		yz
Ruffed Grouse (Bob-white)		fg		m o			z
Ring-necked Pheasant	a c			m	st	u wx	yz

FEATHERS

February, 1950

SPECIES	ABCD	EFGH	IJKL	MNOP	QRST	UVWX	YZ
(Clapper Rail)				p			
Virginia Rail				m p	t		
Florida Gallinule			l	m p	t		
Coot				p		w	y
(Piping Plover)				p			
Killdeer		ef h	j l	mnp	q st	u w	z
(Black-bellied Plover)				p			
(Ruddy Turnstone)				p			
Woodcock			k	m			
Wilson's Snipe					s	w	
Upland Plover					st		
Spotted Sandpiper				m op	q t	u	
Solitary Sandpiper				m			
Greater Yellow-legs				p		u w	
Lesser Yellow-legs				p			y
(Knot)				p			
Pectoral Sandpiper				m		u	
Least Sandpiper				p		u	
(Red-backed Sandpiper)				p			
(Dowitcher)				p			
(Semipalmated Sandpiper)				p			
(Sanderling)				p			
Glaucous Gull		e					
Iceland Gull	b						
(Great Black-backed Gull)				p			
Herring Gull	abcd	ef h	l	m p		vw	yz
Ring-billed Gull				m p			y
Bonaparte's Gull							y
(Common Tern)				p			
(Least Tern)				p			
(Black Skimmer)				p			
Mourning Dove		ef h	j	mn p	q st	uv	z
Screech Owl				m			
Barred Owl				m			
Whip-poor-will			k	m			
Nighthawk				m			
Chimney Swift			l	mnp	q st	u	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird			l	m p		uv	
Belted Kingfisher	a	f	l	mnp	q st	uv	z
Flicker		e h	ij l	mnp	q st	uv	z
Pileated Woodpecker				m o			z
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				m			
Hairy Woodpecker	c	efgh	ij l	m o	s	uv x	z
Downy Woodpecker	a bd	ef h	j	mn	st	uvw x	yz
Kingbird			l	m op	st	u	
Crested Flycatcher			l	m op	st	u	
Phoebe		efgh	ij l	mnp	q st	uv	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher					q		
Alder Flycatcher					t		
Least Flycatcher				mnp	st		
Wood Pewee				op	q st	uv	
Prairie Horned Lark	d	f	j	m	s	w	
Tree Swallow		f h		mnp	t	uv	
Bank Swallow		h		m op	q t	u	

FEATHERS

February, 1950

SPECIES	ABCD	EFGH	IJKL	MNOP	QRST	UVWX	YZ
Rough-winged Swallow		h		m	t	u	
Barn Swallow		h	i l	mnop	st	u	
Cliff Swallow				m			
Blue Jay	c	efgh	ij l	mnop	q st	uvwx	yz
Crow (Fish Crow)	abcd	efgh	ij l	mnop p	q st	uvwx	yz
Black-capped Chickadee	a cd	efgh	ij l	mnop	q st	uvwx	yz
White-breasted Nuthatch	a cd	ef h	ij l	m o	t	uvw	yz
Red-breasted Nuthatch				m			
Brown Creeper	cd	f		m			yz
House Wren			ij l	mnop	q st		
Winter Wren			i	m		w	
Long-billed Marsh Wren				m op	t	u w	
Catbird			l	mnop	q st	uvw	
Brown Thrasher			j	mn p	q	u	
Robin	b	efgh	ij l	mnop	q st	uvwx	z
Wood Thrush			l	mnop	q st	u	
Hermit Thrush		f	ij	m	s		
Gray-cheeked Thrush				m			
Veery			l	mnop	q st	u	
Bluebird	cd	efgh	ij l	mno	q st	u wx	
Golden-crowned Kinglet		efg		m		wx	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		ef h	j	m			
American Pipit				m		w	y
Cedar Waxwing				m	st	uvw	
Northern Shrike							z
Starling	a cd	efgh	ij l	mnop	q st	uvwx	yz
(White-eyed Vireo)				m p			
Yellow-throated Vireo				mn p	t	u	
Blue-headed Vireo			j l	m		v x	
Red-eyed Vireo			i	m op	q st	v	
Warbling Vireo			l	mn	s	v	
Black and White Warbler			j l	m o	s	uv	
Worm-eating Warbler				m			
Golden-winged Warbler				mno			
Blue-winged Warbler				m p			
Tennessee Warbler				m			
Nashville Warbler			j	m	s		
Parula Warbler			l	m op			
Yellow Warbler			l	mnop	st		
Magnolia Warbler				m o	s	uv	
Cape May Warbler				mn		v	
Black-throated Blue Warbler			l	m		v	
Lyrtle Warbler			ij l	mn		vw x	
Black-throated Green Warbler			i l	mno		v	
Blackburnian Warbler			l	m			
Chestnut-sided Warbler			l	mnop	q st		
Bay-breasted Warbler				m		v	
Black-poll Warbler				m	q		
Pine Warbler			j	m			
Prairie Warbler				m	q		
Yellow Palm Warbler			j				
Oven-bird			l	mnop	qrs		
Northern Water-thrush				m	q		

SPECIES	ABCD	EFGH	IJKL	MNOP	QRST	UVWX	YZ
Louisiana Water-thrush			i l	m o			
Connecticut Warbler				n			
Northern Yellow-throat (Yellow-breasted Chat)			l	mno p	q st	vw	
Wilson's Warbler				m			
Canada Warbler				m o	q s		
American Redstart			l	mno p	q st	v	
English Sparrow	a cd	ef h	ij l	mno p	q st	u x	yz
Bobolink				mno		u	
Meadowlark		d efgh	ij l	mno p	q st		
Red-wing	bcd	efgh	ij l	mno p	q st	u wx	yz
Baltimore Oriole			l	mno p	q st	u	
Rusty Blackbird		g	j			w	
Bronzed Grackle		d ef h	ij l	mno p	q st	wx	z
Cowbird		efgh	ij l	m op	q t	u w	
Scarlet Tanager			l	mno p	q st	u	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak			l	mno	st	uv	
Indigo Bunting			l	m o	q t	u	
Evening Grosbeak						u	
Purple Finch (House Finch)			j l	mn	p	u	
(British Goldfinch)					p		
Redpoll	bcd	e					z
Pine Siskin			j				y
Eastern Goldfinch		ef	j l	mno p	q st	uvw x	yz
Red-eyed Towhee			j l	mno p	q st	v	
Savannah Sparrow			j	mn	st	w	
Grasshopper Sparrow				m op	st		
Henslow's Sparrow			i	mno p	st		
Sharp-tailed Sparrow					p	w	
Vesper Sparrow		h	i l	m	s	u	z
Slate-colored Junco		d efgh	ij	m		vw x	yz
Tree Sparrow	a d	ef					yz
Chipping Sparrow		h	ij l	mno p	q st	uv	
Field Sparrow		fgh	ij	mno	q st		
White-crowned Sparrow				m			
White-throated Sparrow			ij l	mn	s	vw x	
Fox Sparrow		f					
Lincoln's Sparrow				m			
Swamp Sparrow		h	l	m op	st	u w	
Song Sparrow	bcd	efgh	ij l	mno p	q st	uvw x	yz

Reference has already been made to the nine most outstanding species on the year's local field trips. The records in addition had several added items of interest -- out-of-season stragglers.

There was the mid-summer (August 21) Evening Grosbeak at Watervliet Reservoir. The Christmas Census contributed such birds as the Killdeer, Bronzed Grackle, and Vesper Sparrow, as well as the Great Blue Heron, Mourning Dove, Robin, and Red-wing. The mid-November Saratoga Lake trip, not large in count, contributed importantly in species otherwise missed.

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PURPLE GALLINULE -- Fish-eater

J. Murray Hollister

The sight of a Purple Gallinule, with its purple and green body feathers, yellow and orange bill, and long yellow legs, will impress a picture on your mind not easily forgotten. Such was my experience in Florida in April, 1949, when I found a pair nesting in the marsh at the headwaters of the St. Johns River.

Not being a good wader in the muck, I considered myself fortunate in locating a nest near enough to dry land for taking pictures with a telephoto lens. Unfortunately the entrance to the nest faced north, allowing no direct sunlight which is so necessary for Kodachrome. A bird was discovered working through the flags and rushes, at least three feet above ground, evidently looking for food. This action suggested hunger, so a bream was caught and placed on shore within sight of the bird. In less than two minutes the bird was after the fish. The first operation was to place a foot on the fish -- and such sizeable feet -- and start removing the eyes, which it seemed to relish. The next operation was to attack the tender portion of the abdomen, tearing a hole

SOMETHING DIFFERENT IN GALLINULE DIET -- To the left is the Purple Gallinule eating a bream, with the fish's eyes first on the menu. The bird's mandibles, slightly blurred, can be seen just above the fish's head. Note the enormous length of the bird's toes. No wonder it can "walk on water" as seen in the picture to the right.



Schenectady Bird Club, Inc.

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with the bill, where it obtained satisfaction and flew away.

The nesting spot was found during the late stage of incubation, as soon both parents were seen hunting for food.

Bread Also Eaten

Bread was taken to satisfy the fledglings' appetites. A Kodachrome was also obtained showing the Gallinule at work on the bread.

During one visit to the nest, when the young were old enough to swim, one parent, evidently the female, seemed to think that I was too near for safety. She took the four black, shiny youngsters across the slough to a bunch of flags, too far away for photographing but within easy range of binoculars. Here developed the most interesting feature of the observations.

A Sunporch for the Youngsters

The young rested on horizontal flag leaves in direct sunlight with the parent. Immediately the other parent went to the vacant nest and called, evidently trying to get the youngsters back. After that it swam toward the young, going only about half the distance and again returning to the nest.

This action was repeated three times, but the mother with the young did not allow the "kids" to move. From all appearances the mother bird did not like the hot sun, so she started building a nest in the dead rushes. This was done by grasping with the bill a flag leaf, at least four feet long, pulling it over the rushes, putting her foot on it, then folding the leaf back and forth, and finally sitting on it to make a level spot. Three leaves were used.

During the process she grabbed the leaf on which the young were resting and gave it a tremendous yank, causing the youngsters to take a somersault into the water. This action seemed to be taken as a matter of course. The babies were soon out of the sun, in a new nest, being brooded by a very considerate Gallinule.

At the next visit, two days later, another nest had been built some distance from open water, and completely concealed by the rushes. Mr. and Mrs. Gallinule were busy gathering food, indicating that the youngsters were prospering.

(Mr. Hollister's color photographs of the Purple Gallinule are particularly brilliant and sharp; the black-and-white reproductions on page 17 hardly do them justice. What

he did not realize while making the pictures was that perhaps he was obtaining the first pictures of Gallinules feeding on fish and bread. The Purple Gallinule is much like the Florida Gallinule which is a breeding summer resident in Schenectady territory. Neither species is considered to be a fish-eater. Howell's book on Florida birds merely states that seven stomachs of the Purple Gallinule were examined, showing 42% animal matter and 58% vegetable. Bent's Life Histories have no mention of fish in the diet. Forbush in his Massachusetts books says the Purple Gallinule feeds on insects, worms, small snails and other small aquatic animals and wild fruit, seeds and other parts of plants. Forbush also says "Like some of the Rails, they often build sham nests" -- of interest in connection with Kr. Hollister's observation of additional nests.

A NORTHERN SHRIKE STORY

Rudolph H. Stone

On February 8, 1950, the sky over the Mohawk Valley at Schenectady was a crystal clear blue, and the sun glistened upon the 4-5" of soft white snow. The day was cold, the 6 AM temperature reading a frigid -10 degrees. But the friendly sun had already warmed the crisp air to a more moderate 12 degrees by 3 pm.

Earlier a small flock of Horned Larks and an Evening Grosbeak had passed overhead. But this was nothing compared to what was to follow.

It was mid-afternoon at the "S" curves of Schermerhorn Road when a loud, liquid bubbling performance flooded the quiet air, punctuated here and there with a few squeaks and mewling calls. One even resembled that of a crying doll. While it suggested the songs of both Rusty Blackbird and Brown Thrasher, it was obviously neither. Indeed, any bird in full song under these circumstances seemed remarkable. This was simply not the song season.

So well concealed amidst the numerous branches of a tall willow tree was the composer of these mellifluous gurglings, that he was not seen until a pair of eyes on an arched neck spotted him well up towards the top. He was so large, long-tailed and apparently uniformly gray-brown, that the Mockingbird seemed a not unreasonable possibility. But the bill appeared wholly pale flesh colored, and not long and slender enough.

The neighborhood had been treated to a full five minute concert by this eloquent minstrel, when he abruptly terminated his lay and glided down by stages on rather short rounded wings into an elderberry thicket. There he paused,

scarcely 20' from where I was standing; and from the black wing patch and very clear but fine wavy cross-barring of the underparts plus the earlier details, he was unquestionably an immature male Northern Shrike. Probably the same one that has been repeatedly seen since Christmas week within the adjacent square mile of river flat.

It became quickly apparent that this Shrike had business in that thicket; business that demonstrated the aptness of his other name "Butcher Bird". He hopped over to a little gray fur-like mass fixed in a crotch and started pecking it vigorously. The show was already half over; the creature, mouse or bird, caught, fixed in place, and partially eaten. This Shrike eats both in winter. He must impale them on thorns or fix as above, because despite his predatory nature and hooked beak, his toes are too weak to hold his prey firmly.

After each peck or two, he would swallow a small piece of flesh, then pause and look cautiously about him before again attacking his dinner. All the time twitching his tail up and down, probably to keep his balance. A few times he had to catch himself, because the force of each peck caused his unsteady perch and that of his fleshy delicacy to shake, clattering the branches. Twice he flew back up into the tall willow to work on oversize chunks. After finishing the first piece he broke into more song for two or three minutes. The second chunk was his last from this victim, and it seemed to be mostly fur. But instead of remaining in the willow, he bounded off over the meadow, the "fur" protruding from his beak. The remaining portion was well frozen into a narrow crotch. It was a bird, or had been. Only a piece of vertebral column, broken pelvic bones and some rump feathers were left. These feathers seemed to check with the rump of a stuffed male English Sparrow.

While the Shrike was eating this bird, a Swamp Sparrow and 3 Song Sparrows called from nearby cattails, a Brown Creeper uttered his long hiss, and a Goldfinch and 5 Redpolls called in overhead flight. Little did they suspect this quiet bit of drama with its grim ending!

SHOULD SNOWY OWLS BE SHOT ?

John L. Wolff

(Following is an editorial from the January, 1950, Bulletin of The Scarsdale Audubon Society. Jack Wolff, editor, is also Secretary of The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs.)

Should the Snowy Owls be shot whenever possible? This question has been raised with the present incursion of these

wintering birds from the Arctic, a similar incursion which takes place roughly every four years. Those against the bird claim they take a tremendous toll of wild birds and small game on their quadrennial migrations into the United States. State Game Protector Edward Townsend performed autopsies on the four Snowy Owls shot in Westchester County and stated he found partly digested remains of a Mallard, a Pheasant, a Grouse, a rabbit, a squirrel, and a muskrat. He added with emphasis that he found no rats or mice, upon which these Owls are supposed to feed.

In a recent editorial (Dec. 21) in the White Plains Reporter Dispatch, it says: "Game Warden Edward Townsend takes sharp issue with members of Audubon Societies who are protesting the shooting of Snowy Owls which have migrated from the Arctic in search of food. The bird-lovers have pictured these great Owls as harmless creatures which feed on mice, rats and other rodents." This is an implication that Audubon Societies have not been telling the truth. The Scarsdale Audubon Society and others, to the best of my knowledge, have never stated that these Owls eat only mice, rats and other rodents. The truth of the matter is that Snowy Owls on their breeding grounds eat mostly lemmings and several species of mice. These birds are greatly responsible for keeping down the numbers of these rodents, even though they occasionally catch Ptarmigans.

Here Snowy Owls have taken such birds as Ducks, Grouse and Gulls. In the New England States they actually feed mostly on mice, rats, and other animals such as weasels, rabbits, minks, shrews, etc. Around 1904, Dr. A.K. Fisher examined the stomachs of 38 Snowy Owls in New York State and then, when game was far more numerous than it is now, he found 18 contained mice (almost 50%), 2 other mammals, 2 game birds, 9 other birds, and 12 empty. It is too bad he did not elaborate on the "other mammals" and "other birds" but even so this does not indicate a harmful bird to me.

Snowy Owls eat dead and dying animals many times, which may explain some of the food found in Mr. Townsend's birds. The Snowies breed in the Arctic tundra or other flat areas in the Far North. During their winter treks they habitually seek similar areas wherever they are. Hence, here they prefer the sand dunes of the outer beaches, the extensive tidal marshes, large flat areas of the interior (such as airports), and are virtually unknown in brushy or wooded areas where, incidentally, they will never stay for any length of time anyway. The majority of the game animals stay away from these open areas.

Game and all other birds and animals multiply at a rate which compensates for loss of life through capture by predators, disease or starvation. All animals are a part of the intricate balance of nature. If an attempt is made to kill

all predators, as was done in Pennsylvania about 1885, the consequences will be very bad indeed.

In Pennsylvania about 65 years ago, during two years' time, a bounty was placed on Hawks and Owls by the Pennsylvania legislature, at the urgent request of their farmer constituents. During that period 128,000 Hawks and Owls were killed. But something else happened. Insects and field mice began to multiply at an enormous rate. A scientist was consulted who said that the state had made a colossal blunder. He showed that each Hawk on the average would kill at least 1000 field mice or their equivalent in harmful insects each year. If these Hawks had not been killed by the farmers, they would have kept down the hordes of mice and insects. Each mouse in a season eats over a penny's worth of grain, possibly more. Altogether the State of Pennsylvania paid out \$90,000 in bounties on account of chickens killed worth only \$1800.

That was enough bad business but, in addition to these expenditures, the state had to pay out nearly \$3,000,000 in the cost of crops ruined by uncontrolled insects and mice. In short, each of these chickens really cost the State of Pennsylvania the tremendous sum of \$2051, which is probably the high-water mark for the high cost of food during the entire history of the world. To the credit of Pennsylvania, let it be stated that a state ornithologist was appointed and the bad law repealed.

In my opinion, very careful examinations should be taken before any bird of prey is adjudged harmful and should be destroyed. And I especially believe that the rare Snowy Owl with its four-and-a-half to five-and-a-half foot wing spread should be placed on the state list of protected birds. We should strive to have this done.

HAWK-OWL PROTECTION SHOWS PROGRESS

Only six states still fail to protect any of the birds of prey, according to the first 48-state survey of its kind, published in the November-December issue of Audubon Magazine. Fifty years ago just five states offered any legal protection to the Eagles, Hawks and Owls. The article asserts that despite this apparent progress, actual protection lags far behind legal protection. It is pointed out that few state conservation departments make any realistic effort to enforce the laws protecting birds of prey regardless of the fact they are charged with that responsibility.

The six states where birds of prey apparently have few friends are Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, New Mexico,

and Virginia. However, other states -- particularly Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Nevada, New Hampshire and Oklahoma -- are also cited as having weak laws, and some states that have enacted "progressive" legislation are considered to be centers of prejudice against predatory birds.

Many of the protective laws now in force are based on scientific research into the food habits of hawks and owls which, according to the article, reveals the value of these birds in controlling insects and rodents that exact a yearly tribute of millions of dollars worth of farm crops.

Richard S. Phillips of Findlay, Ohio, who made the survey for the National Audubon Society, says that in Idaho and Georgia even the insectivorous and innocuous Nighthawks are not protected because they bear the misnomer "hawk." He adds, "Superstitions handed down from the Middle Ages concerning Owls being 'birds of ill-omen' and the pets of witches have influenced some of our codes of law."

The article states, "There is no such thing as a 'good' or 'bad' species of Hawk or Owl; each has a role to perform in nature's economy; no species of Hawk or Owl is in itself 'destructive' in its ecological function."

The survey concludes that the future existence of several species of predatory birds is threatened and urges the enactment of "model laws" in all states and a program of education and law enforcement to prevent further depletion of these birds.

Fifty years ago New York State gave protection to none of the birds of prey. Today the protected species include the Bald and Golden Eagles; Broad-winged, Red-tailed, Sparrow, Red-shouldered, Rough-legged, Duck Hawks; Osprey; Turkey and Black Vultures; and all the Owls except those listed as unprotected. The unprotected species include the Snowy, Great Gray and Great Horned Owls, and the Hawks not mentioned above; included are the Goshawk, and Marsh, Pigeon, Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, and Gyrfalcon.

Section 203 of the New York State Conservation Law reads:

"The broad-winged hawk, red-tailed hawk, sparrow hawk, red-shouldered hawk, rough-legged hawk, duck hawk, osprey, bald eagle, golden eagle, mute swan (*Cygnus olor*) and all wild birds other than those named below are protected.

"The English sparrow, starling, crow, snowy owl, great gray owl, great horned owl, cormorant, purple grackle, kingfisher and hawks other than those named above are unprotected wild birds."

New York State does not consider the Vulture a hawk, and hence it is included as a protected species. A copy of the full survey will be mailed on request to Audubon Magazine.


S B C FIELD TRIP REPORTS

 Margaret A. Smith, Field Activities Chairman
 
WATER OPEN, GULLS-DUCKS DISPERSEDUpper Hudson, Feb. 19

The 12 people who made this year's mid-February jaunt to examine the bird population along the Upper Hudson met with several surprises. Not the least of these came to one S B C member who, as he slammed his latched car-door shut, came to the sudden realization his keys were still in the ignition! When other keys were finally retrieved from home, he was heard to utter the well-known thought, "I'll always carry a spare with me from now on!"

The highlight of the trip was the flock of 30 to 40 Evening Grosbeaks, feeding in box elders along Route 4 just south of Mechanicville, adding more weight to the conclusion that this is definitely a "Grosbeak Winter".

The Ducks and Gulls were few, largely because they were dispersed over a large open-water area, at a time of year when the rivers are usually largely covered with ice.

An adult Northern Shrike was seen perched, typically, in the top of a small roadside tree. A compact flock of 15 Prairie Horned Larks was flushed in the Green Island area, and a group of some fifty Redpolls was observed feeding on weed seeds in open fields along the Hudson.

The 23 species recorded on the trip also included: Mallard, Black Duck (400), American Golden-eye, American Merganser, Red-tailed Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Herring and Ring-billed Gulls, Kingfisher, Downy Woodpecker, Crow, Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Starling, English Sparrow, Goldfinch, Tree and Song Sparrows. -- G.M. Andrews


NEWS AND NOTES IN BRIEF

SUMMER EVENING GROSBREAKSWe Had One August 21

Audubon Field Notes of February reports that "During the summer, Evening Grosbeaks patronized feeding stations at Trudeau, N.Y., bringing young with them; one pair was accompanied by an immature Brown-headed Cowbird. The Evening Grosbeaks disappeared about mid-August; none were seen until Nov. 9 when they returned in numbers."

Perhaps the unexpected Evening Grosbeak that featured the S B C field trip of August 21 was one of those birds that disappeared from the Adirondacks in mid-August. At least it seems certain that the the Grosbeak had not been in the Watervliet Reservoir vicinity very long -- too many observers visit that area regularly for the bird to have escaped notice very long, particularly when it is recalled that the local August Grosbeak was so conspicuous.

