



Published by Schenectady Bird Club, Inc.

Vol.14 No.1

January, 1952

BALD EAGLE AND PEREGRINE FALCON ARE NEWCOMERS ON LOCAL CHRISTMAS COUNTS

The 23rd successive Christmas Counts in the Schenectady-Troy areas added two species to the composite list, bringing the total to 83, plus subspecies. The new ones are the bald eagle, on the Troy count, and the peregrine falcon, in the Schenectady area.

Because notification of change in date did not reach some observers, three of the Schenectady areas were covered Saturday, December 29, instead of Sunday, December 30. In reporting to the National Audubon Society the Schenectady list was given as 4790 individuals of 31 species on Sunday, with an additional seven species on Saturday. There was no duplication of territory in the two days, so for this report the records have been combined, for totals of 38 species and 5528 individuals.

What was intended as a "preliminary" Troy-area trip turned out to be the actual count. A tour of the area by two observers on Saturday, December 22, accounted for 1829 individuals of 25 species. Included were records of seven species not on any of the Schenectady reports. Among conspicuous misses on the Troy list were the white-breasted nuthatch, song sparrow, and goldfinch.

Schenectady Statistics

The Schenectady area included in the survey was, overall, the same as in previous years. Trips extended from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; wind was E to S, 5 m.p.h.; 8-in. wet and heavy snow on ground; streams mostly open, but lakes frozen over; continuing rain after 11 a.m. with fog additionally in afternoon; temp. 35° to 45°. Twenty-nine observers in 9 parties. Total party-hours 46 (32 on foot, 14 by car); total party-miles, 238 (45 on foot, 193 by car).

Party 1 - Thacher Park and Indian Ladder, Altamont and Altamont-Voorheesville Road, Keadowdale; 5½ party-hours, 2 miles on foot, 35 miles by car. Samuel Madison, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Fordham.

Party 2 - Watervliet Reservoir; 5 party-hours, 6 miles on foot, 27 miles by car. Esly Hallenbeck, Jack Voght.

Party 3 - Collins Lake, Riverside Avenue, Sunnyside Road, Gateway Bridge, Rice Road, Campbell Road, Poentic Marsh; 5 hours, 5 miles on foot. Donald Tucker.

1951 CHRISTMAS COUNTS

	SCHENECTADY											TROY	
	Sunday, December 30						Sat, Dec. 29			Totl			
Party	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9				
No. Species	15	11	16	18	16	14	25	11	6	38		25	
Total Count	215	107	239	3442	645	142	486	189	63	5528		1829	
Mallard												120	
Black Duck												1080	
American Golden-eye												27	
Hooded Merganser												1	
American Merganser				4			4				8	42	
Goshawk		1									1		
Sharp-shinned Hawk					1						1		
Cooper's Hawk			1								1	1	
Red-tailed Hawk	2		1		1						4		
Bald Eagle												1	
Peregrine Falcon	1										1		
Sparrow Hawk	1			1				1			3	2	
Ruffed Grouse				2			3				5	3	
Ring-necked Pheasant	8		48	20	10		3		1	90		6	
Herring Gull				1						1		29	
Ring-billed Gull												4	
Mourning Dove							2				2		
Screech Owl					1						1		
Belted Kingfisher						1					1		
Yellow-shafted Flicker			1								1		
Pileated Woodpecker				1	1		1				3		
Hairy Woodpecker		1	1	3	1	1	3	2		12		1	
Downy Woodpecker	4	3	4	10	7	7	13	3		51		3	
Horned Lark							24			24			
Blue Jay	7	4	5	26	48	7	29	7	1	134		7	
American Crow	39	4	11	22	25	1	14	16	28	160		53	
Black-capped Chickadee	35	35	23	81	29	16	115	7		341		133	
White-breasted Nuthatch	6	11	3	10	3	6	20	4	2	65			
Red-breasted Nuthatch												8	
Brown Creeper		1		1			6				8		
Winter Wren							1				1		
Golden-crowned Kinglet							1				1	1	
Gray Shrike			1								1		
Common Starling	32	11	47	2966	440	23	38	74	11	3642		190	
House Sparrow	32	12	30	156	67	60	112	63	20	554		80	
Red-winged Blackbird						1					1		
Evening Grosbeak		24					5			29			
Pine Grosbeak	5									5		9	
American Goldfinch			14		1	4	9	9		37			
State-colored Junco	7			1	5	4	4	3		20		20	
American Tree Sparrow	35		43	133	9	9	70			299		7	
White-throated Sparrow	1						1			2			
Swamp Sparrow							1				1		
Song Sparrow			6	2	1	1	3			13			
Lapland Longspur							4			4			

Party 4 - Vischers Ferry area; 7 party-hours, 9 miles on foot, 40 miles by car. Alice Abel, Guy Bartlett, Alice Holmes, P. Schuyler Miller, Nelle G. Van Vorst.