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A Rose by Any Other Name May Be Just as Sweet, But Look
What Happens to Our Feathered Friends under the
Influence of a New Fad in Parlor Games -

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Barrington S. Havens

Time Magazine started it. It was all born in a footnote. Time was reporting Dr. Arthur A. Allen's plans for studying the bristle-thighed curlew at home. "Not to be confused," said the footnote, "with the tufted dowager, red-eyed cross-patch, all-night thrasher, ruffled spouse, great stench, lesser stench, or double-breasted seersucker."

Right away, says Time, the mail started coming in. Lots of people had lots of suggestions for wonderful new additions to the A. O. U. checklist. And the mental pictures conjured up by the new and colorful nomenclature are vivid and fascinating.

Take that tufted dowager, for example. Can't you just see it, strutting pompously among the leaves and hopping with great dignity from branch to branch.

The red-eyed crosspatch, on the other hand, is a retiring species, found only in the solitude of the deep woods. Its note is a short, irritated snort.

But it's a snort of another kind that interests the all-night thrasher. A nocturnal species, this, likely to scare the daylights out of unsophisticated travelers with its wild cries.

It's a fascinating list. In addition to the others mentioned above, there are on Time's list the no-left tern, the state-supported nuthatch, the physical vulture, the furtive scotch swallow, and the angostura bittern. The list also includes the scarlet manager, the great bald ego, the extra-marital lark, and such questionable additions to a bird list as the duck-billed platitude, the weekend bat, and the chicken-hearted farthingale.

But Time's list doesn't include them all, by any means. We'd like to suggest, as worthwhile additions, the following species: Korner's loon, double-breasted corpulent, American regret, Atlantic sit-awake, yellow-bellied straphanger, pixilated woodpecker, wood teehee, purple margin, black-capped snickeranee, weary, ruby-crowned dingbat, migrant shriek, startling, wobbling video (seen so often on TV screens),

Schenectady Bird Club, Inc. American upstart and purple finch.

G. Malcolm Andrews Editor
1949 Wabash Avenue 6-2653

But you take it on from there. The possibilities are endless. All you need is an A. O. U. checklist and a sense of humor.

There's Much to See on a

FLORIDA AUDUBON TOUR

Mrs. Chester N. Moore

(The following is taken from a recent letter from Mrs. Moore to an SBC member.)

Our Audubon Wildlife Tour leader, Mr. Brookfield, met seven of us at a motel in Homestead, Florida about ten o'clock in the morning. We drove a long way on a hard surfaced, but bumpy road to our first destination, a group of three Everglades Park lakes named West Lake, East Lake and Cuthbert Lake.

Upon our arrival, we were led over a catwalk into a typical Everglades slough (pronounced "slew") where snakes, alligators and rare birds abounded. At West Lake, nearest lake to the road, there was a caretaker's tent, lunch tables and benches and a dock for two boats. We went aboard the power boat and headed off for the rookery on an island in Cuthbert Lake, the most distant of the lakes.

The very narrow mangrove passages between lakes had been widened and deepened so the boats could go through. The mangroves were dense and filled with small birds, mostly warblers.

Mr. Brookfield explained that here land is being made. The mangrove thrives on salt water, the cypress on brackish water. The coconut and other palms live on dry land at sea level, but the pines need a 2 to 4 foot elevation. Through the years the palms and slash pines have learned to live through fire, but a hammock will die if fired. The vegetation in a hammock is so dense one can't see light through it.

Here the royal palm grows 50 to 60 feet high and the dainty tropical palm, only two inches in diameter, rises 60 feet aloft, green clumps above the surrounding trees. When the cypress grows in close clumps, like a green mound, it is called a "cypress head". At the time of our visit, the cypress were just feathering in a soft green.

When we arrived at Rookery Island, as it was called, we found it inhabited by a great many birds on their nests, most of the young almost adult size and still covered with down. About 75% were wood ibis; the rest American egrets,

snowy egrets and anhingas. Two American egrets gave a beautiful demonstration of their dance, raising the nuptial plumes high. The small anhingas were most curious. They sit up very straight with long curving necks all covered with down shaded from buff-tan-gold to brown. All the young birds were fed by sticking their bills down the parent's gullet for the regurgitated food.

Later we were taken to another part of the lake to see the enormous alligator which was encouraged to eat the coons that would otherwise raise havoc with the rookery. On our way we noticed huge button-woods along the shore that had been toppled by tropical storms. The button-woods were alive, although prone and covered with air plants in bloom.

When we came to the alligator's home, we had such a hard time finding him among the roots and trunks of the mangroves. His great head was lighter than his body, the latter 10 to 12 feet long. We found him lying in the sun, snoozing.

On our way back through West Lake, we were most fortunate to see both the Everglade kite and the short-tailed hawk. That evening we were taken to Tavernier, which was to be the starting point for the next day's boat trip down to see the spoonbills.

The following morning found us underway in Florida Bay. From our vantage point on the upper deck, we could see well the many colors in the water. These colors are said to be caused by the different depths of the water.

At the spoonbill rookery, shallow water kept us from getting close to the birds, but they favored us with a fine exhibition. The white young birds were being fed and taught to fly and wade by the old birds.

All the pictures we've seen on the screen so many times are true!; the blue or green of the water, the dense, dark green of the mangroves, the young clustered closely near the tops of the trees and the old birds in the clear pink plumage circling always in the air or wading nearby. We were lucky in having perfect weather for the trip as storm warnings two days before had forced small boats to stay in and cancelled the trip scheduled for that day.

Back in Tavernier, we had a late lunch of blue turtle steak and Key lime pie before our return drive to Homestead.

HENRY VAN DYKE ALLEN

A tall, fair, slender youth arrived in Schenectady in the

autumn of 1898 to go on "Test" at the General Electric Company. He was a son of old Harvard and, after graduating, had spent two years at the Lawrence Scientific School. He came of a distinguished New England family and his father, the Reverend Alexander V. G. Allen, was connected with the Harvard Theological Seminary at Cambridge.

On arrival Henry Allen found lodgings on Ferry Street about opposite St. George's Rectory. It was not long before he presented a letter of introduction to my father, the Reverend Dr. J. P. B. Pendleton, rector of that church. Soon he became, like many others, practically a member of the family. I well remember that when my father started the mission in Bellevue, which is now St. Paul's, Henry Allen was very interested, so much so that he went there every Sunday as lay reader to conduct the services.

He took a great deal of razzing about his Harvard accent and New England propensity for argument and dogged adherence to, shall we say, his personal opinions. Apropos of these latter qualities is told the following story:- On one occasion Henry Allen and John Apperson (H.V.D. and Appy to their friends) were out together. A bird nearby burst into song. "There, there", said H.V.D., "that bird is singing its song all wrong; that last note, he sings it so (here he whistled the notes). whereas it should be so, (and again he whistled his version)." His information was usually accurate and he was ever ready to defend it against all comers. The bird probably did not stay to argue the case.

He was an enthusiastic "birder" as fellow members of the Schenectady Bird Club well know. He had also many other outdoor interests such as camping, skating, skate sailing and skiing. When indulging in any of these sports he generally arrived at the scene of activity in "Hamlet", as the old Ford car owned by Ned Story and himself was called. Speaking of "Hamlet", we might add that Henry seemed to have an affinity for cars of character. Certainly the Buick, which served faithfully for so many years might be thus classified.

H. V. D. always had a liking for boats as a result, no doubt, of vacation days at Cape Cod and Nantucket. It was natural, therefore, that he should become interested in the design and building of model yachts. These, when completed, he enjoyed sailing on the lake in Central Park and elsewhere with other enthusiasts, younger in years perhaps, but not younger in spirit. As one result of this interest he became treasurer of the Deeper Hudson Model Yacht Club.

He was instrumental in starting the first Co-operative Store in Schenectady. The venture was not successful, probably because Schenectady was not at that time ripe for such an undertaking. Later when the present Co-operatives were started and carried to success, he was a firm supporter of

the enterprise.

Henry Allen left Schenectady in 1906 to go to Atlanta, Georgia as engineer of the General Electric Company's office in that city, which position he held for two years. It was during this time that he contracted the typhoid fever and subsequent phlebitis which resulted in his lameness. When he returned to Schenectady he left the Lighting Department and joined the Foreign Department, which later became the International G.E. There he remained until he retired in 1935.

He was a charter member of the Schenectady Bird Club. We shall all miss him greatly; his enthusiasm was catching, his constant interest was inspiring and his fund of information seemed inexhaustible. I had called him just a few days before he was taken ill to ask him about the Evening Grosbeaks and received his usual courteous and interested replies, although I felt at the time that it had been a great effort for him to come to the telephone.

He is survived by his sister-in-law, Mrs. John Stone Allen, his niece, Mrs. Charles McMullen 2nd., his stepmother and several cousins. The burial service was read in the Chapel of the Harvard Theological Seminary and he was buried in the family plot at Cambridge.

-- Edith P. Norris

S B C FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Mrs. Albert Sachs, Field Activities Chairman

MARCH WINDS, BUT NO MIGRANTS

Sunnyside Road, Mar. 11

The absence of the regular spring migrants featured as the highlight of the Sunnyside Road, Riverside Avenue trip on March 11. The 16°-22° temperatures and the overcast day were not very impressive as typical spring weather. A slight northwest wind in the open areas caused no joy to those who remembered last year's warm spring weather.

After the regular trip to the Scotia area, several of those present visited the Poentic Kill outlet on Rice Road. As usual the Kingfisher was there.

The record: Greater Scaup Duck, 8; American Merganser, 6 (both at the Poentic outlet); Sparrow Hawk, 3; Pheasant, 15; Kingfisher, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 5; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Blue Jay, 2; Crow; Black-Capped Chickadee; White-Breasted Nuthatch; Starling; English Sparrow; Redwing, 1 (wintering at Hillside Marsh on Sunnyside Road); Evening Grosbeak, 11 (at Esly Hallenbeck's on Washington Road); Redpoll, 40; Tree Sparrow, 10; Song Sparrow, 3 (wintering at Hillside Marsh).

-- Donald Tucker

STILL NO MIGRANTSCampbell & Schermerhorn Roads, Mar. 19

Spring wasn't in the air on March 19; nor were spring birds in evidence. The day was cold and clear with little wind at 8:30 A.M. However, a rising westerly wind was too cold for comfort by 11:30 A.M.

Our party of nine covered lower Gordon Road in addition to the usual territory. Prairie Horned Larks were seen on the flats along Campbell Road near Rice Road. Schermerhorn Road yielded a Pine Siskin, four Purple Finches and three Goldfinches. The Purple Finches were feeding on mullein seeds along with the Goldfinches.

The trip list included the following: Greater Scaup Duck, 4 (at open water along the G-E. Binne Kill); Sparrow Hawk, 2; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 4; Prairie Horned Lark, 50; Blue Jay, 8; Crow; Black-Capped Chickadee; White-Breasted Nuthatch, 2; Evening Grosbeak, 1; Purple Finch, 4; Pine Siskin, 1; Goldfinch, 3; Junco, 12; Song Sparrow.

-- Dorothy Sawyer

SPRING AT LAST! MIGRANTS TOO!Upper Hudson, Mar. 26

This had been originally scheduled as one of the semi-annual trips to Saratoga Lake. However, the late winter had frozen the lake so solidly that March, with its continued low temperatures, had failed to open it. The trip was therefore changed to the Upper Hudson, from Green Island to Mechanicville.

The river was free of ice and birds in the Cohoes and Green Island sections. Driving north along the shore and visiting the various locks of the Champlain Barge Canal, a goodly number of birds were seen. Redwings and Grackles were common, while only one Robin and one Bluebird were found.

Ducks were plentiful and gulls too. In addition to the Herring and Ring-Billed Gulls, one particular gull attracted the attention of several observers. This bird was of a very light color, and was seen by two persons, independently, to have blackish legs and feet. Although numerous books were consulted, its identity remained undiscovered.

The ten observers present amassed the following list: Horned Grebe, 1; Mallard, 1; Black Duck, 60; Ring-Necked Duck, 3; Lesser Scaup Duck, 3; American Golden-eye, 160; American Merganser, 120; Red-Shouldered Hawk, 2; Sparrow Hawk, 3; Herring Gull, 125; Ring-Billed Gull, 40; Mourning Dove, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Crow, 100; Red-Breasted Nuthatch, 1; Robin, 1; Bluebird, 1; Starling; English Sparrow; Red-wing, 100; Bronzed Grackle, 80; Cowbird, 2; Redpoll, 1; Tree Sparrow, 4; Song Sparrow, 12.

-- A. J. Woodward

Late Spring, Is It? Well, Here's the Exception That Proves the Rule -

AN APRIL FOOL'S DAY NIGHTHAWK

Nelle G. Van Vorst

April Fool's Day was the chosen date for the "Watervliet Reservoir trip of the SBC. The reservoir was watched daily for a week or more, as it had been completely locked with ice for some time. March 31st. came and with it open water, so April 1 was just the right time for the trip.

Three of the SBC members were waiting opposite the Van Curler Garage when they decided to look over the Mohawk River near the Barge Canal terminal. While they were standing there a Robin flew into a nearby tree causing a bird to flush from the ground a few feet below the observers.

The bird flew within inches of the watching birders. "A Nighthawk," called one; another exclaimed, "What's that?". The three folk stood too amazed to speak, for the Nighthawk had flown by them toward the nearby roof-tops. No, it was no April Fool prank but just a sure early record of the Nighthawk for this area. Another member who was just parking his car said he heard the notes of the Nighthawk.

A few years ago the Game Warden, Mr. Chester Griffith, reported a March record of this bird. Referring to the Birds of Massachusetts by E. H. Forbush, several records were found from March 14 through March 30. So it would seem that our April 1 record is not too far out of line. However, it does definitely parallel the record by Mr. Griffith.

The party proceeded to the reservoir, where the open water was found studded with many ducks; Blacks, American Mergansers, Golden-eyes, Scaup and some Baldpates.

A short trip to the woods on the south-west shore only produced a few Meadowlarks, Cowbirds, Chickadees, a Red-Shouldered Hawk and a Great Horned Owl, the latter bird being harassed by many crows. From the woods overlooking the reservoir, a pair of Hooded Mergansers were seen.

A short distance by car and then after parking the group trekked through the uncultivated fields where the tall weeds were still holding a few feathers, probably collected from a Snowy Owl or perhaps a Great Horned Owl.

A huge flock of blackbirds played through the ravine, resting in the trees and feeding on the ground. These were studied but nothing unusual was found.

Reaching a suitable place where an open channel could be seen, owners of telescopes set them up. Here fine views of the ducks were enjoyed by all the eleven members present. The small Green-winged Teal gave the watchers some fun as he kept his identification a question as he swam in and out

among the other ducks. He finally flashed the brilliant green on his head to reveal himself.

A Great Blue Heron presented just a brief view of himself as he drifted away over the trees. The Wood Ducks called as they appeared in the picture.

As the trip was nearing the end, a Duck Hawk soared high over the fields.

With all the fun enjoyed, the scarcity of birds was hardly noticeable. The following list was recorded: Great Blue Heron, 1; Mallard, 8; Black Duck, 100; Baldpate, 25; Pintail, 8; Green-winged Teal, 12; Wood Duck, 2; Ring-necked Duck, 25; Lesser Scaup Duck, 50; American Golden-eye, 20; Hooded Merganser, 1; American Merganser, 30; Red-Shouldered Hawk, 1; Duck Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 2; Killdeer, 4; Mourning Dove, 2; Great Horned Owl, 1; Nighthawk, 1; Kingfisher, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Phoebe, 1; Blue Jay, 4; Crow; Black-Capped Chickadee, 8; White-Breasted Nuthatch, 1; Robin, 10; Bluebird, 3; Starling; English Sparrow; Meadowlark, 3; Red-wing, 200; Bronzed Grackle, 100; Cowbird, 8; Evening Grosbeak, 2; Tree Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 20.

-- Nelle G. Van Vorst

NEWS AND NOTES IN BRIEF

ACTIVITY QUESTIONNAIRE COMING

Your Desires Requested

Accompanying this issue of Feathers there is an inquiry which the Board of Directors is anxious to have you return with the information requested.

Board members wish to know just what type of activity you would like to have in your club. From the Michigan Audubon Society who found this method of acquiring such knowledge very helpful, the SEC has patterned its inquiry.

Please be prompt in returning the statements. It will quicken the making of plans to meet your desires and the Board will appreciate your cooperation.

GADWALL

And Other Ducks

Some 9 Gadwall were reported from the Vischer Ponds area on March 30 by J. J. Anderson. He includes the following species seen on that day in that general area: Canada Goose, 60; Mallard; Black Duck; Gadwall, 9; Baldpate; Pintail; Ring-necked Duck, (several there since Mar. 23); Greater Scaup Duck, 6; Lesser Scaup Duck, 40; American Golden-eye; Hooded Merganser; American Merganser.

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THIRD ANNUAL MEETING OF FEDERATION OF N. Y. STATE BIRD CLUBS

Nelle G. Van Vont

The old adage, "anticipation is greater than realization," did not prove true with the weekend trip to the annual meeting of the New York State Federation of Bird Clubs at Watkins Glen.

April 28, as the clocks moved to 5 p.m., people with binoculars, telescopes and heavy bags began to gather at State and Swan streets, where Wade's bus met them at 5:30 o'clock. Off at 5:40 for Amsterdam, where eight members of the Sassafras Bird Club were picked up. All settled down in the spacious bus for the long drive to Watkins Glen.

As the journey was made through the beautiful rolling country still harboring snow in the sheltered ravines, daylight faded into a cold moonlit evening. The distance of some 212 miles did not seem long or tiresome.

At 11:15 the sign "Seneca Lodge" was sighted, so the bus was soon parked at the Lodge, where the hostess awaited. With little confusion, everyone was assigned to a cabin.

Seneca Lodge, with its many cabins, overlooks the scenic valley which holds beautiful Seneca Lake. Saturday morning, as most of the folk were about ready to leave their cabins for the dining room, each one scanned the heavy clouds. The distant hills became but a silhouette, and snow was falling. This did not dampen any spirits, however.

Some of the ardent birders had started their birding before breakfast, so, as they joined the others, their arrival was announced with: "Just saw six Cardinals near the Lodge." Immediately the picture window was crowded with anxious bird watchers, but the Cardinals, too, did not like the snow, and they kept out of sight.

At 9:30 the bus took the group down to the registration room. As soon as they had registered, they scattered... some to the meeting, some to the trip through the Glen, and some sightseeing in private cars.

The council meeting was a busy one until after 12 o'clock, discussing reports, letters, and new suggestions. It was decided to have the alternates attend the council meetings now, so that more members could become acquainted with the workings



Schenectady Bird Club, Inc.

G. Malcolm Andrews Editor
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of the Federation. An invitation to entertain the Federation in 1951 was extended by the Buffalo group. This was accepted for April 7 and 8, 1951.

(There are 17 bird clubs having about 2,000 members in the State Federation. In addition to Club Memberships there are Individual Memberships. To date, seventy-five individuals have joined the Federation. Would you care to increase this number by joining the Federation? If so, please contact the editor.)

The afternoon session, which was the paper session, convened at 2 p.m. John B. Belknap reported that Cormorants are now nesting in the Lake Ontario area. Also nesting there are Herring Gulls and Ring-bill Gulls, which proves that the breeding area for the Ring-bill is extending.

A detailed account of the construction and growth of a school museum was given by Rosannah Wilson of the Eaton Bird Club. This club has also introduced a nature study course in seventh and eighth grades, using 45 minutes a week for each grade.

The most outstanding speaker of the first session was Walter Elwood of Amsterdam, who was selected to work with the Education Committee of the State Conservation Department in preparing a conservation program for the schools and teachers colleges. This group has prepared a conservation primer, which gives four divisions: soil, water, forest, and fish and wild life. Mr. Elwood strongly asserts that science courses must give way to ecology.

The last paper of the first session was given by Harold H. Axtell of Buffalo. This elaborated on the question whether or not unusual birds and their nesting territory should be made public. He emphasized the protection of birds for the happiness of people. From his talk, it would seem best to give people the chance of seeing the rare birds, but stressing the need for proper care of these visitors.

After intermission a paper on bird banding was given by Malcolm Lerch of Keuka. Most of his banding concerned the winter birds. One Tree Sparrow had returned for five consecutive years. Another Tree Sparrow liked the traps so well that he was caught 101 times in one winter.

Dr. Neil Moon gave an interesting illustrated story of a local Barn Owl family. The acquisition of a swamp was related by Allen S. Klonik.

The final paper of the day was presented by Dr. A. A. Allen of Cornell. The story of the improvement of sound films of birds was shown. Other countries now making similar films

are Sweden with 170 records of songs, Denmark with recordings of mammals, amphibians and birds, and France also included. Cornell now has 300 recordings of bird songs and calls.

The evening session was preceded by a dinner at the Jefferson Hotel. Following the president's address, Dr. Lawrence I. Grinnell of Ithaca gave a very interesting illustrated lecture entitled "One Hundred and Eighty Degrees Around the Gulf."

The crowd left early, as the Sunday trip was called for 6:30 a.m.

SO MUCH FOR THE BUSINESS -- NOW ON TO MONTEZUMA, AND THE BIRDS

Samuel R. Madison

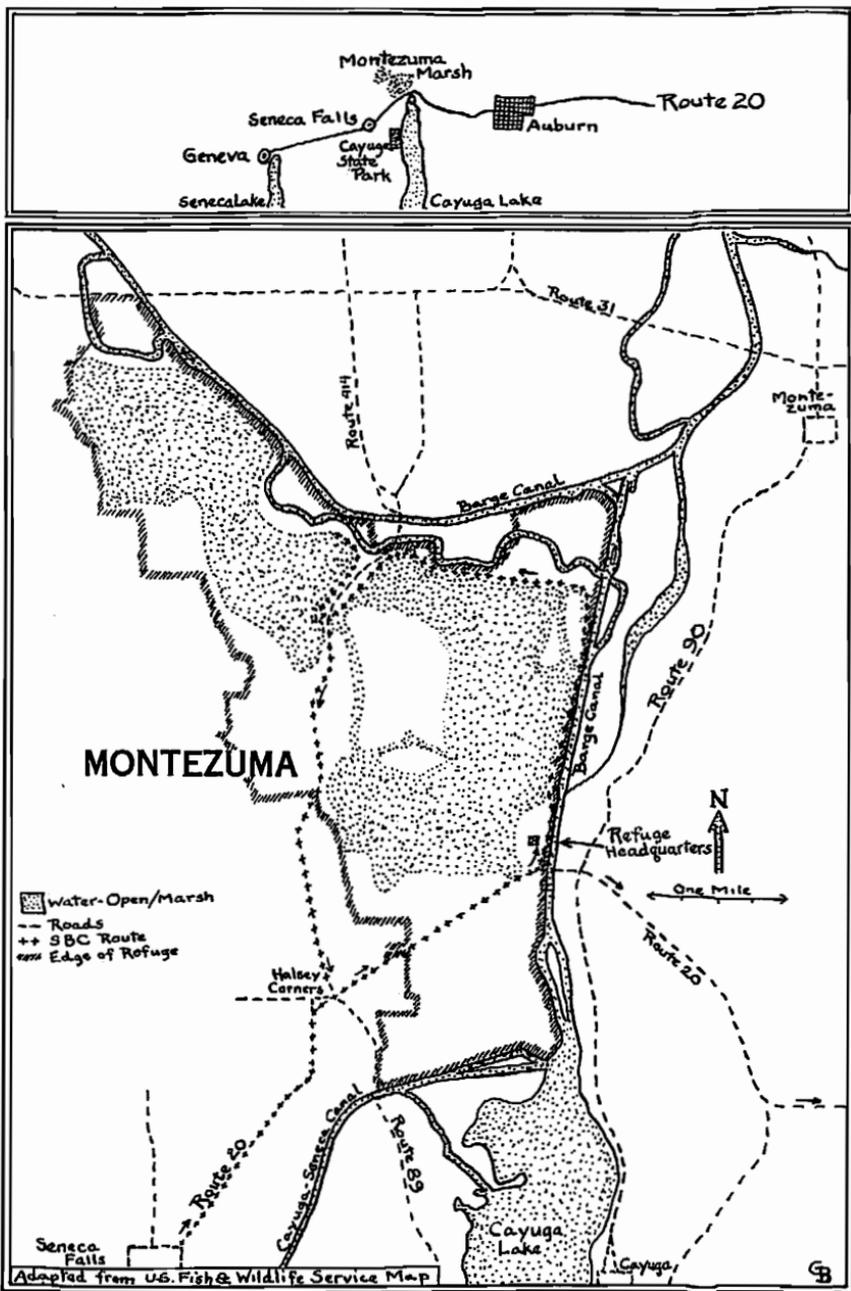
Saturday morning we were awakened by the song of the Cardinal, and four were discovered on the hillside near the restaurant at the Lodge before breakfast, singing despite the steadily falling snow. After breakfast most members took the planned through the Glen, while some small groups made their own trips nearby.

A flock of Evening Grosbeaks was discovered in a tree overhanging the Schuyler County Clerk's Office in the middle of the village. The Glen appeared to be deserted save for the still falling snow and Phoebes and Ruby-crowned Kinglets, but the nearby cemetery produced the Pine Warbler, Red-breasted Nuthatch and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.

Three determined birders scouted the foot of Seneca Lake and the swamp at its inlet during part of the afternoon. Four Common Terns and several Horned Grebes were at the lake. As soon as we neared the marshes, Wilson's Snipe were flushed one after the other, ten in all. The clouds then parted and in the afternoon sun a male Cardinal burst into song, an early House Wren chattered nearby and a Green Heron slowly worked for his dinner along the bank of the inlet. A pair of Marsh Hawks flew back and forth over the marsh, a Bittern "pumped" in the distance and one Great Blue Heron floated overhead.

That evening the forty-fifth bird of the day was identified when a Towhee called from in back of the cabins.

Sunday was to be the big day, however. The Federation dinner and evening program kept everyone up late, even though the arrival of Daylight Saving Time was scheduled to rob us of an hours sleep. An all-too-friendly collie contributed his bit by repeatedly scratching on a cabin door between 2:00 and 3:00 a.m. and asking to be let in. No wonder Nelle Van



Vorst's popularity reached its all-time low when she pounded loudly on all the cabin doors at 4:30 a.m. A hearty breakfast at the restaurant and we were off for our rendezvous with the other members of the Federation.

On the forty mile trip to the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge we saw the Pipit, Sharp-shinned Hawk, and at Cayuga Lake, the Canvas-back and Red-breasted Merganser. The afternoon was good for birding, the sunlight being broken by a thin overcast of clouds.

Immediately upon entering the Refuge we saw Canada Geese, and on our first stop we added over a dozen species, including Cormorant, Shoveller and American Coot. Along the narrow road or dike which skirts the main pool we saw a Bald Eagle, two Blue Geese, Gadwall, Caspian Tern and Bonaparte's Gull. Several Osprey, three Turkey Vultures and a Red-shouldered Hawk floated overhead. Along Clyde River a Red-bellied Woodpecker was busily working.

At the storage pool a Virginia Rail skipped through the rushes and a Yellow Warbler was spotted in the shrubbery. A flock of over twenty Ruddy Ducks floated quietly a short distance off shore for easy observation. Ruffleheads reflected the sun, which had parted the clouds, and several Baldpate were seen.

Canada Geese, Pintails and Coot were the most numerous, hundreds of these being found.

At 1:00 p.m., a tired, dusty and hungry but satisfied, group reluctantly said good-bye. As we were leaving we saw six deer along the road. (All the pleasures of the day were relived by the writer when, a few days later, he chanced to fly over the marshes and saw them clearly outlined from a mile's height.)

A total of 90 species were identified at Montezuma, 53 at Watkins Glen; the combined total for the weekend being 102. This count does not include the other clubs participating in the field trips.

The complete list follows (M - Montezuma; G - Watkins Glen):

Common Loon-M; Horned Grebe-MG; Pied-billed Grebe-M; Double-crested Cormorant-M; Great Blue Heron-MG; Green Heron-MG; Black-crowned Night Heron-M; American Bittern-MG; Canada Goose-M; Blue Goose-M; Mallard-M; Black Duck-M; Gadwall-M; Baldpate-M; Pintail-MG; Green-winged Teal-M; Blue-winged Teal-MG; Shoveller-M; Wood Duck-M; Redhead-M; Ring-necked Duck-M; Canvas-back-M; Scaup-M; American Golden-eye-M; Ruffle-head-MG; Ruddy Duck-M; Hooded Merganser-MG; American Merganser-M; Red-breasted Merganser-M.

Turkey Vulture-M; Sharp-shinned Hawk-M; Red-tailed Hawk-M; Red-shouldered Hawk-M; Bald Eagle-M; Marsh Hawk-MG; Osprey-M; Sparrow Hawk-M; Pheasant-MG; Virginia Rail-M; Florida Gallinule-MG; Coot-M; Killdeer-M; Wilson's Snipe-G; Spotted Sandpiper-M; Herring Gull-MG; Ring-billed Gull-M; Bonaparte's Gull-M; Common Tern-G; Caspian Tern-M; Black Tern-M; Mourning Dove-MG; Chimney Swift-G; Kingfisher-MG.

Flicker-MG; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker-MG; Hairy-G; Downy-MG; Red-bellied Woodpecker-M; Phoebe-MG; Prairie Horned Lark-M; Tree Swallow-M; Bank Swallow-M; Rough-winged Swallow-M; Barn Swallow-MG; Purple Martin-M; Blue Jay-MG; Crow-MG; Chickadee-MG; White-breasted Nuthatch-G; Red-breasted Nuthatch-G; Brown Creeper-MG; House Wren-G; Robin-MG; Bluebird-M; Golden-crowned Kinglet-MG; Ruby-crowned Kinglet-MG; American Pipit-M; Starling-MG.

Yellow Warbler-M; Myrtle Warbler-G; Pine Warbler-G; English Sparrow-MG; Meadowlark-MG; Red-wing-MG; Rusty Blackbird-M; Bronzed Grackle-MG; Cowbird-MG; Cardinal-MG; Evening Grosbeak-MG; Purple Finch-MG; Goldfinch-M; Red-eyed Towhee-G; Savannah Sparrow-M; Vesper Sparrow-M; Junco-MG; Tree Sparrow-MG; Chipping Sparrow-MG; Field Sparrow-MG; White-throated Sparrow-G; Fox Sparrow-G; Swamp Sparrow-MG; Song Sparrow-MG.

S B C FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Mrs. Albert Sachs, Field Activities Chairman

SOME NEW TERRITORY AND --

Tomhannock Reservoir, April 16

A beautifully clear but cool spring morning greeted the nine of us as we started out from our meeting place at the Farnum Fire House east of Troy.

Our first destination was an area seldom visited by most SBC members. Mr. Ernest Geiser, who knows the territory well, has called it the Tamarack Swamps. Extending for several miles along the inlet of Tomhannock Reservoir, it includes not only much swampy land, but also several ponds and a heavily wooded section not far from the reservoir itself.

Various stops were made along the road paralleling the Tamarack Swamp, with many migrant land birds present. Several hawks were seen and a Ruffed Grouse heard drumming in the wooded area. A sweet song coming from a nearby hillside was found to be that of a rather late Fox Sparrow.

At Tomhannock waterfowl were much in evidence. Nine species of ducks were identified, including Bufflehead and two female Hooded Mergansers. All three Grebes were seen as well as two Common Loons.

On the return trip from the reservoir, a huge flock of mixed blackbirds, numbering at least 1500, were heard and seen blackening the tops of half a dozen large trees along the road. Redwings, Rusty Blackbirds, Grackles, Starlings and Cowbirds were identified in the noisy gathering.

The complete list follows: Common Loon, 2; Holboell's Grebe, 1; Horned Grebe, 1; Pied-billed Grebe, 1; Great Blue Heron 2; Black-crowned Night Heron 1; American Bittern, 3; Black Duck, 50; Wood Duck, 5; Ring-necked Duck, 100; Scaup Duck, 50; American Golden-eye, 200; Buffle-head, 4; Hooded Merganser, 2; American Merganser, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 2; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Rough-legged Hawk, 1; Marsh Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 4; Ruffed Grouse, 1; Pheasant, 2; Killdeer, 1; Herring Gull, 1; Mourning Dove, 2; Belted Kingfisher, 2; Flicker, 6; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Phoebe, 15; Tree Swallow, 1; Blue Jay, 5; Crow; Chickadee; Robin, 100; Bluebird, 20; Starling; English Sparrow; Meadowlark, 5; Redwing; Rusty Blackbird; Bronzed Grackle; Cowbird; Pine Siskin 1; Goldfinch, 3; Junco, 20; Tree Sparrow, 1; Field Sparrow, 3; Fox Sparrow, 3; Swamp Sparrow, 5; Song Sparrow, 50.
-- G. M. Andrews

DUCKS, SWALLOWS AND SHOWERSVischer Ponds, April 23

The day started off cloudy and threatening, with a cold wind and intermittent light showers. As the morning progressed, conditions became no better. However fourteen turned out with two new faces in our midst.

On the way to the river a few Redwings, Grackles, Robins and Starlings were seen. Driving along the golf course an Osprey was spotted perched in a large oak tree near the highway. Farther on a flock of Juncos, with Field, Song and Tree Sparrows was seen as well as Meadowlarks and a large flock of Cedar Waxwings.

Along the ponds Blue-winged Teal flushed while two Coots tried to hide in the reeds as we drove up. An early contingent of Tree and Rough-winged Swallows, with two Barn Swallows, was coursing over the old canal.

On the path back to the river a Bittern obligingly flushed from the reeds while another later "drove stakes" in another part of the swamp. Blacks, Baldpates, Lesser Scaup, Ring-necks, and two male Wood Ducks were seen, while Blue-winged Teal appeared to be everywhere. Song Sparrows were in and out of the brush while Redwings and Grackles perched in the willows. Rusty Blackbirds and Swamp Sparrows called from the side of the path.

While following the towpath a small flock of Green-winged Teal was seen. Kingfishers, Mourning Doves and Phoebes were also located in this section.

On the return trip to Schenectady a check was made on the small pond in the rear of the new residence across from the Knolls. Here Mallards were added to the list, and then scratched-- just decoys! A large falcon was later seen but not identified.

Several of the party ended the trip by stopping in Central Park to see the Old-squaw on the park pond.

Seen on the trip: Great Blue Heron, 1; American Bittern, 2; Black Duck, 30; Baldpate, 10; Green-winged Teal, 8; Blue-winged Teal, 30; Wood Duck, 2; Ring-necked Duck, 18; Lesser Scaup Duck, 8; American Merganser, 1; Osprey, 4; Coot, 2; Killdeer, 1; Herring Gull, 6; Ring-billed Gull, 2; Mourning Dove, 4; Kingfisher, 2; Flicker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Phoebe, 4; Tree Swallow, 12; Rough-winged Swallow, 8; Barn Swallow, 2; Blue Jay, 1; Crow, 25; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Robin, 20; Bluebird, 1; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 2; Cedar Waxwing, 65; Starling; English Sparrow; Meadowlark, 4; Redwing, 100; Rusty Blackbird, 8; Grackle, 100; Cowbird, 20; Junco, 40; Tree Sparrow, 12; Field Sparrow, 6; Swamp Sparrow, 4; Song Sparrow, 100. -- Leon A. Wiard

NEWS AND NOTES IN BRIEF

TURKEY VULTURE SEEN

By Field Biology Class

On April 19, a Field Biology class of the New York State College for Teachers at Albany, on a field trip southwest of the latter city, had a rare experience.

As they explored the ecological intricacies of the region, their attention was diverted to a huge bird soaring overhead. As it passed directly over, its small head gleaming in the sunlight and its raven-black plumage left no doubt that it was a Turkey Vulture, a bird not often seen in this area.

It was soaring in the usual manner of the species, and was not seen to make a single stroke of the wings during the time it remained in view.

This Vulture has extended its range in the western part of New York State in recent years, and it is possible that a similar northward movement may be taking place in our area as well.

I hope that members of S. B. C. will be on the watch for more of these interesting birds during the summer. It is hoped that further records will be forthcoming.

-- Allen H. Benton,
Instructor, Biology, N. Y. S. T. C.

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EVENING GROSBEAKS IN NEW YORK STATE AND NEW ENGLAND

Prof. Willis I. Milham

The Evening Grosbeak is said to be the only bird that migrates east and west. It spends its summers in Washington State, Oregon or adjacent parts of Canada, and its winters in New York State or New England. It may be that some migrate northward to the Hudson Bay region. They have been reported in New England since 1890. They have been reported in Williamstown since 1933. The comings and goings of these birds at the feeders of Professor and Mrs. Willis I. Milham, 24 Hoxsey Street, Williamstown, Mass. have been observed casually since 1933 and in detail since 1939.

The male bird is about the size of a Robin but a little more stocky and very striking in appearance. He is yellow, black and white with a very heavy yellow-green bill and black beady eyes. His mate is a trim bird not quite so large, olive-gray with black and white; beautifully tailored. His notes are very shrill and will call the attention of one who is interested in birds. They are very friendly and curious as regards humans, but very quarrelsome among themselves.

They are essentially a seed-eating bird and prefer sunflower seeds to all others. A flock of 300 will consume on the average about 10 quarts of sunflower seed in a day.

Times of coming and going:

Winter of 1939-1940: They came on Nov. 30, 1939 and left May 10, 1940.

Winter of 1940-1941: They came on Jan. 26, 1941 and left April 22, 1941.

Winter of 1941-1942: They came Nov. 11, 1941 and left May 10, 1942.

Winter of 1942-1943: There were no Grosbeaks here.

Winter of 1943-1944: They came Nov. 26, 1943 and left May 10, 1944.

Winter of 1944-1945: There were no Grosbeaks here.

Winter of 1945-1946: They came Dec. 17, 1945 and left May 24, 1946.

FEATHERS

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Winter of 1946-1947: They came Dec. 25, 1946 and left May 21, 1947.

Winter of 1947-1948: There were no Grosbeaks here.

Winter of 1948-1949: They came Jan. 28, 1949 and left May 11, 1949.

Winter of 1949-1950: They came Nov. 14, 1949 and left May 20, 1950.

Details of the winter 1943-1944:

A record was kept of the time of coming to the feeders each morning and also the temperature and the state of the weather.

During December they came about 8:30 a.m.

During January they came about 8:30 a.m.

During February they came about 8:15 a.m.

During March they came about 7:30 a.m.

During April they came about 6:20 a.m.

During May they came about 5:30 a.m.

Their time of coming did not depend on the temperature or on the state of weather. It was the same if cloudy or clear, if fair or snowing.

When the flock was largest, about 300 came to the feeders each day. They would depart about two or three o'clock in the afternoon. We were not able to determine with certainty just where they spent the night. We suspect it was in the pine forests in the foot hills of Mt. Greylock about five miles away.

Details of the winter 1948-1949:

The Grosbeaks were very late in coming. On Friday, January 28, 1949 at 9:02 in the morning suddenly and unexpectedly about 40 came to the feeders.

On Jan. 29 about 12 came.

On Jan. 30 about 20 came.

On Jan. 31 about 40 came and this number continued until their departure on May 11, 1949.

Details of the winter 1949-1950:

During this winter Williamstown has had the largest visitation of Grosbeaks in its history. On Nov. 12, 1949 two were seen. On Nov. 14 the first one came to our feeders. By Nov. 19 the number had reached six; the number had reached 50 by Dec. 26. By Jan. 29 the number had reached 200. The maximum number was all during February when about 400 were fed daily. This winter they spread out all over Williamstown and vicinity. A fair estimate of the total number is about 700 which is by far the largest number ever present here.

There were no banded birds in this flock and they apparently were the same birds which came day after day. During March the number grew smaller and by the last of that month it had fallen below 50. The home flock was apparently going elsewhere. A few new birds came in and a very few were banded. Perhaps 25 banded birds were seen from the middle of March on. The bands were mostly old aluminum bands with a very few colored Connecticut bands. By May 10 the number was down to 10 and on May 20 the last one was seen.

This last winter has had a very gradual appearance and disappearance. Usually it is much more abrupt.

The Grosbeaks have also come to the feeders earlier in the morning than usual. During April they were coming at 4:45 a.m. (Eastern Standard Time) which was about an hour earlier than normal. Their appetites, which are always large have been larger than usual. Over 700 lbs. of sunflower seed were consumed this past winter!

A TRIP TO PELICAN ISLAND

J. M. Hollister

It is known that Pelicans have been nesting on this island in the Indian River, near Sebastian, Florida, for over sixty years. The island became a federal bird reservation in 1904. Robert M. Gibbs, on his visit in February 1891, reported over 4000 breeding birds. The colony became so large, and with the help of high water, the mangrove trees were killed. However, the Pelicans continued to nest on the sand. Today the mangrove trees are about twenty feet high, and furnish good support for the nests.

When I received the invitation from Gordon Bliss of Merritt's Island to take the trip in his 35-ft. cabin cruiser, no time was lost in accepting. The other members of the party were Sam Harper of Merritt's Island, a bird enthusiast, and Carl Burger, an artist from Pleasantville, New York.

The date was February 20, 1950. The weather was perfect. We arrived at the island in early afternoon and anchored off

shore, which gave us time to use the dingey and inspect the nesting birds. The several hundred Pelicans were not alone, as many American and Snowy Egrets, and a few Little Blue and Louisiana Herons and Water-turkeys also had nests. The Yellow-crowned Night Heron was strongly in evidence.

While this inspection was very interesting, the thrill came shortly before sunset and after, when the roosting flights came in. These were seen from the cruiser, as we spent the night aboard. Hundreds of Pelicans, both mature and immature; White Ibis and Wood Ibis; Man-o-war birds; more herons-- Little Blue, Louisiana and Egrets. Last but not least were fully one hundred Fish Crows which were driven from two roosting spots by the Ibis before they were safe for the night.

The sight was partially repeated in the morning, starting about an hour before sunrise, as the roosting birds started for their feeding grounds.

The river offered many species of Ducks, Gulls and Terns. There was also a striking group of at least 400 Cormorants. The latter were getting breakfast in the boat channel-- and protesting our right of way. Four porpoise and two sea-cow also acted hungry. Thus ended a most enjoyable trip to a Pelican nursery.

AH THERE, MR. WORDSWORTH

B. S. Havens

Speaking of bird song (somebody must have mentioned the subject), one of the songs which has long been on my list of those I don't know very well is that of the Fox Sparrow. While I have usually been able to recognize a Fox Sparrow when I heard him sing, especially if I had a good look at him, I had no field notes of the song to help me memorize it.

Fortunately, I was able to fill in the gap this spring at Jenny Lake. My feeding station there attracted a number of migrating species, including a small number of Fox Sparrows. So I was able to listen to the song enough times to make some notes about it. There's a little story that goes with it, as follows:

Back in the early half of the 19th. century, when William Wordsworth was poet laureate of England, the Fox Sparrows formed a literary society. The president of the society, a plump matronly Fox Sparrow of the Helen Hokinson type, thought it would be quite a feather in their cap if they could get Poet Laureate Wordsworth to attend one of their meetings and read some of his poems. So they asked him, and he came. And he was a big hit with the ladies of the F. S. L. S. (Fox

Sparrows' Literary Society).

At the conclusion of his reading, Madam President came bustling up to him and said (rather tactlessly, I think): "Gee, you're a peachy reader, Wordsworth!" And all the Fox Sparrows have been saying it ever since.

While we're on the subject of bird songs, it occurred to me recently to find a sentence that would approximate the song of the Brown Creeper. To my mind, it is well represented by the explanation given by the boy who was asked why he wasn't at school. He said: "Teacher's at Cedar River."

It came quite as a surprise to me this spring to find that the Junco has another song - one I had never heard before, quite different from the sweet trill to which we are all so well accustomed. It's a varied song, somewhat resembling the virtuosity of the Song Sparrow. On the few occasions when I've heard it, it was quite subdued, although the singer was not far away. Whether this is a normal characteristic of it or is just a result of the bird's being on migration, I don't know.

S B C FIELD TRIP REPORTS
Mrs. Albert Sachs, Field Activities Chairman

BIRDS APLENTY -- GRIDDLE CAKES TOO!

Central Park, May 7

It was May 7 and at 5 a.m. the alarm said it was time to wake up and get started for the S.B.C. meeting place at Central Park.

The sun rose bright with promise of a good day, and by 6 o'clock seventeen members had arrived. Walking toward the golf course we heard the Veery, Wood Thrush and the call of the Oven-bird. Along the edge of the woods perched on the top of an old lawn roller, the White-crowned Sparrow displayed his striped crown. The Pheobe was at his usual place around the shed. The Ruby-crowned Kinglet seemed to follow us with his sweet song. The familiar call "drink your teese" of the Towhee was heard. The Brown Thrasher was calling from atop a tall tree.

We heard the Black and White, Northern Yellow-throat, the Black-throated Green and a few minutes later along the road near the pond there seemed a wave of Myrtle, Black and white, Black-throated-Blue, Black-throated Green, Cape May and Blackburnian Warblers.

The thrill of the morning was seeing together without shifting your binoculars, the Scarlet Tanager, Baltimore Oriole and Purple Finch against the background of green poplar catkins.

Also seen were : Red-shouldered Hawk, Killdeer, Chimney Swift, Kingfisher, Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Crested and Least Flycatchers, Tree Swallow, Blue Jay, Crow, Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, House Wren, Catbird, Robin, Bluebird, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Starling, Blue-headed, Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos, Nashville and Magnolia Warblers, Redwing, Bronzed Grackle, Cowbird, Junco, Chipping, English, Field, White-throated and Song Sparrows.

At 8:30 back to the Park Picnic Grounds where the committee was preparing breakfast of griddle cakes, syrup and coffee. The 26 members seated at the tables agreed it was a delicious breakfast and a successful bird trip. -- Esly Hallenbeck

SONGS AND SOUNDS

Late Evening Trip, May 10

Black wings against a turquoise sky, strong smooth flight, tucked-in necks -- the Black-crowned Night Herons were passing overhead before dropping down into the gray-banked golden sunset.

A chubby bird careening ecstatically upward to disappear into an amethyst cloud, but leaving behind a shower of silvery tinkling notes -- the Woodcock in flight and song.

But for the most part it was an evening of sound alone for that dozen or so SBC members who stood quietly along the Rosendale Road under the swiftly changing gold-through-flame-to-purple of the brilliant ending of the cool May day. Few birds were seen, but the evening was full of song.

The Wood Thrush was softly calling for "Geraldine" and the Scarlet Tanager twanged his minor "Pitcairn". While the Woodcock worked at his single-syllable nighthawk-like note, needing many of these before getting himself off the ground, a Henslow's Sparrow began cutting in with a small imitation of the same harsh cry.