Party 5 - State Farm Road, Western Avenue, Central Avenue, Fuller Road to Balltown Road, Consaul Road, Sand Creek, Shaker Road; 8½ party-hours, 2 miles on foot, 75 miles by car. Mrs. Lillian C. Stoner, Mr. and Mrs. Leon A. Wiard.

Party 6 - Feeding stations and other urban and suburban records. Mrs. Laura Beck, Mrs. W. L. Butler, Mrs. A. G. Grace, Mrs. Esly Hallenbeck.

Party 7 (Dec. 29) - Troy Road, Rosendale Road, Niskayuna

from Lock 7 to Mohawk View, Whitney estate; 9 party-hours, 12 miles on foot, 16 miles by car. Floyd Downs, Dr. Malcolm MacDonald, William Matthews, Peter Runge, Michael Shepard, James Staley, Rudolph Stone, Robert Underwood, and Robert Yunick.

Party 8 (Dec.29) - Central Park; 3½ hours, 3 miles on foot. Stephanie Podrazik.

Party 9 (Dec.29) - Van Antwerp Road; 3 hours, 6 miles on foot. B. D. Miller.

Included in the count for Party 4 were 2800 starlings in down-town roosts. The kingfisher (Party 6) was stunned when it flew into the window of the home of Mrs. D. C. Prince, Washington Avenue.

Troy Statistics

The Troy area covered was the same as in 1950, incorporating the Hudson River from Congress Street bridge, Troy, to the Stillwater bridge, Tonhannock Reservoir (entirely ice-covered) and Tamarack swamp. The wind was W, 0-12 m.p.h.; 4-in. old crusted snow but with much land bare; streams open; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; temp. 25° to 32°; cloudy and poor visibility. Four party-hours on foot, 3 by car; 8 miles on foot, 51 by car. Guy Bartlett and Leon A. Wiard.

The Composite List

The following comments refer only to the Schenectady records:

The 1950 count of 56 pheasants nearly doubled that of any previous count; the 1951 total was 90.

As many as 4200 crows have been shown in one year's census; 1951 set a new low with only 160. A contributing factor was the low ceiling, but winter roosts have been disappearing or sharply decreasing.

The chickadee count of 341 was surpassed only by the 376 of 1943.

The 3 pileated woodpeckers marked the fourth time for this quantity as the highest.

The blue jay count, 134, was surpassed only by the 195 of the preceding year.

The evening grosbeak count was a record high. The pine grosbeak figure was a record-equaler, and so was that of the white-throated sparrow.

The two-day total of 38 species equalled the 1947 one-day figure, and has been surpassed only by the 40 species of the 1944 enumeration.

The pattern is usually for the crow or starling to have high count, with the house sparrow third. In 1951 the starling again was high -- almost 6 to 1 ahead of the second-place house sparrow. The crow was a poor fifth, with both the chickadee and tree sparrow with higher counts.

Both the white-throated and swamp sparrows have appeared only once previously on the Schenectady counts.

The peregrine falcon became Bird No. 77 in the Schenectady count, including subspecies.


NEWS AND NOTES IN BRIEF

BY INTENTComing Attraction

That this issue of FEATHERS has only four pages does not mean a curtailment, or lack of material. The year will have at least as many pages as usual but there are to be special pre-convention issues of many pages. In fact, those issues will probably be so large that June-July and August-September numbers may be combined.

TO NAME OFFICERSDues Are Due

Notices have been issued calling attention to the annual meeting of S B C in February; officers will be elected.

Notices of dues have also been sent for 1952. Miss Viola Mabb, 1624 Becker Street, phone 6-2626, is treasurer.

FEDERATION APPOINTMENTSTwo Named

Samuel R. Madison of Delmar, SBC member, has been named chairman of the conservation committee of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs. He succeeds Walter Elwood of Amsterdam, chairman of the committee since inception of the Federation. Mr. Madison, incidentally, is general chairman of local arrangements for the Federation convention at Schenectady in May.

Guy Bartlett has been appointed area representative of the membership committee of the Federation.