Several times the Woodcock took to the air, up, up until he was lost in the rosy light, but just as surely as he rose a plane would roar over. It began to be a question "Did the plane call out the bird, or the bird the plane?". It took a lot of ear-straining to catch the lovely song against such competition.

But there were other, if less spectacular, sounds: the Field Sparrow, the White-throated Sparrow, the Veery, as well as the Ovenbird, the Pheasant and the Northern Yellow-throat. The songs of all these were carried in the not too windy evening air.

And then, there was a quick run across Vly Road to check on the amphibians. They were there - peepers (hylacruifer)

and a few wood frogs (*rana sylvatica*). Perhaps the sound of hoards of these is not really the last pitch audible to human ears, but after many minutes it seems the last pitch bearable to human ears.

But if humans were overwhelmed by the sound, not so the Whip-poor-wills. The foxy little things sang right along in the midst of all the racket, and gave the humans a merry time trying to locate them.

But all fair evenings come to an end, and, under the light of the diamond-clear Big Dipper, the group broke up to return to its separate pursuits. -- Beatrice Sullivan

WINDY AND COLDMariaville Lake, May 21

The 7 a.m. meeting time at Peek's store, found the day rather windy and cold. The ten SBC members present drove to the opposite side of the lake and parked their cars. They then hiked along the wood road, which was somewhat sheltered. The following birds were seen:

American Merganser, Red-shouldered Hawk, Osprey, Sparrow Hawk, Mourning Dove, Chimney Swift, Flicker, Crested Flycatcher, Phoebe, Least Flycatcher, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, Crow, Chickadee, House Wren, Catbird, Robin, Wood Thrush, Veery, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Starling, Blue-headed Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Oven-bird, Yellow-throat, Canada Warbler, Redstart, English Sparrow, Meadowlark, Redwing, Grackle, Cowbird, Purple Finch, Goldfinch, Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Tree Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

-- Helen Cole

CERULEAN AND WORM-EATINGIndian Ladder, May 28

A party of twelve met at the Altamont Railroad Station for the annual trip to the Indian Ladder Ravine in search for the late spring Warblers, Pileated Woodpecker, etc. Although the sky was overcast, the weather was warm and quiet and the birds were in full song most of the morning so that we were able to record a total of 65 species.

The thickets and orchards along the roadside at the base of the Ladder yielded the usual quota of Orioles, Bobolinks, Yellow Warblers, etc. -- and one surprise, the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher.

At the bottom of the old Indian Ladder road, the warblers began to make their presence known by their songs; the Bay-breasted and the Mourning were seen. Later all had a good view of the Golden-winged; further on at the edge of the woods a Canada Warbler was in full song.

As we wound our way through the woods up the road, we were listening for the song of the Worm-eating Warbler. We heard none until we neared the top when we were rewarded by excellent views of a number of these usually difficult to see Warblers feeding on the ground and low branches of bushes along the banks beside the road.

Near the end of the road, a Cerulean Warbler was identified by song and a wild scramble down the side of the ravine was necessary to verify the identity of the bird.

After retracing our steps down the road a-ways, we descended the ravine to the stream and followed it back to our starting point, picking up other warblers, thrushes, etc. The Pileated Woodpecker was heard but not seen. No Grouse were flushed. One large hawk was seen in the sky above the woods but could not be identified. A complete list of species identified follows:

Sparrow Hawk, 1; Mourning Dove, 3; Chimney Swift, 6; Flicker, 2; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Kingbird, 2; Crested Flycatcher, 3; Phoebe, 2; Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, 1; Wood Pewee, 2; Barn Swallow, 3; Blue Jay; Crow; Chickadee; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; House Wren, 1; Catbird, 6; Brown Thrasher, 1; Robin; Wood Thrush, 4; Hermit Thrush, 1; Veery, 2.

Bluebird, 1; Starling; Yellow-throated Vireo, 2; Blue-headed Vireo, 1; Red-eyed Vireo, 6; Black and White Warbler, 6; Worm-eating Warbler, 8; Golden-winged Warbler, 2; Tennessee Warbler, 1; Nashville Warbler, 3; Yellow Warbler, 3; Black-throated Blue Warbler, 2; Black-throated Green Warbler, 2; Cerulean Warbler, 2; Blackburnian Warbler, 2; Chestnut-sided Warbler, 6; Bay-breasted Warbler, 1; Black-poll Warbler, 4; Oven-bird, 6; Louisiana Water-thrush, 1; Mourning Warbler, 1; Yellow-throat, 6; Canada Warbler, 1; Redstart, 2; English Sparrow; Bobolink, 1; Meadowlark, 3; Redwing; Baltimore Oriole, 3; Grackle; Cowbird; Scarlet Tanager, 6; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 1; Indigo Bunting, 2; Purple Finch, 2; Goldfinch, 2; Towhee; Grasshopper Sparrow, 1; Henslow's Sparrow; Chipping Sparrow; Field Sparrow; Song Sparrow.

-- Chester N. Moore



NEWS AND NOTES IN BRIEF

FOUR MORE ADDED

To Montezuma List

There were four species which SBC members did not see, but which others present did, on the State Federation trip to Montezuma and Watkins Glen. They were: Duck Hawk-M; Upland Plover-M; Hermit Thrush-M; Baltimore Oriole-G.

CENTURY RUNS TOTAL 181 SPECIES IN LAST FIVE YEARS

Dr. Minnie B. Scotland

The annual Century Run of the Schenectady Bird Club took place on Saturday, May 13, 1950. Twenty-seven individuals participated. Reports have been received from ten different groups. The total number of species observed during the day was 135, two of which were new for the composite list. These were the Turkey Vulture and the Cardinal.

Last year's list added two to the composite list, the Pigeon Hawk and the Screech Owl, neither of which was seen this year. In fact there were 47 birds that have been reported in the last five years that were not seen on the Century Run this year. Of these the Duck Hawk had been observed every year except this one. Then there were many warblers that have appeared two or more times that were missing from the 1950 count.

This year did account for seven birds listed only once previously on Century Runs: Ring-necked Duck (1947), Red-breasted Merganser (1948), Coot (1947), Wilson's Snipe (1947), Greater Yellow-legs (1946), Least Sandpiper (1948), and Pine Siskin (1946). During Century Runs of 1932, 1933 and 1934 there were two birds seen that have not been observed in the last five years, namely the European Partridge and the Black-bellied Plover. However, there were the Sora, Philadelphia Vireo and Least Bittern that were listed again for the first time since those early Century Runs.

The territory covered by the different groups was well within the boundaries of the ten counties named by S B C as the area for the Century Run. The farthest north count was made at Jenny Lake in Saratoga County by B. Havens. To the east Tomhannock Reservoir in Rensselaer County was visited by Group 4. Apparently no group got farther south than Voorheesville in Albany County. Mr. and Mrs. Wiard sent in a count from Seward in Schoharie County to the southwest.

It appears that a much greater count could be obtained if more groups could be formed and all ten counties visited. There were Washington, Columbia, Greene, Montgomery and Fulton counties omitted from the counts this year.

One group of observers began its trip as early as 3:15



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a.m. Others started at 4:00, 5:00 and 6:00 a.m. A few individuals were still on the search at 9:00 in the evening.

Throughout the day S B C members could be seen at Vly Road, the Mohawk River, Vischer's Ponds, Central Park-Schenectady, Scotia, Washington Park-Albany, Tomhannock Reservoir, Karners, Indian Ladder, Meadowdale Swamp, Rosendale and Balltown Roads.

The day was clear until mid-afternoon when clouds appeared and later showers fell. The temperature ranged from 48 to 60 degrees. This year the spring was very late in showing signs of life. The trees were just beginning to unfold their leaves on the day of the Century Run. The wild flowers were late in coming into bloom. Even the birds, especially the Warblers, were tardy.

Group one, consisting of nine members travelling together in two cars, had a count of fifty birds at 6:25 a.m., the first being the Song Sparrow at 3:15 a.m. At nine o'clock the number of birds was 75 and at noon it was 95. The hundred mark was reached at 3:00 p.m. when a Turkey Vulture was seen above the cliff at Indian Ladder. When the party broke up at 5:30 the count had reached 107 but a few members added three more to the total before 8:30 that evening. This was the only group to reach the century goal though the grand total for the day was 135, a number surpassed only once in the last five years, when a total of 146 was counted on May 15, 1948. On this latter date there were 55 observers in 14 separate groups and more of the area was covered.

Participants were grouped as follows:

Group 1 - G. M. Andrews, Guy Bartlett, Esly Hallenbeck, Alice Holmes, Chester N. Moore, Minnie B. Scotland, Frazer Turrentine, Nelle G. Van Vorst, Arthur J. Woodward. 3:15 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Millington Road, Vly Road, Niskayuna Wide Waters, Vischer Ponds, Central Park, Karners, Indian Ladder, Meadowdale Swamp, Scotia and Rosendale Road. 110 species.

Group 2 - Donald Tucker, Julius Tucker, Rudolph Stone. 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Central Park, Niskayuna, Vly Road. 73 species.

Group 3 - Barrington Havens. Jenny Lake. 49 species.

Group 4 - Byron T. Hipple, Margaret Hipple, Samuel Madison, Lillian Stoner. (Pauline Baker- Washington Park from 10:00 to 11:15 a.m.) 4:00 a.m. to 7:45 p.m. 135 miles by car. Vischer Ponds, Crescent Lake, Normandin's, Tomhannock Reservoir, Six Mile Water Works, Karners, Meadowdale. 88 species.

Group 5 - Mr. and Mrs. Leon A. Wiard. 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. Seward, N. Y. 74 species.

Group 6 - Lawrence S. Hill. 2 to 4 p.m. Wolf Hollow. 26 species.

Group 7 - Mary E. Kerley. Defreestville, Rensselaer County. 15 species.

Group 8 - James G. Anderson. Scotia. 2 species. (Upland Plover, Nighthawk).

Group 9 - Ella Whitlock. Voorheesville. 1 species. (Evening Grosbeak).

Group 10 - Mrs. P. E. Herriott. Scotia. 1 species. (Cardinal).

There were Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Mattimore who observed in Albany, Indian Ladder and Meadowdale. No report was received.

It is of interest that there were thirty "singles" reported, that is, birds reported by only one group. The following is a summary of all records received:

Group:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Hooded Merganser		X										X			X						
Pied-billed Grebe					X																
Great Blue Heron	X																			X	
Green Heron	X	X			X	X															
Hairy-crowned Night Heron	X	X			X																
American Bittern	X		X	X	X																
Least Bittern	X														X						
Canada Goose	X	X													X						
Mallard	X				X																
Black Duck	X	X			X																
Blue-winged Teal	X				X																
Wood Duck	X	X			X																
Hinge-necked Duck					X																
Lesser Scaup Duck	X				X																
American Osprey		X																			
Red-breasted Merganser		X																			
Turkey Vulture	X																				
Sharp-shinned Hawk					X																
Cooper's Hawk	X				X																
Red-tailed Hawk	X				X																
Hed-shouldered Hawk	X		X		X																
Broad-winged Hawk			X				X														
Marsh Hawk	X				X	X															
Osprey	X				X	X															
Sparrow Hawk	X				X	X	X														
Ruffed Grouse	X		X		X	X															
Hige-necked Pheasant	X				X	X															
Sora					X																
Florida Gallinule	X				X																
Coot					X																
Killdeer	X	X			X	X		X													
Woodcock		X												X							
Wilson's Snipe					X																
Upland Plover																			X		
Spotted Sandpiper	X	X			X	X								X	X						
Song Sparrow	X	X			X	X								X	X						
Greater Yellow-legs	X				X																
Least Sandpiper															X						
Herring Gull	X				X																
Ring-billed Gull	X	X																			
Mourning Dove	X	X			X	X								X	X				X		
Barred Owl													X								
Whip-poor-will	X	X			X																
Nighthawk					X									X						X	
Chimney Swift	X	X			X									X	X						
Baby-throated Hummingbird	X	X			X									X	X						
Red-eyed Vireo	X	X			X									X	X						
Blue Jay	X	X			X									X	X						
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	X	X			X									X	X						
Blue Jay	X	X			X									X	X						
Downy Woodpecker	X	X			X									X	X						
Kingbird	X	X			X									X	X						
Crested Flycatcher					X									X							
Phoebe	X	X			X	X								X	X				X		
Least Flycatcher	X	X			X	X								X	X						
Wood Pewee					X									X					X		
Pyrrhic Wooded Lark	X				X									X							
Tree Swallow	X	X			X	X								X	X						
Bank Swallow	X	X			X	X								X	X						
Rough-winged Swallow	X	X			X	X								X	X						
Barn Swallow	X	X			X	X								X	X						

Group:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Cliff Swallow				X	X							Black-throated Green Warbler	X	X	X	X						
Blue Jay	X	X	X	X	X	X						Black-burnian Warbler	X	X	X	X						
Eastern Crow	X	X	X	X	X	X						Chestnut-sided Warbler	X	X	X	X	X					
Black-capped Chickadee	X	X	X	X	X	X						Fine Warbler	X			X						
White-breasted Nuthatch	X	X			X							Forest Warbler	X									
Red-breasted Nuthatch			X									Oven-bird	X	X	X	X	X					
Brown Creeper		X	X									Northern Water-thrush	X									
House Wren	X	X	X	X	X							Lawrence Water-thrush	X					X				
Winter Wren	X	X	X	X	X							Northern Yellow-throat	X	X	X	X	X					
Long-billed Nuthatch Wren	X											American Meadowlark	X	X	X	X						
Catbird	X	X		X	X	X	X					English Sparrow	X	X	X	X			X			
Brown Thrasher	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					Bobolink	X			X	X					
Robin	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				Meadowlark	X	X		X	X	X				
Wood Thrush	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					Red-wing	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Hermit Thrush	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					Whitewinged Oriole	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Olive-backed Thrush	X	X		X								Bronzed Grackle	X	X	X	X	X	X				
												Cowbird	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Veery	X		X	X	X	X						Scarlet Tanager	X									
Bluebird	X	X	X	X	X							Cardinal										X
Golden-crowned Kinglet	X	X	X	X	X							Pigeon-breasted Grosbeak	X	X	X	X						
Roby-crowned Kinglet	X	X	X	X								Indigo Bunting	X	X	X	X						
American Pipit	X											Spying Grosbeak										X
Cedar Waxwing	X	X										Purple Finch	X	X	X	X	X					
Starling	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					Fine Gnatcatcher	X	X								
Yellow-throated Vireo	X	X										Warbler	X	X	X	X	X					
Blue-headed Vireo	X	X	X	X								Indigo Bunting	X	X	X	X	X					
Red-eyed Vireo	X											Acorn	X	X	X	X	X					X
Philadelphia Vireo	X				X							Swainson	X	X	X	X	X					
Warbling Vireo	X	X	X	X								Gnatcatcher	X	X	X	X	X					
Black and White Warbler	X	X	X	X	X	X						Spizella	X	X	X	X	X					
Northern Warbler	X	X	X	X	X	X						Lincoln's Sparrow	X	X	X	X	X					
Prairie Warbler	X	X										Vesper Sparrow	X	X	X	X	X					
Yellow Warbler	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					Blue-colored Junco	X									
Mourning Warbler	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					Chipping Sparrow	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Cape May Warbler	X	X	X	X	X							Field Sparrow	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Black-throated Blue Warbler	X	X	X	X	X							White-crowned Sparrow	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Myrtle Warbler	X	X	X	X	X							White-throated Sparrow	X	X	X	X	X	X				
												Swamp Sparrow	X	X	X	X	X	X				
												Song Sparrow	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			

THE PURPLE GALLINULE

J. Murray Hollister

The March, 1950 issue of *Feathers* describes my experience with this interesting bird from a diet standpoint, also its general habits. The nesting habits were not observed, due to the inaccessibility of the nest.

During April 1950, in the same locality, I was fortunate in locating a nest which could be reached by boat, poled through the lily pads. On April 13th. I counted six eggs and incubation was on in earnest. The mother bird did not seem much disturbed, although at first did considerable scolding. However, I spent an hour getting acquainted before trying for pictures. She left the nest three or four times during this period, but not for more than a minute or two each.

My boat was tied to the rushes within reach of the nest. The hot sun made me thirsty, so I retreated to the back seat

for lunch. Then something happened which was really exciting.

The male bird was observed nearby, so I tossed it a piece of bread, and soon had him taking a piece from my hand. This was followed by his coming aboard and taking food from the boat seat in front of me.

All this was in view of the female on the nest. Evidently the temptation was too great to resist, as she left the nest and came alongside to duplicate the action of the male. After taking the food to the rushes to "dunk" in water (this seeming to be a universal habit) she returned for another helping, after which she took over her incubating job.

This act of confidence might not have been wholly spontaneous, as I learned from a member of a fishing camp not far away that both gallinules had been seen in empty fishing boats, evidently looking for food.

On April 12th another observer reported five eggs, causing a near miss on the hatching period of 21 days, as on my observations May first, five eggs had hatched and the chicks had departed. Fortunately, on the latter date, one egg was still in the nest.

While I was figuring on a better light for taking a picture, I saw the egg move, and had the unusual experience of watching the shell break and a coal black fluffy chick appear.

The mother bird at this time was busy with the five babies in the rushes not over five feet away. She did not seem disturbed until I reached into the nest to give the chick a boost for better light; whereupon she was back in a hurry, talking in a language that I could not understand. After becoming satisfied that no harm was apparent, she returned to the other five.

The most interesting picture obtained was one of the female's head, front view, as she was on the nest with the single young, showing the red bill tipped with yellow, frontal shield blue, and head purple. Four vivid colors in a row!

S B C FIELD TRIP REPORTS
Mrs. Albert Sachs, Field Activities Chairman

SINGING VESPER

Karners, May 30

If there was one bird that featured the annual Karners Sand Barrens trip on Memorial Day, it was the Vesper Sparrow. For some of the dozen and a half SBC members on the trip, it was their first really good look at this sparrow, and it was accommodating enough to sing constantly. The top of an apple tree in an abandoned orchard was the singing perch; and the

leaves were not sufficiently advanced to conceal the bird at any time. The Vesper, incidentally, does not seem to be the common bird it was a decade ago.

Of course there were plenty of Prairie Warblers. Not all the observers had good looks at the birds, and there were those who could not hear the high notes of the oft-repeated song. And there were plenty of the other so-typical birds of the sand-pine-oak territory. The half-century mark was just missed; 49 species were recorded:

Red-tailed, Red-shouldered, and Sparrow Hawks; Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Mourning Dove, Phoebe, Least Flycatcher, Wood Pewee, Blue Jay, Crow, Chickadee, House Wren, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Wood and Hermit Thrushes, Veery, Bluebird, Cedar Waxwing, Starling, Yellow-throated and Red-eyed Vireos; Black and White, Golden-winged, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Black-poll, Pine, Prairie and Canada Warblers, Ovenbird, Yellow-throat, Redstart, English Sparrow, Grackle, Cowbird, Indigo Bunting, Towhee, and Vesper, Chipping, Field, White-throated and Song Sparrows.

Preceding the regular Karners trip, which didn't get underway until the middle of the day (8 a.m.), the Early Birders pulled their usual pre-dawn, pre-warm, pre-dry trip along the waterfront, among other places. They had several more species. Their added species, mostly along Rosendale Road or Niskayuna Wide-waters, included:

Pied-billed Grebe, Black-crowned Night Heron, American Bittern, Pheasant, Florida Gallinule, Woodcock (heard at several sites), Herring Gull, Whip-poor-will (also at several sites), Nighthawk, Downy Woodpecker, Alder and Olive-sided Flycatchers (both these and the other Flycatchers were all conspicuously in early-morning song), Prairie Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Bank Swallow, Barn Swallow, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Warbling Vireo, Yellow-breasted Chat (several in loud and varying song, along with an abundance of Golden-winged Warblers, below the Rosendale-River intersection), Bobolink, Meadowlark, Red-wing, Baltimore Oriole, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Savannah, Grasshopper, Henslow's and Swamp Sparrows. -- Guy Bartlett

BIRDERS OUTNUMBER THE BIRDS

Indian Ladder, June 7

June 7th. was a real summer day in Schenectady. When we arrived at Miss Antemann's home, however, it was very comfortable; a perfect evening for some 32 people to enjoy the picnic.

After we had our supper, we took a short walk. Most of the birds had evidently gone to roost as the following list is very small:

Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Hairy Woodpecker, Crested Flycatcher, Phoebe, Wood Pewee, Catbird, Robin, Wood, Hermit and Olive-backed Thrushes, Starling, Black and White, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Wilson's and Canada Warblers, Oven-bird, Yellow-throat, Redstart, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Towhee, Junco and Chipping Sparrow.

-- Esly Hallenbeck

MRS. VIRGINIA RAIL AND FAMILY

Berne Swamp, June 11

Nine SBC members climbed the Helderbergs to the Berne Swamp on June 11th. The day dawned clear although cool. Once up in the Helderbergs, however, the weather changed rapidly; a strong, cold wind blew and the sun was totally obscured during our entire stay at the swamp.

Due to the poor birding weather and the fact that all of the nearby ponds were not visited, only 39 species were seen; 26 were seen en route, the combined total being 46. This is far below the record of 1948, when 65 species were seen at the swamp (see Feathers, August 1948).

The most interesting sight of the day occurred west of Berne en route to the swamp, when the lead car pulled up short to let a mother Virginia Rail cross the highway with her six chicks. The entire party observed them thoroughly, as the mother "wak-waked" through the grass to keep her brood together. The complete list follows:

Mallard, 5; Red-tailed Hawk, 5; Marsh Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 2; Virginia Rail, 7; Killdeer, 1; Mourning Dove, 4; Chimney Swift, 2; Hummingbird, 1; Flicker, 2; Kingbird, 2; Crested Flycatcher, 1; Phoebe, 2; Barn Swallow, 2; Cliff Swallow, 1; Blue Jay, 1; Crow; House Wren, 2; Catbird, 1; Robin; Hermit Thrush, 2; Veery, 2; Bluebird, 5; Cedar Waxwing, 3; Starling; Red-eyed Vireo, 2; Yellow Warbler, 1; Black-throated Blue Warbler, 2; Black-throated Green Warbler, 2; Chestnut-sided Warbler, 2; Oven-bird, 7; Yellow-throat, 7; Canada Warbler, 1; English Sparrow; Bobolink, 3; Meadowlark; Red-wing; Grackle; Cowbird, 2; Goldfinch, 8; Towhee, 4; Henslow's Sparrow, 2; Chipping Sparrow, 1; White-throated Sparrow, 4; Swamp Sparrow, 3; Song Sparrow.

-- Samuel R. Madison

 **NEWS AND NOTES IN BRIEF** 

EUROPEAN WIDGEON

Travelling with the Baldpates

A European Widgeon was observed on April 22, 1950 in the marshes back of Voorheesville. The bird was a male and its distinctive rufous head attracted immediate attention in the

group of Baldpates with which it was associated. Continued observation through a twenty-power telescope disclosed the light crown patch and other markings-- the white wing patch, white patch before the tail, and the black tail, altogether making identification unmistakable. The group of ducks was feeding leisurely in a small pond at the edge of the marsh, affording ample opportunity for careful observation by three observers: Mrs. Dayton-Stoner, Mrs. Hipple and myself.

--Byron T. Hipple, Jr.

A CLOSER LOOK

At Round Lake

There's a lot more to the Round Lake area than is included in the usual SBC trips of late fall and early spring. (Saratoga-Round Lakes) There's the Round Lake outlet, with a vast area of swamp and marsh, and stream.

A dawn visit there with Jim Anderson early on May 21, with a couple of water-loving dogs, was highly productive. Including species seen at Niskayuna Wide-waters, about 75 kinds were recorded.

Included were a Great Blue Heron, several Blue-winged Teal, a Cooper's Hawk, several Virginia Rails (the dogs helped), a Greater Yellow-legs, summering Pine Warblers, a Louisiana Water-thrush conspicuously in song, and White-crowned Sparrows.

-- Guy Bartlett

UNUSUAL IS THE WORD FOR THIS--

Brown Creeper's Nest

A Brown Creeper builds its nest usually under loose pieces of bark fir trees. However, one of these little birds was observed on June 24th. to have chosen the convenient space back of an opened window blind.

On that afternoon she was seen to climb up as far as the second floor level on the west side of Island View Lodge on Lake Wentworth, New Hampshire, which is two miles from Wolfeboro. This end of the Lodge is adjacent to pine woods. In fact, close to the building there were two balsam fir trees.

The Creeper moved up on the shingles until she reached a point exactly half-way between two windows. Then she sidled at a right angle toward the left one, where the blind had been opened back against the house. There, a nest of twigs and a few dry leaves had been made and skillfully hidden just above the bottom and not far from the outer edge of the solid wood shutter.

Perhaps this is not only a record of a new location for a Brown Creeper's nest, but also a record of a nesting date for eastern New Hampshire.

-- Minnie B. Scotland

NEW HIGH OF 210 KINDS REACHED ON SUMMARY OF 1949 RECORDS G. M. Andrews

Thanks to the steady stream of reports received from the many observers afield during the year of 1949, the composite list of the Schenectady Bird Club members for that year reached a new record high of 209 species and one subspecies, for a grand total of 210 kinds. Reports included were from observations made in only six of the ten counties designated as local area. Some records were received from the high mountain area of the Adirondacks, and while these notes are preserved in the Club records, they are not included in the listing below.

The year 1949 marked the inauguration of a new permanent card file system for all records. A 5" x 7" card was made up for each species or subspecies (the latter only if definitely assignable), and pertinent data including date of record, number of individuals, locality where seen, and observer's initials, were noted thereon for each report received. When very unusual records were received, detailed notes were made on the species or subspecies card. This card file system, if continued faithfully in the future, should provide more detailed reference material on actual local bird distribution and migration, than has been available in the past.

The white heron invasion of 1949 was very poor in comparison with 1948; only one record each of the Little Blue Heron and Snowy Egret were received.

An immature Whistling Swan was again present at Brown's Beach, Saratoga Lake, in April. A flock of American Brant that ventured into the Niskayuna area during the fall hunting season, resulted in fines paid by several hunters who failed to recognize their identity.

The Greater Snow Goose was reported in flocks of 25 to 125 at several localities in late October and early November.

Three Gadwall were taken by hunters at the favored Niskayuna wide-waters area. Nine Shovellers on Vischer Ponds in early March with at least one male staying on until early April, is good news on this seldom reported duck.

That some species were coming in early and others staying



Schenectady Bird Club, Inc.
G. Malcolm Andrews Editor
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late was evidenced by a Killdeer heard in mid-February, and a fresh-killed Florida Gallinule picked up in mid-November!

The white gulls were again represented during the winter by a Glaucous Gull well-compared with Herring Gulls on Saratoga Lake ice in late March, and an Iceland Gull seen in late February near an Upper Hudson canal lock and again in company with Herring Gulls. This would lead to the conclusion that closer scrutiny of all our wintering gulls, especially with a telescope, might well produce some surprises!

The Owl family was well-represented during the year with seven limbs of the family tree reported, including the Long-Eared Owl at Glens Falls in early October and Short-Eared Owls near the Army Depot in the Meadowdale area in early February.

Two unexpected warblers put in an appearance in mid-May, namely the Blue-winged Warbler and the Connecticut Warbler.

The first local August record for the Evening Grosbeak was made on the club's usual scheduled trip to the Watervliet Reservoir area in the latter part of that month.

The year's only subspecies, the James-Bay Sharp-tailed Sparrow, was observed in three different plumages on three different birds in mid-October at the favorite Niskayuna Coal Pocket marsh. The James-Bay subspecies was determined as the one most likely to be seen locally, after comparison of "on-the-spot" notes on the three birds with several references on the subject.

Details of the 26 scheduled S B C field trips held during 1949, have been summarized in February Feathers by Margaret A. Smith.

The following records of the 210 kinds reported have been highly condensed in the tabulation. The abbreviations used are explained at the end of the listing.

1949 RECORDS

- Common Loon: Tv 4-8 WtvRsv to 4-24 SarL; tv 11-6 to 11-29 SarL
 Holboell's Grebe: Tv 11-11 to 11-13 SarL
 Horned Grebe: Tv 3-20 Mechanicsville (F) to 4-27; tv 11-6 to 11-15 SarL
 Pied-billed Grebe: Tv 4-2 TmkRsv (B,V) to 5-14; sr 7-17 Nskw; tv 9-25 TmkRsv to 11-15 Round Lake (Ah,S)
 Double-crested Cormorant: Tv 5-7 Hudson, N.Y.; tv 10-21 Nskw
 Great Blue Heron: Tv ar 4-10; sr 5-28 to 8-20; tv to 10-8

Snowy Egret: One 8-28 at WtvRsv bridge with American Egrets (W)

American Egret: 5-6 Hudson, N. Y. (Hb); ar locally 7-2 NskW (T); Numbers well below 1948; last 10-8 NskW

Little Blue Heron: One 8-24 at WtvRsv bridge (V)

Green Heron: Sr, ar 4-23 Sco (T); young at ClnL 6-5 to 6-30 (T); last 8-21 WtvRsv

Black-crowned Night Heron: Sr, ar 4-4 ClnL (T) to 10-4 MhKR

American Bittern: Sr, 3-29 Central Park (S) to 10-8 NskW

Least Bittern: Two at Niskayuna Coal Pocket 7-17; one there 8-20 (S)

Whistling Swan: One immature 4-17 and 4-24, Brown's Reach at SarL (T,S)

Canada Goose: Tv, 3-13 Basic Reservoir (Ms) to 5-14; 10-11 TmkRsv (Sd) to 11-25 WtvRsv (S,T)

American Brant: Flock 10-21 NskW (G); Fines paid on seven of those shot illegally.

Greater Snow Goose: Tv, flocks of 125 NskW 10-21 to 11-5 NskW; also 25 SarL 11-13 (A) and 50 near Middleburg (FR Collins)

Mallard: Wv 1-16 and 2-20 HdsR; tv 3-18 NskW to 5-14 and 10-8 to 12-31; sr 7-2 NskW to 8-21 WtvRsv

Black Duck: Wv 2-20; Ab tv 3-6 to 5-14 and 9-10 to 12-31; sr 5-22 to 8-21 with 4 young near Albany Airport 7-24 (V)

Gadwall: Three reported shot in fall at NskW (G)

Baldpate: Tv 3-6 (A) to 4-30 (R) and 9-10 (S) to 10-16 (T)

Pintail: Tv 3-6 (A) to 4-9 (Ms,S) and 9-10 (S) to 12-18 (A); also wv 12-31 HdsR (B,Ge)

Green-winged Teal: Tv, 3-20 NskW (R,A) to 4-29 MhKR Sco (S) and 9-7 WtvRsv (S) to 11-12 NskW (S); flight well above normal this year

Blue-winged Teal: Tv, 4-3 (W) to 5-14 and 9-7 WtvRsv (S) to 10-21 NskW (A); sr WtvRsv 8-21

Shoveller: Nine on Vischer Ponds 3-6 (A), also a male there 4-3 (F) to 4-9 (Ms,S)

Wood Duck: Tv, 3-23 (S) to 5-7 and 9-10 to 11-2 ClnL (T); Twelve young on ClnL 5-28 (T)

Ring-necked Duck: Tv, 3-6 (A) to 4-24 SarL (F); also 11-13 Round Lake

Canvas-back: Two 3-20 near Mechanicsville (F) and 11-11 to 11-13 SarL

Greater Scaup Duck: Tv 3-20 to 4-25 and 10-28 to 11-29; also two wv HdsR 2-20

Lesser Scaup Duck: Tv 3-23 to 4-24 and 10-28 to 11-15; also wv 2-20 HdsR

American Golden-eye: Wv to 4-24 SarL; ar 11-11 SarL

Bufflehead: One 11-13 SarL

Old-squaw: Several shot by hunters in fall NskW (G); one 12-18 HdsR (A), also one female TmkRsv 12-31 (R,Ge)

White-winged Scoter: Tv 11-6 SarL (T) to 12-18 HdsR (A)

American Scoter: Tv 3-26 SarL (T); also 10-8 NskW to 11-13 SarL

Ruddy Duck: Tv 9-25; six at Stafford's Bridge, SarL (V); four taken by hunters in fall (G)

Hooded Merganser: Tv 3-8 to 4-8 (S); also 11-13 Round Lake

American Merganser: Wv, 2-20 to 5-14; sr 11-10
 Red-breasted Merganser: Tv 3-20 (A,B) to 4-5 (T); 10-25 TmkRsv

Turkey Vulture: One near Catskill 1-26 (G); sr 5-8 to 9-26
 (Sm)

Goshawk: 3-20 Schermerhorn Rd.; 11-28 (G) to 12-17 (T)

Sharpshinned Hawk: 1-7 (F) to 6-25 (S,T)

Cooper's Hawk: Sr, 3-30 (F) to 8-24

Red-tailed Hawk: Tv, 2-2 (Sm,V) to 5-29; 10-9 to 12-31 (B,Ge)

Red-shouldered Hawk: Tv, 3-18 (Sm,V) to 5-21; sr 6-11 and 6-12
 tv 9-10

Broad-winged Hawk: Tv, 3-20 to 4-22; also 9-10

Rough-legged Hawk: Tv, 3-1 (H) and 4-30 (T); 11-17 (H) to
 12-22 (H)

Bald Eagle: 3-19 near Castleton (Ms); 7-17 NskW (both immature)

Marsh Hawk: Sr, 2-10 (S) to 5-30; 8-20 to 10-16

Osprey: Tv, 4-22 (S,T) to 5-14; 8-20 and 10-9 (Am) TmkRsv

Duck Hawk: Recorded 3-27, 5-23 (T) and 9-10 (F)

Pigeon Hawk: 3-19 near Hudson, N. Y. (V); 5-14 near Selkirk
 N. Y. (S,T)

Sparrow Hawk: Recorded 2-18 to 7-17; 11-13 to 12-31

Ruffed Grouse: 2-4 to 5-22; also 11-25 WtvRsv

Ring-necked Pheasant: Resident, recorded every month but July

King Rail: 7-2 NskW (T)

Virginia Rail: Sr, 5-14 to 8-20 (S)

Sora: Sr, 5-7 (S) and 9-10 NskW (S)

Florida Gallinule: Sr, 4-30 NskW (B) to 10-28 (A); also im-
 mature, freshly killed, at Niskayuna Village 11-12 (S)

Coot: Tv, 3-8 NskW (S) to 4-25; 10-6 to 11-24

Semipalmated Plover: Tv 5-30 NskW (T)

Killdeer: Sr, 2-16 Ballston Lake (Mrs. H. N. Hackett) to 10-9
 TmkRsv (Am)

Woodcock: Sr, 3-27 to 6-25

Wilson's Snipe: Tv, 4-3 and 4-30; sr 6-12 Consalus Vlaie; tv
 8-20 to 10-28 NskW (A)

Upland Plover: Sr, 4-27 (S) to 7-17

Spotted Sandpiper: Sr, 4-17 SarL (T) to 8-24

Solitary Sandpiper: Tv, 5-7 to 5-30 and 8-24 to 9-11

Greater Yellow-legs: Tv, 3-25 WtvRsv (Sm); 8-20 to 11-6 (B)

Lesser Yellow-legs: Tv, 8-24 to 11-15 SarL (Ah,S)

Pectoral Sandpiper: Tv, 5-7 NskW (S,T) to 5-14 and 8-21 to
 10-30 NskW (T)

Least Sandpiper: Tv, 5-15 Sco (T) to 5-30 NskW (T); 8-20 to
 9-28 WtvRsv (F)

Dowitcher: Three at TmkRsv cove flats 10-9 (Am)

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Tv, 8-24 to 10-8 NskW (S)

Glaucous Gull: One 3-27 on ice with Herring Gulls at SarL
 near outlet bridge

Iceland Gull: One 2-20 near Upper Hudson canal lock with
 Crows and Herring Gulls

- Herring Gull: Recorded every month but Jan., July and Aug.
 Ring-billed Gull: Tv, 3-6 VsrF (A) to 5-14 and 8-20 NskW to 12-31 HdsR
 Bonaparte's Gull: Two 11-13 at SarL on SBC trip
 Black Tern: Tv, 5-29 and 5-30 NskW (T); also 9-5 Round Lake (B)
- Mourning Dove: Sr, 3-1 Sacandaga Rd. (Vj) to 10-19 Sco (H)
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Sr, 5-11 (V) to 9-7 WtvRsv
- Screech Owl: Resident, seen in Mar., May, Aug. and Oct.
 Great Horned Owl: Res., Recorded in Jan., Mar., and May
Snowy Owl: Wv, About six different birds repeatedly recorded 11-26 to 12-31
 Barred Owl: Res., Recorded Jan., Mar. and May
Long-eared Owl: One 10-3 at Glens Falls (Mrs. Ann Bainbridge)
Short-eared Owl: Three present at Meadowdale 2-10 (S)
Saw-whet Owl: One immature found dead 3-6 on Gordon Rd. (S)
- Whip-poor-will: Sr, recorded locally only 5-1 to 5-14
 Nighthawk: Sr, 5-14 to 10-3 Sco (H)
 Chimney Swift: Sr, 5-6 to 10-10 (F)
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Sr, 5-14 to 9-24 Loudonville (F)
 Belted Kingfisher: Recorded 3-25 to 11-19
- Flicker: Sr, 3-21 to 11-25 WtvRsv (S,T)
 Pileated Woodpecker: Resident; recorded 1-31 Gallupville (Mrs. C. G. Zimmer) to 11-25
 Red-headed Woodpecker: One record at Breakabeen, Schoharie Co. 7-16 (W)
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Tv, 4-3 Colonie (W) to 10-4 (F)
 Hairy Woodpecker: Resident
 Downy Woodpecker: Resident
- Kingbird: Sr, 5-14 to 8-21
 Crested Flycatcher: Sr, 5-7 to 8-21
 Phoebe: Sr, 3-23 Gallupville (Mrs. Zimmer) to 10-1
 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Tv, 5-30 Karners
 Acadian Flycatcher: Tv, 8-20 Seward, Schoharie Co. (W)
 Alder Flycatcher: Sr, 5-21 to 7-17
 Least Flycatcher: Sr, 5-5 to 9-11
 Wood Pewee: Sr, 5-22 to 10-5 Sco (H)
 Olive-sided Flycatcher: Sr at Jenny Lake, Saratoga Co. 6-18 and 7-1 (S)
- Prairie Horned Lark: Tv, 1-23 Sco (H) to 5-21 (S,T); sr, 6-12
 Consalus Vlaie; tv, 10-8 to 12-2 (S)
- Tree Swallow: Sr, 3-29 NskW (S) to 9-18
 Bank Swallow: Sr, 4-24 to 9-10
 Rough-winged Swallow: Sr, 4-20 NskW (S) to 9-7
 Barn Swallow: Sr, 4-20 NskW (S) to 9-11
 Cliff Swallow: Sr, 5-14 to 8-24
 Purple Martin: Sr at Saratoga, colony increased over 1948 (V)

Recorded at Caroga Lake 7-9 (Mrs. C. G. Zimmer) and one 6-7 to 6-10 near city limits (S)

Blue Jay: Resident

Crow: Resident

Black-capped Chickadee: Resident

White-breasted Nuthatch: Resident

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Wv 1-2 Colonie (W); tv 3-10 (S) to 5-14 and 9-11 to 9-18

Brown Creeper: Recorded every month but August; June and July records from Jenny Lake, Saratoga Co.

House Wren: Sr, 4-23 (F) to 9-26 (H)

Winter Wren: Wv, 1-16 to 2-3 Vale Cemetery (HB); tv 3-22 to 5-14 and 10-8 to 12-18

Long-billed Marsh Wren: Sr, 5-7 Sco (T) to 10-8

Short-billed Marsh Wren: Sr, 5-21 and 6-11 Meadowdale (S,T)

Catbird: Sr, 5-1 to 10-8

Brown Thrasher: Sr, 4-27 to 9-20

Robin: Recorded every month but January

Wood Thrush: Sr, 5-5 to 10-5; also one at Collins Lake 12-7 (S,T)

Hermit Thrush: Tv, 4-3 to 5-15; sr, 6-11 to 8-3; tv 10-8 to 10-16

Olive-backed Thrush: Tv, 5-8 Central Park (S) to 5-21; 9-11 Colonie (W) to 9-27

Gray-cheeked Thrush: Tv, 5-14 (F) to 5-28 (T)

Veery: Sr, 5-7 to 9-11

Bluebird: Recorded January through October

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Tv, 3-27 SarL to 5-14; 9-27 to 11-25 WtvRev (S,T)

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Tv, 3-27 SarL to 5-8; 9-11 to 10-22

American Pipit: Tv, 3-23 Poentic Kill flats (S) to 5-14 and 9-10 NskW (S) to 11-13 SarL

Cedar Waxwing: Recorded 2-18 through 10-30

Northern Shrike: Two in Jan. near Delanson (G); also 11-19 through 12-11 ClnL (T)

Starling: Resident, ever-present!

Yellow-throated Vireo: Sr, 5-7 to 9-26

Blue-headed Vireo: Tv, 4-22 MhkR (S,T) to 5-14; 9-10 to 10-17

Red-eyed Vireo: Sr, 5-6 to 9-24

Philadelphia Vireo: Recorded 5-10 and 5-30 Sco (T)

Warbling Vireo: Sr, 5-4 to 9-18

Black-and-white Warbler: Sr, 4-24 East Greenbush (Sm) to 9-25

Worm-eating Warbler: Loc sr, 5-14 and 6-11 Indian Ladder Ravine

Golden-winged Warbler: Tv 5-7 to 5-22

Blue-winged Warbler: Recorded 5-14 at River and Rosendale Rds. Niskayuna; also 6-11 Indian Ladder (S,T)

Tennessee Warbler: Tv 5-7 to 5-21 (S,T); also 9-25 (F)

- Nashville Warbler: Tv 5-1 to 5-14; sr 6-12 Consalus Vlaie; tv 9-11 Colonie (W)
- Parula Warbler: Tv, 5-7 to 5-22; also 9-27 Sco (T)
- Yellow Warbler: Sr, 5-5 to 9-26 (H)
- Magnolia Warbler: Loc sr 5-7 to 9-30 (F)
- Cape May Warbler: Tv, 5-6 to 5-17; 8-24 to 9-18 Seward, N. Y. (W)
- Black-throated Blue Warbler: Loc sr: tv 5-5 to 9-25
- Myrtle Warbler: Tv, 4-17 Seward, Schoharie Co. (W) to 5-18; 8-24 to 11-1 ClnL (T)
- Black-throated Green Warbler: Sr, 4-30 to 9-26
- Blackburnian Warbler: Loc sr 5-7 to 9-7
- Chestnut-sided Warbler: Sr, 5-7 to 9-11
- Bay-breasted Warbler: Tv, 5-11 to 5-30; 9-18 to 9-27 Sco (T)
- Black-poll Warbler: Tv, 5-8 (S) to 5-30; 9-7 to 9-30
- Pine Warbler: Tv, 4-8 VsrF (S) to 5-21; 9-22 to 10-4
- Prairie Warbler: Sr, records 5-7 to 5-30 Karners
- Yellow Palm Warbler: Tv 4-7 Poentic Kill Swamp (S) to 5-1
- Oven-bird: Sr, 5-7 to 9-7
- Northern Water-thrush: Tv, 4-30 to 5-30; also 9-10 NskW (S)
- Louisiana Water-thrush: Tv 4-30 to 8-24
- Connecticut Warbler: One recorded NskW 5-15
- Mourning Warbler: Loc sr at Jenny Lake 6-19 (S)
- Northern Yellow-throat: Sr, 5-6 to 10-8
- Yellow-breasted Chat: Only one record, Vischers Ponds 6-25 (S)
- Wilson's Warbler: Tv, 5-14 to 5-21 and 8-24 to 9-7
- Canada Warbler: Sr, 5-14 to 9-7
- American Redstart: Sr, 5-7 to 10-2 (F)
- English Sparrow: Resident
- Bobolink: Sr, 5-7 to 9-10
- Meadowlark: Sr, 3-8 (S) to 12-3 Kaydeross Creek (A)
- Redwing: Sr, 2-18 VsrF (A) to 12-22 Sco (H)
- Baltimore Oriole: Sr, 5-4 to 10-3 Glens Falls (Mrs. Ann Bainbridge)
- Rusty Blackbird: Tv, 3-29 to 5-1; 10-1 to 11-15 Round Lake (Ah, S)
- Bronzed Grackle: Sr, 3-9 to 10-24
- Cowbird: Sr, 3-26 to 10-8
- Scarlet Tanager: Sr, 5-8 (S) to 9-29 (F)
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Sr, 5-5 (F) to 10-9 TmkRav (Am)
- Indigo Bunting: Sr, 5-8 to 9-10
- Evening Grosbeak: Wv, 1-1 to 5-9 Rosendale Rd. (Pollak) and 10-17 to 12-14; Also, first summer local record, one 8-21 at Wtv Rsv on SBC trip
- Purple Finch: 1-30 Loudonville (F), sr 3-13 to 10-17; also seen 11-12 and 11-19
- Pine Grosbeak: Twelve 12-1 to 12-18 Jenny Lake, Saratoga Co. (Hb)
- Common Redpoll: Wv 1-29 (S) to 4-9 Sco (T)
- Pine Siskin: Tv, 2-25 to 5-8 and 11-13 to 11-19
- Goldfinch: Recorded every month except January
- Red-eyed Towhee: Sr, 3-25 Guilderland Center (Sm) to 10-12 (F)

Savannah Sparrow: Sr, 4-8 (S) to 10-12 (F)
 Grasshopper Sparrow: Sr, 4-27 (S) to 7-17
 Henslow's Sparrow: Sr, 4-27 (S) to 7-17
James Bay Sharp-tailed Sparrow: Two records of three birds at
 NakW Coal Pocket marsh 10-8 (S,T) and 10-9 (S, S. Fordham)
 Vesper Sparrow: Sr, 3-30 (S) to 9-11 (W)
 Slate-colored Junco: Seen every month but June and August
 Tree Sparrow: Wv, 1-1 to 4-28 (T) and 11-13 to 12-31
 Chipping Sparrow: Sr, 4-13 (S) to 10-8
 Field Sparrow: Sr, 3-30 (S) to 9-11; wv Rosa Rd. 2-5 (Br)
 White-crowned Sparrow: Tv, 5-8 to 5-20 and 10-6 to 10-12
 White-throated Sparrow: Tv, 4-1 (Sm) to 5-21; loc sr 6-12;
 tv 8-24 to 11-2
 Fox Sparrow: Tv 2-17 Sco (Mrs. H. G. Kelley) to 4-20; 10-23
 to 11-25 MhKR (H)
 Lincoln's Sparrow: Tv, 5-14 (S,T) to 5-21; also 9-15 (F)
 Swamp Sparrow: Sr, 3-29 (S) to 12-7 ClnL marsh (S)
Lapland Longspur: Wv Plotter Kill flats 2-4 (S); Schenectady
 Airport 11-19 (S,T) and 12-7 (S)
 Snow Bunting: Wv, 1-2 (H) to 2-9; 10-30 Saratoga (Dr. Ora
 Phelps) to 12-11 (S)

A	JJAnderson	G	CGriffith	Sd	DSchierbaum
Ah	HVDAllen	Ge	EGeiser	Sm	MEScotland
Am	GMAndrews	H	Hallenbeck	T	DTucker
B	GBartlett	Hb	BSHavens	V	NGVan Vorst
Br	Mrs RMBrockway	Ms	SRMadison	Vj	JVoght
F	Mrs MWFrench	S	RStone	W	LAWiard

ClnL	Collins Lake	TmkRsv	Tomhannock Reservoir	ab	abundant
HdsR	Hudson River	WtvRsv	Watervliet Reservoir	ar	arrive
MhKR	Mohawk River	VsrF	Vischers Ferry Ponds	com	common
NskW	Niskayuna WW	sr	summer resident	unc	uncommon
SarL	Saratoga Lake	tv	transient visitor	res	resident
Sco	Scotia, NY	wv	winter visitor	loc	local

AUDUBON SCREEN TOUR SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 16 - Bert Harwell - CANADA EAST

NOVEMBER 9 - Allan Cruickshank - BELOW THE BIG BEND

JANUARY 23 - Roger Tory Peterson - RIDDLE OF MIGRATION

MARCH 14 - Alfred M. Bailey - HIGH COUNTRY

APRIL 11 - Telford H. Work - ARCTIC TO THE TROPICS

(Central Park Junior High School, Bradley & Elm Sts., 8 PM)

Season Tickets ONLY available as follows: STUDENT - \$1.25
 GENERAL ADMISSION - \$2.25; ACTIVE MEMBERS - \$1.75



THE BIRDS OF KOREA

Birds in Korea number around 370 species, though experts disagree as to whether some of the specimens are distinct species or varieties. Such a large number in such a small country can be accounted for by climatic variations from mountain heights to coastal lowlands, and the latitudinal diversity of the elongated form of the peninsula. Birds of prey and water birds of the seacoast and inland areas are more evident than insect-eaters and song birds. The water birds are closely related to those of western North America and the land birds to those of Europe. Overlapping of species occurs in varying degrees among birds found in Japan and Korea, and between those in eastern China and Korea.