VULTURESAnd Pine Grosbeaks

Game Protector Chester Griffith reports that during the fall and early winter the number of pine grosbeaks was very high locally. His observations in Greene County substantiate the evidence that the population of pileated woodpeckers is increasing.

Turkey vultures are extending their range. He recorded thirteen of the birds in one day in Greene County. Mr. Griffith also observed an unusual number of shrikes during the fall season.

WINTER SWANAnd Urban, Too

A large, long-necked, white bird flying west as if heading for open water near the Gateway bridge attracted my attention as I was going to work January 11 on the bus. First I thought of the snow goose but the fact I could see no black on the wings made me doubtful. The long neck - about as long as the body - made it a swan. Mute or whistling, I will never know.

Incidentally, two swans were seen several times on Saratoga Lake in late December. -- Nelle G. Van Vorst

1951 RECORDSNeeded Now

F. R. Turrentine needs all 1951 records now.

**SCHENECTADY BIRD CLUB INC. WILL BE THE
HOST MAY 24-25 AT 1952 CONVENTION OF
FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS**





Published by Schenectady Bird Club, Inc.

Vol.14 No.2

February, 1952

SANCTUARIES AND MUSEUMS OF THE S B C AREA

Lillian C. Stoner

We who live in the Capital District of New York State know more or less about the Sanctuaries and Museums which are located here. But let us refresh our memories on these subjects at this time and enumerate the places which are in or not far from the Schenectady-Albany region.

The great Hudson and Mohawk Rivers, while not real sanctuaries as they are not protected areas, are closely associated with the bird life of this region; they afford land marks or guidance, rest and water to many species. Schenectady is on the Mohawk River and Albany is on the Hudson River which is one of the main United States north-south flyways for migrating birds.

The Reservoirs

Not far to the north and northeast is Saratoga Lake; the famous Saratoga National Historical Park and Tomhannock Reservoir are also to the north. The latter place supplies Troy with water. Watervliet Reservoir, south of Schenectady, and Alcove Reservoir, still more south, furnish Watervliet and Albany respectively with water. The areas in or about all five of these places are more or less protected Sanctuaries and have habitats which furnish suitable nesting places for many land and water birds. But more about Sanctuaries after we first consider our Museums. Schenectady, incidentally, has no reservoir like those mentioned; it obtains its water from the underground gravels of pre-glacial Lake Albany.

The Museums

The New York State Museum, on the fifth floor of the Education Building in Albany, is well worth repeat visits. It affords an opportunity to study the mounted specimens of most of the 425 (or more) species and subspecies which have been recorded for this state. Here one can take time to study the field markings of birds seen for only a second on field trips. Then for special study there are hundreds of bird skins in the lower part of the exhibit cases which Museum attendants will make available to anyone for examination to study some of the different color plumages or various measurements of one particular species.

Many bus loads of school children from various parts of the state make up part of the 200,000 yearly visitors to the State Museum. Groups, by writing to Miss Myrtice Blatchley, may obtain guided lecture tours of Bird Hall or some other

Schenectady Bird Club, Inc.

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section of the Museum. They thus get more definite information about regular or special exhibits. The display of extinct birds, especially the Passenger Pigeon, Labrador Duck and Heath Hen, remind us of what we have missed seeing and also of the greater need for conservation and protection of our present wild life.

Schenectady provides a City Museum on Steuben Street where visitors young and old may spend many profitable hours and gain much valuable information on birds and mammals. This is a popular place for teachers in local schools to take their classes to see the exhibits or to have Miss Dorothy Sawyer or some other staff member give an illustrated lecture or talk on some form of plant or animal life.

Amsterdam

Not far to the northwest of the Capital District the Sasfras Bird Club maintains a sanctuary on land of the city of Amsterdam located at the northwest corner of the city. Here Dove Creek, in a winding ravine, and the hardwoods and coniferous trees on its slopes, as well as a meadow section, allure both bird and human populations. Mr. Walter Elwood has had much to do with the development and success of this scenic place. Protection is afforded many nesting species of birds in this 75-acre community Bird Sanctuary with its adjoining 125-acre golf course.

Slingerlands

The great number of golf courses, too numerous to name, as well as all cemeteries might be termed sanctuaries since many birds find safety on their grounds.

Quite a few people sustain small or great acreages near their homes which are really private sanctuaries; the writer will next mention one.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Grace, Hilton's Crossing, Slingerlands, made their home grounds a private sanctuary. They have planted, on their place of some six acres, plants and shrubbery and trees which not only will attract birds but will furnish them with nesting places and food both winter and summer. A supply of food is provided at several feeding stations. Water is kept in the pool and in the many bird baths, and kept from freezing in several of the bird baths throughout the winter. All of these attractive features allure many birds the year round.