Visitors and Residents

Four general classifications of birds, considering the length of time of residence, are the permanent and summer residents, and winter and migrating visitors. Permanent residents of south Korea include the Gray Heron, Common Crow, Magpie, Turtle Dove, Ring-necked Chickadee, White-gaced Wagtail, Crested Lark, and the House and Brown-breasted Buntings. Summer residents feature the Oriole, White-rumped Swift, Minivert, Swallows, Cuckoos, Brown-tailed Shrike, Least Plover, and Amur Green Heron. Visiting during the winter season are several species of wild Geese, different types of Ducks, the Grey Crane, Black and White-necked Jackdaws, Naumann's Robin, the Siskin and Kinglet, the Masked Linnet, and the Golden-crowned, Grey-headed, and Winter Buntings. Passing migrants are represented by two families -- the shore birds such as the Plover, Snipe and Sandpipers, and smaller insect-eating birds such as Flycatchers, Warblers, Wagtails and Pipits.

Game birds are famous in Korea. Perhaps the most sought of all is the Bustard which stands about four feet high and weighs from 20 to 30 pounds when dressed. It resembles the Wild Turkey, according to Mr. Hulbert in The Passing of Korea, but "is larger and gamier." The Mongolian Pheasant is found everywhere, particularly during the winter months. Within an hour of Seoul are excellent facilities for pheasant shooting during the proper season. Aquatic birds such as Geese, Swan and Ducks abound in large numbers. Ducks are

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G. Malcolm Andrews Editor
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visible in any direction at any time of the day during the season. In the winter, of 1891 they migrated to Korea in a flock so large that it reportedly sounded like a cyclone and shut the sky from view. Quail, Snipe and other small birds are also plentiful but are usually bypassed by hunters in favor of larger game. Storks, Cranes and Herons inhabit rice fields but are rarely disturbed. Also abundant are scavengers such as Hawks, swooping down constantly in search of prey.

Migration

No large-scale scientific reports of migration in Korea had been made at the time Mr. Daniel J. Cumming wrote the Royal Asiatic Society report. However, the author made a number of observations of his own. He found that many summertime birds of Korea spend the winter in southern Japan or as far south as the East Indies. Others who winter in Korea spend the summer in Siberia or in the Arctic. Some species considered permanent residents really move north and south a few hundred miles or up and down the mountain sides as the seasons change. Examples are some of the Wagtails and Buntings which winter in the south and nest in the north.

Many questions on the migratory habits of Korean birds go unanswered, however. For example, one wonders why the insect-eating Redstart stays in Korea all winter when much hardier birds go south. And what a pair of House Swallows will find to eat on a freezing December day when all the others have gone south is again a question. Too, it is not definitely established exactly where certain birds migrate - whether to southern Japan, Formosa, the Philippines, or Australia.

Nesting Habits

Nesting habits of birds of Korea are also not well known, except for the more common species. Platforms made by Herons are visible in some of the large pines surrounding grave sites. The Kosque Swallow builds a pear-shaped mud bottle under the eaves of houses, usually under the roof itself. The Suthora sometimes builds in bushes near human habitation. The Red-tailed Shrike has his nest in a convenient locust or catalpa tree. The Oriole swings his nest in the most inaccessible place he can find, while the Skylark has a rimless hole in the earth or sand, lined with grass and down. Courting and mating habits of Korea's birds are virtually unknown.

Songs

Songs sung by birds in Korea are as varied as in all countries. The Oriole possesses the most beautiful voice, which has a tireless brilliance. Next is the Mountain Pipit,

the Japanese Uguisa or Nightingale. Another good singer is the migratory Hawfinch. The Redstart also has a surprisingly cheerful song. The Green Finch calls in bell-like tones which have almost a tinkling sound.

No protection has been provided for Korea's birds up to now, even for insect-eating ones during the nesting season. As a natural consequence their numbers are constantly diminishing. When the more pressing economic and political problems are under control, Korea will take steps toward protecting its feathered population.

(From THE VOICE OF KOREA, June 30, 1949; in turn from "Notes on Korean Birds," Transactions of the Korean Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, vol. XXII, Seoul, Korea, 1933, pp. 1-67; and Homer B. Hulbert, The Passing of Korea, pp.23-24)

ARE YOU A HOP ? Nelle Van Vorst and Barry Havens

The study of wild life, fascinating - and generous of its returns to its devotees - though it may be, has one essential drawback: It has to be done from a distance. With birds, we can't pick up the species we're interested in, examine its plumage, measure its bill, or squeeze it to make it squawk. Whereas we can put our ferns and our flowers under a microscope if necessary, and test our minerals with acid to help identify them, we have to adopt binoculars and sharp ears for our tools in ornithology. Only the scientists bother with dead birds, and birds don't look the same when stuffed - or when flying around in an aviary.

This being the case, it's something out of the ordinary to come into physical contact with a live bird. It's a thrill to hold a nestling in your hand. But if you've ever had a wild bird light on you, you'll find it's an even greater thrill. And you'll automatically become eligible to join the HOPS.

How HOPS Came to Be

The authors talked this subject over at various times in the past, and a few years ago it was decided to form a society. But it would be a very unusual society in many ways. The first and most unusual thing about it would be that all the members would be people who have had a wild, adult bird, under no restraint, light on them. Other unusual things would be: no dues, no regular meetings, no constitution and by laws. In other words, no restrictions at all; just the prestige of being a member of one of the proudest ranks in the "rarefied upper strata of the ornithological hierarchy," to quote from the letter which goes to all new members.

We called our new society the HOPS. That's the initials of a very long and fancy name: Human Ornithological Perch Society. If you haven't already guessed it, the name was chosen so the initials would spell a word that sounded like something to do with birds. In other words, we did it backwards.

Then, through the kindness of Guy Bartlett and his printing press, ably assisted by his son Bill, we acquired some nifty little membership cards. After making out one for each of the two founders, we started passing them around to other local eligibles, usually with an accompanying letter which welcomed the new member to the fold.

We didn't have the foggiest notion of how many people were eligible, or to what extent the organization would spread. But the results were gratifying. True, you could not say that membership spread like wildfire, but we continue to get new members regularly.

Chickadees and Feeders

Those who qualify most easily are those who maintain feeding stations where the birds get so accustomed to their benefactors that they lose their fear of man. Commonest bird through which such members qualify is the Chickadee, with Nuthatches running it a close second. There are, however, many other species which have helped members to qualify, including Tree Swallows, Redstarts, Catbirds, Brown Thrashers, Robins, Tufted Titmice - and such oddities as the Florida Jay and the Noddy Tern.

Co-founder Van Vorst qualified with the Chickadee; it lit on her quite by accident. Esly Hallenbeck had the same experience with a Redstart, which lit on his foot while he was eating his lunch.

Tree Swallows Aplenty

Founder Havens qualified not only with the Chickadee but also with the Red-breasted Nuthatch (at his feeding station, as was the Chickadee) and the Tree Swallow. The swallow, an unusual species in this connection, involved a story in which Founder Havens was but one of a number of participants. It took place several years ago, when Naturalist and Lecturer Howard Cleaves, visiting his good friend Guy Bartlett, took some of the local ornithologists on a very interesting expedition to the cattail marshes of the Mohawk River islands at Niskayuna. Cleaves had a portable engine-driven generator which he installed in a rowboat and which supplied electricity for a powerful floodlight. By means of this light we were able to stalk birds roosting in the cattails preparatory to their southward migration (this was in the fall of the year). The birds were completely confused by

the light and flew around in all directions, lighting on the people in the boat and even allowing themselves to be lifted from their perches in the cattails. Naturally Guy Bartlett and Mrs. Bartlett qualified in this way as members of HOPS. Cleaves himself thus became eligible - but it is likely he could have qualified in other ways, as he has done some unusual and fascinating work with birds over a long period of years.

At Sea in a Boat

Some of the stories involved in qualifying for membership are very interesting. Take the case of John Schultz. Schultz is the author of an article, "Sea Fever" which was published in the National Geographic Magazine, in which he describes a very interesting - and hazardous - voyage at sea in a small boat. And during the course of his voyage a Noddy Tern alighted on his head. Here's how he described it in his article:

"As I sat on the windward rail to hold her down, a little brown sea-bird landed on my bare head. This bird, a Noddy Tern, seemed to have little fear of me and grasped my hair tenaciously whenever a particularly violent roll of the canoe started to unseat him. He seemed not even frightened by the strenuous steering necessary because of the heavy rollers.

"I postponed pumping as long as possible so that the bird might have a perch. He flew away only when I finally had to stagger forward to pump."

Catbirds, and Robins

Gertrude Breitwieser, of Westport, Connecticut, although physically handicapped, has made great friends with the birds of her vicinity. Chickadees and Catbirds will light on her arms, hands, shoulders, and even her head. She says she can recognize the same Catbirds that return year after year.

And then there is the case of Ira Brooks of Newton, Ill. A Robin lit on his head and pulled out strands of his hair to use as nesting material.

But in the long run, it's the good old reliable Chickadee which furnishes most of our members their qualifications. Most of the experiences occur at feeding stations, but not all of them. Perhaps a typical example of the other kind is the experience of Professor Albert Shadle, head of the biology department at Buffalo University. Says he:

"My first experience occurred when I had a class out in the field during the time when I was a professor at Cornell

University. While calling Chickadees in the open, one flew some distance from the trees and alighted on my hat, to the considerable astonishment of the class. Since I was under the hat, I should not have known about it had not the students told me as I continued to call, about the reactions of the bird sitting on my hat."

ABOUT CALIFORNIA

Anna L. A. Bainbridge

Last winter's trip to the West Coast was a wonderful experience - not only the joy of a reunion with family and friends, but being able to have had so many months in which to really see and explore parts of California.

It was exciting to board the Sky King Constellation in Chicago at noon and find myself in San Francisco at a family dinner by 7 p.m. I tried using the binoculars as we flew westward, but found they were no help - probably the high speed and altitude were the reasons. However, I must mention the "Broken Specter" which appeared on the clouds below us. It was the image of the plane encircled by a halo-like rainbow. This is a phenomenon of nature when certain atmospheric conditions exist, and rather uncommon.

Golden Gate Park

Golden Gate Park, the pride and joy of San Francisco, is only a few blocks from my brother's home - many luxurious hours were spent there. It covers over a thousand acres, wooded as well as beautifully cultivated territory - including a chain of lakes that attracted many water birds. This park is one of the favorite hunting grounds of the Audubon group of the San Francisco Bay area (Mrs. Laurel Reynolds, one of our favorite lecturers, is now their president). Often I wished that the Schenectady Bird Club could have joined me on these beautiful days. With the help of Peterson's "Western Birds", concentrated observation, and almost daily tours to the lakes and Strawberry Hill, I could finally identify a few of our feathered friends. The subspecies are so numerous that often I closed my book in exasperation, ready to give up, but the urge to really do "something" about it kept me working.

December Hummers

It was quite a thrill in December to find hummingbirds on the El Sobrante range where Douglas lives. It was the Anna which winters there and finds nectar in quite a variety of blossoms hardy enough to withstand the winds and sometimes cold temperatures at that elevation.

As the spring months approached, other species of hummers

appeared - the Allen, Rufous and Anna predominating. They definitely sing ZZT-ZZT etc. in flight, and also a click-click sound is heard as they pass. They particularly like the cacti blossoms, and many of their nests were found on Strawberry Hill, Golden Gate Park, where tangled growth attracted them for housekeeping. Also the eucalyptus tree was a favorite one. Here is a paragraph taken from a California state book, now out of print, which I was privileged to read and which exactly describes what we saw one rainy morning as we started on a bird trip through the Napa country, canyons and Valley of the Moon. We considered ourselves most fortunate to have witnessed this, and I believe the birds resented our intrusion, as they darted swiftly toward us, then back into the shaggy trees. Their "song" filled the air, already heavy with the pungent odor of the eucalyptus blossoms on this damp morning -

"Rufous hummers are very fond of the blossoms of eucalyptus trees, and this towering exotic is not only responsible for the presence of a hundreds hummers at once, but in a measure also for the withdrawal of the birds from their humbler and more wonted ranges of observation. It is a pretty sight to see the hummers as thick as bees, but it is a bit provoking, as well, to think that there may be as many as six species aloft, which are no better than one to you."

On the Lake

A pair of beautiful Swans set up housekeeping on one of the park lakes, a huge nest at least five feet in diameter - she on her eggs and he, very close and attentive, pulling bits of leaves from nearby branches and placing them in a neat little pile where his mate could reach and place them to make her nest more glamorous. I was reluctant to leave San Francisco before hearing about the cygnets, but trust there is a happy family there now.

A Mallard proudly brought forth her brood of 15 early in April. Every day there seemed to be some missing until she had only half her family left. It was whispered that she was a "gallivanting mother" and did not properly protect her family from the many natural enemies such as gulls, trutles and carp. The lake level was lowered about this time, making it impossible for the ducklings to climb out of the water, so a very kind friend to all the ducks and birds of the park provided a raft with a shelter which the little ones immediately took possession of. Later a Coot took over the care of this family, shooing the orphans back to the raft when they strayed too far, or called them when friends brought bread crumbs.

Spreckles Lake sometimes did not seem adequate to accommodate the many flocks of gulls and ducks wintering there. Here, for the first time in bird-study, was I able to really get acquainted with water birds.

In Pasadena the Chinese Spotted Dove and Mockingbirds seemed plentiful, the former outstanding with a collar of striking black and white spots. Their soft "kook-a-roo" is much like our Mourning Dove. Once I watched a pair bowing deeply to one another - evidently a courtship dance. The Mallards, too, were doing so much of this "bowing" it was amusing indeed.

May I mention here my new-found interest in the famous Monarch butterflies? We all have heard of their remarkable migration habits - how they travel along the coast of Asia, cross the Bering Sea, and fly south along the Pacific Coast until they reach the Monterey Peninsula in California. They send advance scouts near the middle of November and, usually on a late afternoon, they come by the millions, clinging and forming almost solid masses on the pine trees growing in this territory. They stay here until March; then their return north is made in small groups or even pairs. They are protected by law. I understand a Mr. Carl Anderson in Dallas, Texas, is branding this species, working on their life history and habits. The underside of the back wings are marked LLCC, and anyone finding a branded Monarch would help this project by reporting to Mr. Anderson.

Capistrano, and Folsom Prison

I saw the Mission at Capistrano, but it was in February and much too early for the arrival of the swallows. I did learn, however, that another flock of swallows has been known to appear for at least 33 years at Folsom Prison, north of San Francisco, also having the same time for their arrival and departure as the Capistrano birds. This flight is not as famous or as well advertised as the one at Capistrano, nevertheless should be interesting to Audubon groups.

Among my California records: Mexican Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, American Egret, Canada Goose, Cackling Goose, Brown Pelican, White Pelican, Lesser Scaup, Ruddy Duck, Canvas-back, Mallard, Coot, Ring-necked Duck, Pintail, Red-breasted Merganser, Golden-eye, Black Duck, Baldpate, Wood Duck, Shoveller, Turkey Vulture; Sparrow, Pigeon, Red-tailed and Red-bellied Hawks; Glaucous, Western, and California Gulls; Chinese Spotted Dove, Chimney Swift, Surf Birds, California Quail, Hairy Woodpecker; Anna, Rufous and Allen's Hummingbirds; Bank Swallow, Killdeer, California Jay, Raven, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Rock Wren, Bewick's Wren, Mockingbird, California Thrasher, Robin, Western Bluebird, Cedar Waxwing, Audubon Warbler, California House Finch, California Purple Finch, Redpoll, Pine Siskin, Brown Towhee, Spotted Towhee, Plain Titmouse, Bush-tit; Nuttall's White-crowned, Song, Fox and Yellow-crowned Sparrows; Oregon Junco, Red-shafted Flicker, Brewer's Blackbird, Cowbird, Magpie, Red-wing, Western Warbling Vireo, and Green-backed Goldfinch.

HUDSON RIVER BUS TRIP

Lillian C. Stoner and Samuel R. Madison

On September 17, 1950, twenty-three members of the Schenectady Bird Club recorded forty-eight species and over 1,734 individuals on an all-day bus trip. This fall field trip, designated as the Hudson River Bus Trip or Stoner Bus Trip, took the place of the former boat trip which had been named for the late Dr. Dayton Stoner.

The warm sunshine changed the temperature from below 40° at the start to 65° at the return time. This fact, along with clear visibility, made the day all the more enjoyable for the participants on this ride, which took us 40 miles south of Albany, New York.

Our bus made frequent stops as we drove south on the east side of the Hudson River. This gave sufficient time for all of us to look and listen for birds as we walked down several roads which lead from the highway toward the river. Huge flocks of Red-wings were seen in the swamp areas.

Special attention was paid to the American Egrets and Great Blue Herons. The large white Egrets, which vary in length from 35 to 42 inches and which have a wing spread of 50 to 59 inches, are known to nest as far north as New Jersey. The female Egret loses the aigrette part of her plumage after the breeding period. Then, after the nesting season, when adults and immatures of both sexes of this species appear similar in plumage but variable in size, they begin their wanderings north; this is when we see numbers of them in our part of New York State. Usually the greatest numbers of the Heron family occur in September on the Atlantic Flyway.

When our bus was about 15 miles south of Albany we observed the first American Egrets; two were seen standing near the opposite shore line of the River. Three others were soon noticed farther south.

By mid-afternoon, when we made the side trip of one mile to the Stockport Railroad Station, the tide was fairly low. We were close to the water and had an excellent view of the river. Several Herons were seen here as they were probing for food in the mud flats. Often large numbers take advantage of low-tide areas such as this for feeding, and when

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As the tide is coming in again they return to perch in the nearby trees. Several of us watched a little Green Heron at a distance of 15 feet when it first stood in low water and then as it took flight and flew away.

As our bus stopped at the east entrance of the Rip Van Winkle bridge, which is a few miles south of Hudson, New York, we walked a short distance on the bridge and counted 17 Egrets. A flock of Sandpipers was seen from this high point but they were too distant to identify with certainty.

After crossing the Hudson River, our return trip included a few more observation stops. By the end of the day we had recorded 57 American Egrets and 16 Great Blue Herons.

The absence of certain birds on the day's list is worthy of mention. No Kingbird, Meadowlark or any of the Thrushes, except the Robin, were observed, nor were many Warblers seen, not even the usually abundant Myrtle Warbler. Very few shore birds were noted by the river and on adjoining fields and woods, and no large numbers of Bluebirds, Flickers or Robins were in evidence.

The two leaders, on a scouting trip one week earlier, had recorded the following nine additional birds on this same 80-mile trip: American Bittern, Bald Eagle, Spotted Sandpiper, Kingbird, Crested Flycatcher, House Wren, Yellow-throated Vireo, Blue-headed Vireo and Cowbird.

The following list includes counts and estimates of individuals seen:

Great Blue Heron	16	Flicker	6
American Egret	57	Hairy Woodpecker	2
Green Heron	3	Downy Woodpecker	1
Black-crowned Night Heron	2	Phoebe	5
Mallard	1	Tree Swallow	3
Black Duck	60	Barn Swallow	5
Pintail	2	Blue Jay	12
Blue-winged Teal	1	Crow	25
Wood Duck	22	White-breasted Nuthatch	2
Red-shouldered Hawk	2	Long-billed Marsh Wren	1
Marsh Hawk	4	Catbird	6
Osprey	2	Robin	4
Sparrow Hawk	1	Bluebird	8
Ring-necked Pheasant	1	Cedar Waxwing	1
Killdeer	6	Starling	200
Sandpiper (sp.?)	flock	Red-eyed Vireo	1
Ring-billed Gull	23	Yellow Warbler (imm.)	1
Mourning Dove	2	Black-throated Green Warb.	2
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1	Northern Water-thrush	3
Belted Kingfisher	6	English Sparrow	100

Red-wing	1000	Red-eyed Towhee	1
Bronzed Grackle	9	Chipping Sparrow	25
Purple Finch	1	Swamp Sparrow	17
Goldfinch	75	Song Sparrow	9

A GOLDEN PLOVER

Nelle G. Van Vorst

A field green with a thick covering of winter wheat, flooded by the recent heavy rains, furnished a feeding place for many shore birds on their way south. The ponds and reservoirs were not offering their usual mud flats.

To my surprise I saw this interesting feeding place along Route 146 between Guilderland Center and Altamont, about four o'clock on Saturday afternoon, September 16. Several hundred shorebirds, with many Killdeer, were in this field.

Impossible to look at all of them, I managed to see two Black-bellied Plovers and then another Plover. Could it be a Golden Plover?

Spending much time with these I then flushed them and saw that there were no black patches under the wings of the Plover in question. So a Golden Plover it was!

Of the other shore birds I recognized both Greater and Lesser Yellow-legs, Pectoral Sandpipers, Killdeer and Semipalmated Sandpipers. However, lengthening shadows did not permit further identification.

Fortunately for the record, Dr. Minnie B. Scotland arrived in time to corroborate my observations.

A visit one week later found only a very few birds left. These were mostly Yellow-legs with a few Killdeer and small 'peeps'.

S B C FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Mrs. Albert Sachs, Field Activities Chairman

WESTERN SANDPIPER & EGRETS

Niskayuna-Mohawk View, July 16

The SBC trip to Niskayuna and Mohawk View on July 16 should be highlighted by the sight of the Egrets. Two of the American Egrets were found vacationing at Mohawk View.

As the party of seven went over the Rosendale Road, several of the field birds were noticed. A Bobolink swung from the grasses along with Goldfinches, Field Sparrows, Chipping Sparrows, Song Sparrows, Meadowlarks and an Alder Flycatcher.

Soon we stopped to take in a Scarlet Tanager who reposed high in a tree with his luminous fireman's red coat shining in the sun. Mourning Doves were seen here with Chimney Swifts, a Flicker, Phoebe, a Kingbird, Blue Jays, Chickadees, a Chestnut-sided Warbler, and Northern Yellow-throats.

We drove along the River Road to the bridge over to 'Niska Isle'. From this vantage point, shore and water birds appeared on all sides. It was here the two Egrets were seen up the river. Also there were American Bitterns, a Black-crowned Night Heron, Green Herons, Black Duck, two Greater Yellow-legs, a Herring Gull, a Kingfisher, a group of fledgling House Wrens and some Marsh Wrens.

On taking the Coal Pocket side road to the river, near Mohawk View, a group of Sandpipers appeared. Their presence resulted in much thumbing of 'Peterson' and a lot of speculating. The decision finally reached was three Least Sandpipers and one Western Sandpiper. There were also two Swamp Sparrows seen here and one Savannah Sparrow. Three Gallinules were seen at a distance.

The total list included: American Egret, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, American Bittern, Black Duck, Gallinule (Florida), Killdeer, Greater Yellow-legs, Least Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Herring Gull, Mourning Dove, Chimney Swift, Kingfisher, Flicker, Sparrow Hawk, Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, Kingbird, Phoebe, Alder Flycatcher.

Tree Swallow, Bank Swallow, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Catbird, Robin, Wood Thrush, Veery, Cedar Waxwing, Starling, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Northern Yellow-throat, Redstart, English Sparrow, Bobolink, Meadowlark, Red-wing, Baltimore Oriole, Bronzed Grackle, Cowbird.

Scarlet Tanager, Indigo Bunting, Goldfinch, Red-eyed Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow and Song Sparrow. A total of 58 species. -- Dr. Lawrence S. Hill

NEWS AND NOTES

BOTTLE TITS, OR--

The Milkman's Dilemma!

For some time British milkmen have been puzzled and annoyed by a growing practice among British birds: they have formed the habit of prying open the tops of milk bottles left on doorsteps and drinking the milk. The chief offenders are various varieties of Tits, mainly the Great Tit (*Parus major*), the Blue Tit (*P. caeruleus*) and the Coal Tit (*P. ater*). The Tits began this stealing of milk as far back as 1921, and by

now Sparrows, Blackbirds, Starlings, Robins and several other species have caught the habit.

In a recent issue of Nature an investigator named T. H. Hawkins reported that he and others had looked into the matter and were more puzzled than ever. How did the birds find out that there was food inside milk bottles? How did they learn to open the bottles? Did they learn from one another or did each bird make the discovery independently?

After investigating some 400 recorded cases of this avian pillage, Hawkins is inclined to think that it is a case of independent intelligence. He points out that British Tits seldom migrate more than a few miles from their breeding place, so they could hardly have passed on their skill to the predators in widely separated parts of England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

He finds that the same bird often uses different tactics on different milk bottles. "When the milk bottle is closed by a cap of metal foil, the bird usually first punctures the cap by hammering with its beak and then tears off the metal in thin strips. Cardboard caps may be treated in a variety of ways. The whole top may be removed, or only the press-in center, or the cardboard may be torn off layer by layer until it is thin enough for a small hole to be made in it"

In areas where different grades of milk are distinguished by different colored caps, the Tits generally show a marked preference for one particular type. "The bottles are usually attacked within a few minutes of being left at the door," says Hawkins. "There are some reports of parties of Tits following the milkman's cart down the street and removing tops from bottles in the cart while the milkman is delivering milk to the houses."

(From SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, June 1950)

RESERVOIR RECORDS

In the Rain

The scheduled SBC trip to Watervliet Reservoir on August 20 was called off because of the rainy weather. The latter apparently dampened the spirits of the early-risers that morning, and they took one look outside and jumped back in bed.

Not so Rudd Stone, who, arriving somewhat later than the scheduled meeting time and finding no one in the vicinity, decided to brave the drizzle and see what could be seen. He spent some time out on the overgrown flats with profitable results. Both a Sora and a Least Bittern were flushed from this area. Two American Egrets were also seen there. A total

of 54 species were recorded in the four hours spent there that morning. The list follows:

Great Blue Heron, 1; American Egret, 2; Green Heron, 1; American Bittern, 2; Least Bittern, 1; Black Duck, 2; Green-winged Teal, 2; Wood Duck, 14; Sora, 1; Spotted Sandpiper, 1; Lesser Yellow-legs, 3; Mourning Dove, 4; Chimney Swift, 2; Hummingbird, 1; Kingfisher, 2; Flicker, 8; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Kingbird, 1; Crested Flycatcher, 1; Wood Pewee, 8; Least Flycatcher, 2; Tree Swallow, 2; Bank Swallow, 12; Barn Swallow, 18; Cliff Swallow, 6; Blue Jay, 4; Crow, 8; Chickadee, 2; White-breasted Nuthatch, 3; House Wren, 4; Long-billed Marsh Wren, 1; Catbird, 4; Robin, 10; Wood Thrush, 1; Veery, 1; Cedar Waxwing, 20; Starling; Red-eyed Vireo, 3; Black and White Warbler, 4; Nashville Warbler, 1; Yellow-throat, 4; Redstart, 8; English Sparrow; Bobolink, 10; Meadowlark, 2; Red-wing, 2; Baltimore Oriole, 4; Grackle, 4; Indigo Bunting, 2; Purple Finch, 4; Goldfinch, 22; Swamp Sparrow, 4; Song Sparrow, 6.

RED CROSSBILLSAt Jenny Lake

From Mid-August through mid-September, Red Crossbills have been much in evidence at Jenny Lake, near Corinth, N.Y. They have been seen feeding on ripening pine cones, their favorite fruit, and groups of up to twenty birds have been seen in flight. The cone crop in that area is one of the best in years, which partially explains the Crossbills' presence.

-- Rudd Stone

SNOWY OWL GIVEN STATE PROTECTIONPer recent Bill

New York State protection for the Snowy Owl and three other birds of prey is included in a bill signed by Governor Thomas E. Dewey last April 18, 1950.

The legislation was introduced by Senator Walter V. Stokes and Assemblyman Lawrence W. Van Cleeef at the behest of the conservation committee of the Linnaean Society of New York and other groups. Widespread support from conservation organizations and unfavorable public reaction to the slaughter of Snowy Owls in New York State the past winter were responsible for the passage of the law, it is believed.

The Marsh Hawk, Pigeon Hawk and Great Gray Owl were also placed on the protected list. All Hawks and Owls are now protected in New York State except the Sharp-shinned Hawk, Goshawk and Cooper's Hawk, and the Great Horned Owl.

The unprotected hawks are fast-flying and seen much less commonly than the soaring hawks, which are protected by law but are usually the victims of gunfire.

-- National Audubon Society News Release

A SHARP-EYED READER ASKS --

209 or 210?

The August issue of Feathers featured the 1949 record summary with the headline reporting 210 kinds of birds seen in this area during that year.

Just to prove that your editor can't add, go ahead and total up the list of species reported! --- What's that you said? You only get 209 different kinds! --- Well, you're right!! I'm wrong!!

I'll bet you can't guess which one was left out! Cardinal? No! Barrow's Golden-eye? No! Bohemian Waxwing?? Oh, no! -- Give up? The rare species inadvertently omitted was none other than the Song Sparrow!! Many thanks to the sharp-eyed mathematician who discovered this omission!

For the benefit of future historians, the 1949 summary of records on the latter species is as follows:

Song Sparrow: Resident; recorded every month except January

ORCHARD ORIOLEIn July

"I don't seem to find records of Orchard Orioles in Feathers and I thought you might be interested to know of a pair which I saw and heard Sunday, July 1, near Norway spruce trees in a cemetery here in Troy. Last summer I heard one, but this observation was complete and long" -- Everett G. Ham

HOPSMembership List

The article "Are You A Hop?" appearing in September issue of Feathers described the varied experiences of those who qualified for membership in the Human Ornithological Perch Society, or HOPS.

It seems, therefore, that a complete listing of those belonging to this exclusive group is in order. The following is a list of the present known membership, each name followed by the name of the qualifying bird, or birds, in parentheses:

1. Barrington S. Havens (Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Tree Swallow)
2. Nelle G. Van Vorst (Chickadee)
3. Guy Bartlett (Tree Swallow)
4. Jean Bartlett (Tree Swallow)
5. Esly Hallenbeck (Redstart)
6. Dr. M. G. Nelson (White-breasted Nuthatch)
7. Howard Cleaves (Tree Swallow)
8. Gertrude Breitwieser (Chickadee, Catbird)
9. B. D. Miller (Chickadee)
10. Mrs. Mabel W. French (Chickadee, Brown Thrasher)

11. Caroline Hamilton (Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-breasted Nuthatch)
12. John Schultz (Noddy Tern)
13. Charles Broley (Chickadee, Tree Swallow, Florida Jay)
14. Prof. A. R. Shadle (Chickadee, Robin)
15. Ira Brooks (Robin)
16. Helen Ferguson (Tufted Titmouse)
17. Mrs. Charles Broley (Florida Jay)
18. Percy VanDusen Gott (Chickadee)
19. Dorothy Snyder (Chickadee)
20. J. J. Voght (Chickadee)
21. Peter Burnham (Chickadee)
22. Thomas Burnham (Chickadee)
23. Karl Maslowski (Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse)
24. Terese Walsh (Chickadee)
25. Ann Russell (Chickadee)

NAME ITIf You Can!

The last week in April, four years ago, I saw a strange looking bird hopping around in my backyard. His breast was a rusty red and his back a dirty black. His tail was short and stubby.

Sometime later, I thought I saw the same bird on the lawn next door; but before I could be sure the bird disappeared behind a stone wall. I went on with my reading, only to be disturbed in a few minutes by a rustling sound. As I looked up, I saw the strange bird fly out from under the lilac bushes with a Starling in pursuit. They flew almost straight up into the air and then dropped to the ground. One ran a few steps, turned suddenly, and as it did, both birds flew up from the ground and struck at each other with their bills. They held their wings partially open and just let their feet dangle.

These attacks were repeated several times. The last time they flew quite high and attacked each other so viciously that their bills locked together. Thus entangled, they dropped down into the flower bed and out of sight.

About an hour later the strange bird flew up into a mulberry tree nearby and sat there for a long time. Wondering if this was a hybrid, I recorded these few facts and then forgot about the bird.

A few weeks ago, while talking to the caretaker of a cemetery near my home, he asked me if I thought that Starlings and Robins ever mated, and then explained why he had asked the question. He said; "One summer, two or three years ago, there was a bird here that looked like a Starling, but had a red breast. I thought it looked funny but didn't pay much attention to it until the Starlings attacked it one day. I thought they would kill it. They didn't then, but I guess they finally put an end to it, as I never saw it after that summer. They chased it every time it came near them."

I thought then of the bird I had seen that same summer. This was the first time I had found anyone who had seen such a bird. Neither of us could name it. Can you?? -- Mary B. Kilsawley

THE WEST AFIELD

Donald Tucker

A summer's vacation in the West was quite an experience to one who had never ventured further west than the middle portion of New York State, unless you count the westward indentation of the South.

Before embarking on this adventure, I set to work, determined to learn the western birds well before encountering them. After a while I began to realize that even though I knew their field marks, I would probably have to look a good portion of the birds up in my Field Guide to Western Birds by Peterson. At any rate I was going to do my best to prepare myself for the experience to come.

Finally departure time arrived and we set out for Colorado with our first destination being Rocky Mountain National Park in that state.

After the long drive across the Great Plains, the sight of the Rockies rising up in the distance was welcome indeed. We first caught sight of the 12,000 to 14,000 foot peaks when we were about 75 miles away. Finally, we managed somehow to cover that distance and found ourselves at the foot of Trail Ridge Road leading through Rocky Mountain Park. The long grade to the top began.

There were many pull-outs on the way up and we made good use of them. At each stop there was sure to be a Clark's Nutcracker. These large Jays, with their white wing and tail patches, are perhaps the most common bird at the higher elevations. They are certainly the most evident.

Up and up the road we went, finally reaching an altitude of 12,183 feet.

This, the first National Park that we visited, produced a list of the following species:

Rocky Mountain Jay

Clark's Nutcracker

Red Crossbill - A bird fairly common there and one we would like to see more of in New York State in fall and early spring.



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Grace's Warbler - A warbler similar to the Yellow-throated warbler of the South.

Horned Lark - Common on the higher slopes.

Long-crested Jay - This is the Steller's Jay of the Rocky Mountain region.

Mountain Chickadee - A common bird below timberline, and similar to our Black-capped only it has a white eyebrow stripe.

Gray-headed Junco

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Red-shafted Flicker - An eastern Flicker with reddish under the wings instead of yellow.

Mountain Bluebird

Violet-green Swallow

Golden Eagle - This bird was not seen in the Park itself.

The next Park on the list was Mesa Verde, also in Colorado. The heat was so intense there that we only stayed the afternoon we arrived. However, some birdlife was seen as well as some very interesting cliff house ruins. The list included:

Turkey Vulture - Very common.

Raven - Also common.

Violet-green Swallow

White-throated Swift - This bird flies so fast, that without the aid of a book listing some of the commoner birds of the Park, I probably would not have identified it.

From Mesa Verde we drove to the Grand Canyon, North Rim, by way of the Painted Desert. From Flagstaff, Arizona, the road to the North Rim goes 150 miles through the Painted Desert, passing through an Indian Reservation along the way. It was even hotter than at Mesa Verde!

At the Navajo Bridge across the Colorado, up the river from the Canyon, a man told us that they had been without rain or other moisture since September 1949. (Later on at one of the other Parks we found out that it had at last rained there and things were looking green again!)

Well, we saw birds there too:

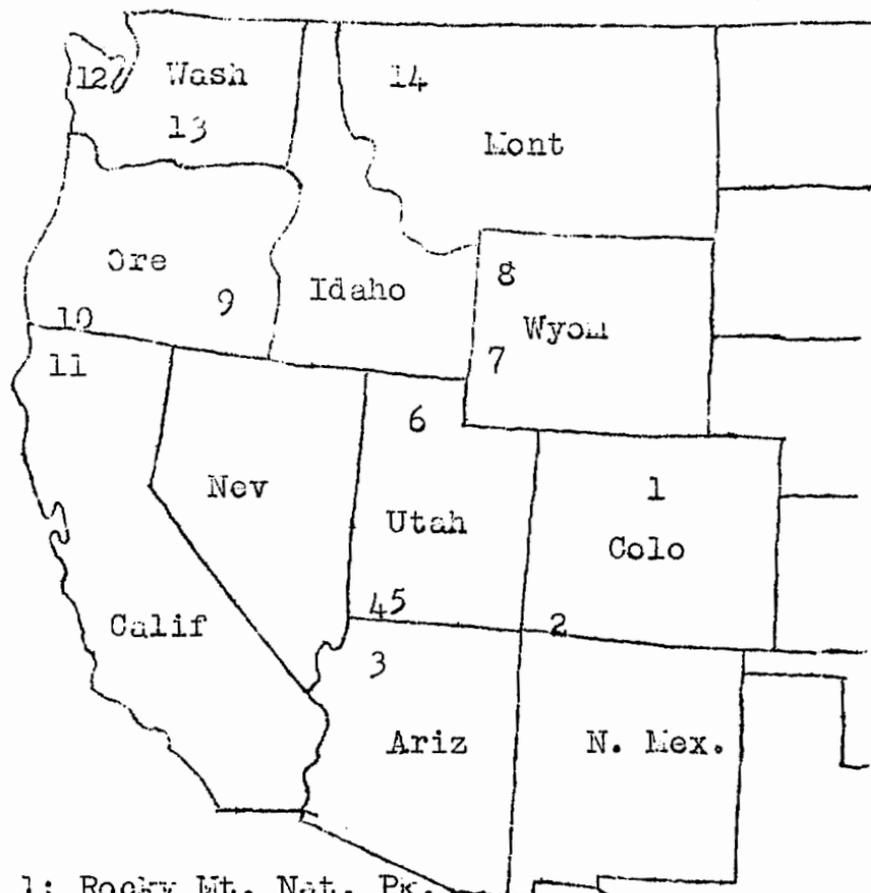
Western Tanager - Common at our campground.

Pygmy Nuthatch - Common.

Audubon's Warbler - A Myrtle Warbler with a yellow throat, also common.

Townsend's Solitaire - A Thrush which looks like a Fly-catcher.

Broad-tailed Hummingbird - The male of this species is easily recognized because as it flies, its wings cause a loud buzzing.



- 1: Rocky Mt. Nat. Pk.
- 2: Mesa Verde, Colo.
- 3: Grand Canyon, Ariz.
- 4: Zion Park, Utah
- 5: Bryce Park, Utah
- 6: Bear River Refuge, Utah
- 7: Grand Tetons, Wyo.
- 8: Yellowstone
- 9: Malheur Refuge, Ore.
- 10: Crater Lake, Ore.
- 11: Redwoods, Calif.
- 12: Olympic Nat. Pk., Wash.
- 13: Mt. Rainier, Wash.
- 14: Glacier Nat. Pk., Mont.

Red-backed Junco - This, as its name implies, has a russet-colored back.

Hermit Thrush

At this point something should be mentioned concerning the identification of western birds. Compared to the eastern part of the country, there is one great advantage that exists in the West. It is that because of the great difference in altitude from one spot to another and the definite habitats, the different species of birds are confined strictly to specific areas. A bird which the bird books say should be found in scrub oak country, in the foothills, or at the heights above timberline, will be found in the designated areas and for the most part, no where else. Because of this a great many doubtful birds can be identified by the habitat in which they are seen.

From the Grand Canyon we headed for the two Utah Parks, Zion and Bryce. Again because of the heat, we did not stay long at either Park. However, a small list was made. Included among those seen were:

Steller's Jay

Western Gnatcatcher - The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher of the West.

Yellow Warbler - Common along willow-bordered streams in Zion, as in the East.

Prairie Falcon - A sandy-colored bird, commonly seen in dry areas perched on electric wires.

Cassin's Kingbird - A Western Kingbird without white sides to the tail.

Red-tailed Hawk

Grace's Warbler - At Bryce Canyon.

Mountain Chickadee - Also at Bryce.

Chipping Sparrow - At Bryce.

Batchelder's Woodpecker - The Downy Woodpecker of this area.

Clark's Nutcracker - This, and others seen at Grand Canyon.

Subspecies are more positively listed in the West than they are in the East because of the strict association with their specified zones. A great many of the subspecies can be recorded with certainty, because of lists, to be seen in the various Park museums, which designate the subspecies to be found in that particular Park.

I would now like to mention a spot which is not a National Park, but is still a place worth visiting while in the West. This is Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge near Brigham, Utah.

This Refuge is one of the largest in the world. The local people are so proud of it that, as you enter the city, you will find a big sign over the road which says, "Brigham, Home of the World's Largest Bird Refuge."

While at this Refuge we rolled up quite a list, although

we only were there from nine to eleven o'clock in the morning.

We drove around one of their six large ponds (Twelve Mile Drive) and compiled the following list:

<u>Brewster's Egret</u> , 70	- A western Snowy Egret.
<u>Long-billed Curlew</u> , 8	-
<u>Killdeer</u> , 6	
<u>Avocet</u> , 400	
<u>Marbled Godwit</u> , 200	
<u>Forster's Tern</u> , 30	- The common inland Tern.
<u>Black Tern</u> , 200	- A large colony here.
<u>Western Kingbird</u> , 2	
<u>Eastern Kingbird</u> , 2	
<u>White-faced Glossy Ibis</u> , 100	
<u>Cinnamon Teal</u> , 10	
<u>Blue-winged Teal</u> , 30	
<u>Green-winged Teal</u> , 8	
<u>Redhead</u> , 4	
<u>Gadwall</u> , 8	
<u>White Pelican</u> , 150	
<u>Treganza's Heron</u> , 9	- A subspecies of the Great Blue Heron of the East.
<u>Western Grebe</u> , 50	
<u>Coot</u> , 70	
<u>Double-crested Cormorant</u> , 7	<u>Northern Cliff Swallow</u> , 20
<u>Black-necked Stilt</u> , 200	<u>Yellow-headed Blackbird</u> , 18
<u>Black-crowned Night Heron</u> , 3	<u>Western Meadowlark</u> , 2
<u>Canada Goose</u> , 150	<u>Thick-billed Red-wing</u> , 20
<u>Marsh Hawk</u> , 3	<u>Brewer's Blackbird</u> , 4
<u>Western Willet</u> , 10	<u>Ruddy Duck</u> , 6
<u>Franklin's Gull</u> , 8	<u>Swainson's Hawk</u> , 2
<u>California Gull</u> , 20	<u>Mourning Dove</u> , 4
<u>Barn Swallow</u> , 200	<u>Magpie</u> , 4
	<u>Greater Yellow-legs</u> , 1

The above is by no means a large list from this Refuge. One spending more time could have had a great many more shore birds, especially later in the year. It is really a thrill to see so many birds in one small area!

On to the Grand Tetons in Wyoming! Upon arrival at our campsite there, two Trumpeter Swans were already on the list, these seen near the Park at the Elk Refuge. Around our campsite Red-naped Sapsuckers, Williamson's Sapsuckers and Black-headed Grosbeaks made themselves known.

The next day a fishing trip to a nearby lake produced Barrow's Golden-eyes on the lake, Richardson's Grouse in the woods on the way to the lake, and Pink-sided Juncos at the camp. A Ferruginous Rough-legged Hawk was also seen that day along with the species seen the day before.

Around the camp we continued to see repeat performances of many of the species along with a few new ones now and then.

Some of these were:

Pine Giskin
White-crowned Sparrow
Audubon's Warbler
Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Wood Pewee
Black-capped Chickadee
Red-shafted Flicker

Then one day we decided to take a 12-mile hike back and up into the Teton Range. We arose early in the morning and started out, keeping a rhythmic step. When climbing mountains in that region, it is important to keep the same slow gate at the start as at the finish. The valley floor was at about 6,000 feet and the height we reached was some 10,500 feet. At such altitudes breathing becomes laborious if too fast a pace is taken. We found the trail to be covered with steep slides of snow in places making it necessary to occasionally crawl around cliffs.

We finally reached the top and started over toward the Continental Divide, on the opposite side of a snow-filled basin. In this basin we came across many Black Rosy Finches, the latter rather like a very dark Purple Finch. We also found Pine Grosbeaks and American Pipits present at these high altitudes. At the Divide we looked out into the Alaska Basin and could well see why it was given that name. A big snow field, with a scattering of wild flowers, it was truly a magnificent sight!

It was a long way up so a quarter-mile slide down a sixty-degree snow slope was welcomed as a speedy way of shortening the trip down. Up at the top, as well as in the previous spots, Clark's Nutcrackers were much in evidence in the scrub pines. We returned to camp in time to record a Russet-backed Thrush, a western Olive-backed, before retiring.

The next morning we left for Yellowstone. We were not planning on staying there long as, with all its grandeur, it is sort of a western Coney Island as far as the number of people are concerned. The Yellowstone list:

Osprey
California Gull
Vesper Sparrow
Spotted Sandpiper

Canada Jay
Bufflehead
 Also most of those seen at
 the Grand Tetons.

Then we were off again across Idaho to Crater Lake. The trip over was quite profitable as the following were seen:

Bullock's Oriole
Sharp-tailed Grouse
White Pelican

Franklin's Gull
Forster's Tern

Our route took us via the Malheur Refuge in Oregon where we noted:

American Egret
Trumpeter Swan
Golden Eagle
California Quail
Nevada Cowbird

Sandhill Crane - An established
 breeding ground.
Wilson's Phalarope
California Shrike
 Also many species seen at
 Bear River Refuge in Utah.

The Malheur Refuge is ordinarily a very good place for waterfowl. However, this year there was little water and the bird population was proportionately low.

When we reached Crater Lake we found it very beautiful indeed. Time spent there produced only the Oregon Junco and the ever-present Clark's Nutcracker. We were told there that they had experienced 60 to 70 feet of snow during the past winter. On that day, July 18, the road was still closed in one place because of snow. In other places snow was still covering a good portion of the ground. It seemed that everywhere we traveled throughout the west people reported that they had more than the usual amount of snow, or else more snow than they had ever had before!

Before heading up the coast of Oregon, a trip over to see the Redwoods in California was in order. These great trees are really something to see, towering as they do, some two and three hundred feet or more into the air. You are way down out of the sunlight when you drive through these trees, and feel meek beside them.

The one downheartening thing about the redwood trees was that, almost inevitably, the best grove would be owned by a lumber company and the poorer ones made into state parks. The Varied Thrush was the new bird here.

We then started up the coast, which in itself, is worth a great deal of attention, ornithologically. The coast of Oregon, in a sense, is just about like that of Maine. The rocky cliffs and scattered beaches are characteristic of both. We spent several days on the coast and the following notes were taken:

Double-crested Cormorant - Common all along the coast.
Baird's Cormorant - Common locally along the coast.
Western Gull - Frequently seen.
California Murre - Seen quite commonly from shore and off shore.
Pigeon Guillemot - Seen in cliff areas.
Bush-tit - One flock seen in brushy areas near the coast.
Heermann's Gull - One large group of about 200 seen.
Sooty Shearwater - 1500
Marbled Murrelet - One off shore in changing winter plumage
Tufted Puffin - Seen in cliff areas.
Glaucous-winged Gull - One seen flying up the coast in early morning. This species normally found to the north.

During an off-shore fishing trip, we found it quite interesting to watch the birds follow the schools of fish. This was one of the best ways to tell the best spots to troll. It was during this trip that the Shearwaters were seen and along with them were hundreds of California Murres and one Marbled Murrelet. The trip was proved worthwhile as two salmon were caught!

We continued north until we reached Olympic National Park. This is one of the less well known of the National Parks, but there is much beauty there. We were fortunate in arriving at a time when the wild flowers were at their best. Scattered snow and wild flowers made a very scenic panorama!

On the coastal side of the park is the famed rain forest which has some 140 inches of precipitation in a year. The trees and yellowish-green moss present a good example of the "forest primeval". There is no dinginess there as the moss in the trees transforms the sunlight into a greenish glow, giving it a fairytale-like appearance. There was birdlife there also, as the following were seen:

Oregon Jay - Seen at the higher altitudes.

Golden-crowned Kinglet - Common in the typical western coniferous forest.

Sooty Grouse - Common Grouse of the woodlands.

Brown Creeper

Chestnut-backed Chickadee - Common in the rain forest.

Lincoln's Sparrow - Rain forest.

Winter Wren - One singing beautifully in the rain forest, the latter the perfect spot to first hear its song.

Pine Siskin

Sitka Crossbill - The Red Crossbill of this area.

Ruffed Grouse

Oregon Junco - A pink-sided, red-backed Junco with a black head.

Harris's Woodpecker - Subspecies of the Hairy common to this area.

Then we were on our way to Glacier National Park, by way of Mt. Rainier. The latter only produced the Clark's Nutcracker and a very impressive mountain.

At Glacier we found wildlife as well as scenery. Here, as in most of the parks in the west, the seasons were late, and we missed things we could have seen. The list:

Common Loon - Seen on one of the lakes about 13 miles back in the mountains.

Macgillivray's Warbler - Seen several times in a burnt-over section on the east side of the park.

Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow - The White-crowned of this region, and distinguished from other White-crowns by voice, pinkish bill, white eyeline extending from the

bill back instead of from the eye back.

Varied Thrush - Heard often near forested areas.

Water Ouzel - Seen in swift running streams, often under the water.

Cedar Waxwing

Fine Grosbeak - Seen at higher altitudes near timberline.

Townsend's Sclitaire - One near timberline.

Clark's Nutcracker

One day we drove up to the Continental Divide at Logan Pass and hiked over to Hidden Lake along the top of the Divide. It was a thrill to see a Mountain Goat in plain sight on the side of a nearby mountain.

While on this hike I did something I had read about but never expected to do myself. The first time I saw the White-tailed Ptarmigan I approached to within two feet of a female and her three young. The next time I saw two adults and was able to approach close enough to stroke both of them. They made very little attempt to get away and showed no fear at all!

Here at the top I also came across quite a flock of American Pipits and Gray-crowned Rosy Finches (these latter in place of the Black Rosy Finches encountered at Grand Teton.) A little lower down amongst the trees, Cassin's Purple Finches were seen. This is a western Purple Finch.

Finally we left the parks and found ourselves on the last leg of a most enjoyable trip-- homeward bound! The West is really very rich in bird life, as is most any area, when one takes the time to look. The trip list amounted to 195 species of leisurely counting. One could very easily have had a list of 250 if more time was available. Whether it be plant, animal or bird, the West Afield is an ideal spot!

FRANK FREESE

Bird students, conservationists, hikers and Scouts lost an ardent enthusiast and friend with the recent passing of Frank Freese. For many years Frank spent most of his spare time supervising tree planting operations, laying out hiking trails, or participating in Scout activities in local troops or county-wide affairs. For many seasons Frank and the writer participated in the Christmas Census making observations in the vicinity of Lock 8 and Schermerhorn Road.

The green plantations of evergreens at Boyhaven and other places which are rapidly becoming young forests are a living memorial to his untiring energy, his vision and his great enthusiasm.

-- Vincent J. Schaefer



COLOR CHOICE IN THE FOOD OF THE WHITE-BREADED NUTHATCH

Marjorie and Allen Benton

Since the sense of smell in birds is notoriously weak, it has long been assumed that food choice among birds is almost entirely visual. If this is true, it is logical that color would be important in choosing food, and that some colors would not be recognized as food and would be avoided. Kalmbach⁽¹⁾, in a discussion of the use of colored poison baits for rodents, to prevent the killing of birds, says that use of colored bait is based on the assumption that birds "respond adversely to food items that have taken on an unnatural color." He further states that these color preferences would need to be determined for the different species of birds, and might even vary for the same species in different localities.

His own experiments and others on which he reported indicate that Quail are most averse to brilliant red, but for most other birds tested yellow and green were most disliked. In an attempt to shed further light on the problem, the authors devised some simple experiments which were carried out with the cooperation of a pair of White-breasted Nuthatches.

Seeds That Were Different

To test the color preferences of Nuthatches, tasteless and harmless vegetable dyes, of the type used in food coloring, were used. Sunflower seeds were soaked in a strong solution of these dyes overnight, and when dried were found to have taken on a bright color. The colors used were red, yellow, blue and green.

For the first experiment, equal numbers of each of the colors, and an equal number of uncolored seeds, were placed on a feeding tray. Each time a seed was taken, its color was recorded in a list, and after all were taken the last one taken was ascribed a value of 1, the next to the last 2, and so on. The figures for each color were then added and made into a bar graph, shown in Fig. 1.

(1) Kalmbach, E. - 1943 - Birds, Rodents, and Colored Lethal Baits - Trans. Eighth North Amer. Wildlife Conf., 1943, pp. 408-416

From this graph, it appears that there was some objection to blue and green, but all colors were eventually taken. Red was accepted normally, and yellow only slightly less so.

Weight Has Effect

Subsequently several other combinations were tried, but it soon appeared to us that weight of the individual seeds was now playing a more important part than color. To test this, another set of seeds, carefully selected for equal weight, was placed on the tray. The results of this trial are shown in Fig. 2. It appears now that if there is any color prejudice, it is against red, rather than against blue and green. It seems probable that this represents random choice, regardless of color.

Further Experiments Needed

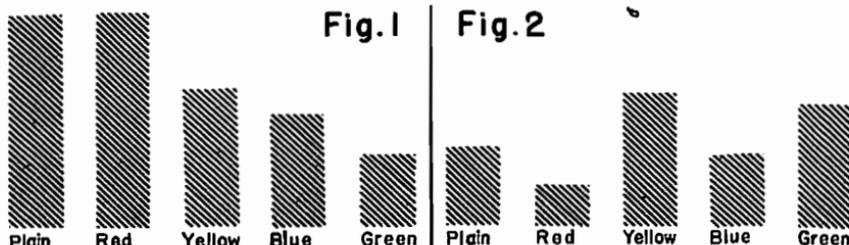
These inconclusive experiments appear to indicate two things, insofar as Nuthatches are concerned:

1. At the outset, blue and green are discriminated against as food.
2. After a remarkably short time, they learn to accept all colors indiscriminately, apparently having learned that they are all alike. Further experiments with different individuals should be made to check these probabilities.

Still More Questions

Such experiments as these raise many more interesting questions. If this is a learning process, how long will the learning be retained? Could birds be conditioned to refuse normal food if it were made distasteful, and replaced by good colored food? How would other species react to such experiments?

Any person who has a feeding tray close enough for observation can perform similar experiments to answer some of these interesting questions about bird behavior. Even the commonest species will yield enough information to repay careful study.



A. O. U. MEETING

Lillian C. Stoner

The 68th Stated Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union was held October 10 to 13, 1950 in the twin cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis. The program, which consisted of 45 papers, was presented in the auditorium of the Minnesota Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

Several members who had attended The Tenth International Ornithological Congress at Upsala, Sweden, last June gave interesting reports. Pictures were shown of many notable foreign ornithologists who had participated in the two-weeks program and field trips; the Tawny Pipit which nests in Sweden, and a number of other birds were also included in the pictures. Dr. Alexander Wetmore, executive secretary of Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C., was president of this Congress. One of our representatives reported that no reply was received from Russia in regard to this Congress except a late cablegram which explained that every Russian was so busy in the field that it was impossible for any of them to attend or take part in the Swedish meeting. Several of the Americans also visited Lapland where they not only observed birds but identified 80 flowers. The next international meeting is scheduled to be held in four years in Switzerland.

Since the Twin Cities are considerably west and 200 miles north of the Albany-Schenectady area, some of the 50 species of birds which were recorded on the 4-hour field trip on October 13 differ from the ones we see here. Of the seven listed ducks, the Baldpates predominated in numbers. Coots were numerous in several places. The Red-backed Sandpiper was perhaps the most interesting record of the seven sandpipers. The common Black-capped Chickadee was watched by the ornithologists from Nashville, Tenn., as this species is not so frequently seen there. For many, the Orange-crowned Warbler was the best of the four warblers listed. The local people recorded their first fall Slate-colored Juncos and Tree Sparrows. The male Cardinal provided the most startling color among the colored leaves. Many were especially impressed by the large flocks of Rusty Blackbirds in full fall plumage that were seen feeding on mud-flats; one of these had an entirely white head.

The writer noted other birds when she had an unobstructed view of the Mississippi River from the Vista-dome coach of the Burlington train. This railroad follows the river for 300 of the 440 miles between Chicago and Minneapolis. Here several Cormorants, vast numbers of Coots, quite a few ducks and some other birds, including a Bald Eagle, were observed. At places the river and adjoining swampy area was so wide that it resembled a large lake. This partially explains why

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G. Malcolm Andrews Editor
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so many water birds prefer the Mississippi Flyway for a migration route.

It was interesting to meet two of the midwestern artists who had pictures in the fall SBC exhibit. Walter J. Breckenridge not only is director of the Minnesota University Museum but he was general chairman for the A.O.U. meeting. He was generous in providing etchings of a Ruddy Duck on each of our name cards, and he also furnished several illustrations for the dinner menu card. The other artist, Owen J. Gromme of the Public Museum, Milwaukee, is busily engaged in doing both text and illustrations for the "Birds of Wisconsin" book.

Each person attending the annual dinner received a copy of "The Flicker." This is the 55-page quarterly magazine published by the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union. Ten bird clubs are affiliated with this state organization.

The secretary, Olin S. Pettingill, Jr., reported a peak membership of 3269 in the American Ornithologists' Union. The president for the past two years was Robert Cushman Murphy of the American Museum, New York; the president-elect is Josselyn Van Tyne of the University of Michigan. The next stated meeting of the A.O.U. is scheduled for October 8 to 12, 1951 at Montreal, Canada.

SCHENECTADY'S FIRST MURRE

Saturday evening, November 25, was one to remember. Big trees dropped, large windows crashed, roofs were uplifted, and telephone and power lines were severed in many places. Parts of the Adirondacks were wrecked. It all started at about dusk, with a stiff wind and rain -- wind from the east and in abundance. Gusts approaching 100 miles an hour were recorded locally.

Schenectady was not alone in having the unannounced storm. It was general throughout New England, New York, and New Jersey. Damage was in the many millions; the storm was rated the worst of its kind the Northeast ever had.

Storms usually move to the east, transporting pelagic birds farther to sea. Tearing cross-country in reverse direction, this storm drove the seabirds inland.

On Tuesday morning, November 28, Mrs. William I. Fairman saw a strange bird in the road in front of her home at 1768 Avenue H. She recovered the bird ahead of a cat, took it inside and put it in the cellar, and communicated with Game Protector Chester W. Griffith. He stopped by later in the day, but in the meantime the bird had died. It was a Brün-

nich's Murre, in winter plumage. The specimen was turned over to State College, Albany. Probably causes of death: exhaustion and starvation. The Murre is unable to fly from land; having been forced to alight on the ground, it was helpless.

Old records show a few items concerning the Murre in the general area, but none for Schenectady County. The State Museum at Albany has a specimen taken February 25, 1904, at Waterford, and one taken December 5, 1901, at Blooming Grove in Rensselaer County. There is also a record of two shot on the Hudson River near Albany in December, 1907.

Still Others

For several days after the storm there were two Brännich's Murres on Saratoga Lake. One of them was shot by a duck hunter. Incidentally, a Snowy Owl (protected, shot) was also at the lake, found floating December 2.

A Brännich's Murre was picked up at Ravena, and another at Stephentown. They were turned over to the Delmar Game Farm.

It is probable that, when all records are in, a large number of storm-blown birds will have been recorded throughout the northeast. Thousands of Dovekies and Black Guillemots were blown inland over a coastal belt 60 to 70 miles deep along the Maine coast. A week after the storm it was reported that 1,000 Brännich's Murres were in the fresh water at Montreal, and that most of them were expected to die.

Eight Thousand Snow Geese

Did the wild winds of Saturday night, November 25, have anything to do with the enormous flock, or concentration, of Snow Geese on Lake Champlain on the following day? Toward the northern end of the lake James J. Anderson saw at least 8,000 of the birds, including one loose flight more than a mile long and more than a hundred yards wide. The Snowies greatly outnumbered the Cannies, and were separate from them. He saw not more than 500 Canada Geese.

Memories of An Earlier Storm

The local record of the Murre reminds one of that infamous hurricane of August 21, 1933, which wrecked Long Island and New England and did not entirely spare Schenectady. The local area had its full share of unexpected birds that time. There were a Leach's Petrel August 26 and 27, in action at Lock 7; a Black Skimmer in flight up the Mohawk on the 27th; an out-of-season Herring Gull; and also an out-of-season Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Leach's Petrels were found in many other areas, but most of them were dead when discovered.

S B C FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Mrs. Albert Sachs, Field Activities Chairman

COMPARISONSVischer Ponds, Oct. 8

How often have we thought that to be really sure of identification of some of the rarer and more easily confused birds, we would like to see similar species side by side. The October trip to Vischer Ponds afforded excellent opportunity for this, double-fold, but only after the Ponds had been abandoned for an excursion to the Coal Pocket beach.

The entire party approached the shore slowly, and was rewarded by finding four sandpipers and, farther along, six plovers deployed in single file along the water's edge. Plenty of time was available for close study and, to the great pleasure of all, it was found that the sandpipers were three Red-backed and one White-rumped. And among the five Black-bellied Plovers was a Golden Plover.

Gusty winds and bright sunshine made for an invigorating morning, and large flocks of Red-wings and Starlings gathering foretold of coming winter. The record:

Pied-billed Grebe, 3; Great Blue Heron, 7; American Egret, 5; Green Heron, 1; Black-crowned Night Heron, 3; American Bittern, 3; Mallard, 12; Black Duck, many; Pintail, 1; Wood Duck, 10; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Osprey, 2; Duck Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Pheasant, 5; Florida Gallinule, 5; Killdeer, 6; Golden Plover, 1; Black-bellied Plover, 5; Wilson's Snipe, 2; White-rumped Sandpiper, 1; Red-backed Sandpiper, 3; Herring Gull, 20; Ring-billed Gull, 1; Mourning Dove, 3; Flicker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Blue Jay, 6; American Crow, numerous; Black-capped Chickadee, 1; Long-billed Marsh Wren, 1; Catbird, 3; Robin, 6; Bluebird, 1; Starling; Myrtle Warbler, 2; House Sparrow; Meadowlark, 7; Red-winged Blackbird; Purple (Bronzed) Grackle, 1; Cowbird, 50; Goldfinch, 6; Chipping Sparrow, 1; White-throated Sparrow, 10; Swamp Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 12. 47 species.

-- Frazer Turrentine

LATE CATBIRDRound-Saratoga Lakes, Nov. 12

The annual autumn (or early winter) field trip to Saratoga Lake November 12 lured 17 SBC members into clear, sunny weather. The day was mild, although the sunshine did not continue and the usual wind did not blow.

As far as the total number of birds seen, it can be reported that it was small indeed. However, the 31 species observed was about average count for this trip. A year ago there were nine more, but that total was somewhat unusual.

The most exciting find was a Catbird at the side of the road leading to the point opposite Snake Hill. A flock of what was determined as Redpolls (or were they "sispolls") that numbered more than 40 swirled over the fields. A flock of Snow Buntings flew over Kaydeross Park as the group was

watching some Coots. A pair of Old-squaws were unexpected among the few ducks seen.

Rusty Blackbirds at Round Lake were new for the fall. It seemed to be a Grebe day, as a Pied-billed Grebe was sighted at Round Lake and then at Saratoga Lake many horned and a few Holboell's. There were no Geese, no Scaup, no Buffleheads. As the seasons vary, so the counts vary -- thus the ever increasing interest grows. The 31 species:

Common Loon, 10; Holboell's Grebe, 2; Horned Grebe, 16; Pied-billed Grebe, 1; Black Duck, 10; Old-squaw, 1 pair; White-winged Scoter, 1 male; American Merganser, 30; Sparrow Hawk, 4; Pheasant, 2; Coot, 12; Wilson's Snipe, 1; Herring Gull, 20; Ring-billed Gull, 6; Black-capped Chickadee, 5; Brown Creeper, 1; Catbird, 1; Cedar Waxwing, 3; Starling; House Sparrow; Rusty Blackbird, 3; Purple Finch, 2; Redpoll, 40; Goldfinch, 3; Slate-colored Junco, 4; Tree Sparrow, 12; Song Sparrow, 2; Snow Bunting, 30. -- Dr. Linnie B. Scotland

THE YELLOW OF SISKINS

Barrington S. Havens

How do you identify the Pine Siskin in sight observation? If you're like me, you probably look for yellow, for that's one of the outstanding field marks indicated by Roger Tory Peterson. But, if your experience is anything like mine, you'd better not rely on the yellow as a guide.

Up until this winter I had little experience with Siskins in the field. Occasionally each winter I would record the species, and it might be a long time before I found it again. In no instance had I been able to see any yellow on the birds, but I discounted this, assuming either that I had not been able to observe the species under the proper circumstances or that I had not looked carefully enough.

But my experiences of this winter have changed my entire outlook on the question. Pine Siskins have frequented my camp at Jenny Lake regularly, in large numbers, and more and more they are dropping down around the building to eat the grain which I have put out for any species that would take it. Thus I have been able to observe Siskins under almost ideal circumstances, and to observe them as carefully as I wanted to.

So far I have not been able to see any yellow on any of my Siskins. Not that there is any difficulty in identifying them. Their size, bill, streaked markings, habits, and especially their notes set them apart from any other species. But I can't find any yellow on them.

That doesn't mean it isn't there, of course. But it just doesn't seem to be observable in normal conditions. Proof that it's there was furnished the other day when I found one

of the birds dead on the ground. Even the most casual examination of the specimen showed the yellow.

It is only natural to wonder, as a result of this, if the listing of yellow markings as a field identification isn't possibly based on the study of captured or dead specimens. The fact that the Siskin isn't a common species except in winter would have some bearing on this. And of course the yellow may show in summer and not be visible in winter. I have never seen any Siskins in summer.

Roger Tory Peterson better change the advice in his handbook.



NEWS AND NOTES IN BRIEF

SORRYThey Were Herrings

The Gulls listed on the Hudson River bus trip of September 17 were Herring Gulls -- 23 of them -- instead of Ring-billed Gulls as shown in October FEATHERS, page 74.

DUCKSAnd Grebes

On October 16 there were 25 White-winged Scoters and a few Horned Grebes on Saratoga Lake, and on the following day three Ruddy Ducks, Scaups, Mallards and Blacks at Niskayuna, James J. Anderson. On December 3 he saw about 500 Blacks, Mallards, and two Pintails on Saratoga Lake.

CENTURY BIRDS182 of Them

A review of the records shows that this year's Century Run, reported on in FEATHERS of July, page 49, produced three species new on the composite list, instead of two. The Philadelphia Vireo was new, along with the Turkey Vulture and Cardinal. The composite total hence is 182 species. Including Century Runs made locally in 1932, 1933 and 1934 -- before the days of SBC -- there is a grand total of 188 species.

Those on only the early lists are the European Partridge, Black-bellied Plover, Bonaparte's Gull, Caspian Tern, Long-eared Owl, and Red Crossbill.

YOU TRY ITIt Should Be Fun

Why not try some of the experiments the Bentons have suggested (Page 89)? Just be sure that the dyes are the harmless kind. Chickadees might react differently. And, who knows, maybe English Sparrows would avoid colored seeds entirely. Give it a try, and report your observations.