Christman Sanctuary

It was in 1888 when Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Christman began to feed the birds on their farm near Delanson. During 1931 the Mohawk Valley Hiking Club conducted ceremonies dedicating the Christman Bird and Wildlife Sanctuary. The 100-acre farm has more than 60 acres in woods or recently reforested land. The Bozenkill flows through the area, with a 30-foot falls in the woods. The Sanctuary does not attract water birds, but other species abound.

Thacher Park

One of the newest possessions of the State is the John Boyd Thacher Park. It consists of 1108 acres and is located about 15 miles south of Schenectady and about the same dis-

tance southwest of Albany. Many picnicking areas have been arranged for the public on this broad plateau which is on top of high cliffs of part of the Helderberg Mountains. There are scenic views, drives and walks throughout this tract, including "Bear Path Trail" and "Indian Ladder." Even though the place is visited by thousands of people, there are many opportunities for observation of birds in this large Sanctuary.

Huyck Preserve

The Edmund Niles Huyck Preserve is situated in the town of Rensselaerville, Albany County. Some 20 miles southwest of the city of Albany, it is maintained by a corporation of which Mrs. Edmund Niles Huyck is president. By securing resident naturalists, this active group of people have encouraged much research on their property. The results of this work are shown in some fifty papers which have been published in various scientific journals. This preserve of 470 acres could also be called a Sanctuary since no hunting is allowed and wild life is protected here.

Delmar Game Farm

The Delmar Game Farm of 275 acres is operated by the State Conservation Department. Mr. Stephen C. Fordham has charge of the experimental work which is done on ducks and pheasants. A greater share of the wild pheasants that bird observers see throughout the state have come from eggs that have been distributed from or reared on this or one of the other game farms which the state maintains. Large numbers of birds either about the water or woods, as well as those in the many large pens, serve as an attraction for many interesting avian visitors to this protected farm which is about ten miles south of Albany.

City Parks

Both Albany and Schenectady are fortunate to have sizable city parks.

Washington Park and Lincoln Park are two Sanctuaries in the heart of the capital city of New York State. Lincoln Park, which contains 75 acres, has a public swimming pool, a baseball diamond and quite a little open space; these recreational places are visited by many lively and noisy people in the summer. Then, since the trees are not too numerous or too large, there is not much protection for avian life.

While Washington Park of 90 acres has a 6-acre lake and much shrubbery and many kinds of high old trees where migrating and resident birds can stop, rest and find water, food, or nesting places. Since the greater share of birds are seen in the wooded, lake and ravine west section, and the formal gardens and recreational or festival part is the east half of this city public park, the huge crowds which visit the park yearly when the 90,000 tulips are in bloom do not greatly affect the avian population.

Schenectady's largest park is a well-kept Sanctuary that is known as Central Park. The 380 acres include a formal 165 acres, with some good sections for birds, an undeveloped 60-acre area, and a 155-acre golf course. The area is divided so there is ample space for picnickers and sports such as tennis, baseball and swimming. Iroquois Lake in the for-

mal part is a few acres of water, only part of which is used for swimming. It entices birds into this area. The wooded and swamp sections, quite separated from the recreational section, provide safety and food for many resident and migrating birds.

Most of the Museums and Sanctuaries which have been mentioned in this article are open to the public throughout a greater share of the year. However, the writer suggests that if large groups plan trips to some of these places, it is advisable to make advance inquiry and plans as to suitable visiting time.

S B C FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Esly Hallenbeck and Leon A. Wiard, Co-chairmen

MOSTLY BLACKS

Upper Hudson, Jan. 13

The Upper Hudson - Tomhannock Creek field trip, with Rudd Stone the leader, produced a list of 18 species. It was on Sunday, January 13, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., the temperature from 35 to 40 degrees, cloudy, and with a 4-mile southeast wind. The record showed:

Mallard, 38; black duck, 777; American golden-eye, 60; American merganser, 25; sparrow hawk, 1; ring-necked pheasant, 17; herring gull, 10; hairy woodpecker, 2; downy woodpecker, 3; blue jay, 4; American crow, 150; black-capped chickadee, 16; white-breasted nuthatch, 2; starling; house sparrow; American goldfinch, flock of 20; tree sparrow, 30; and song sparrow, 1.

A half dozen pine grosbeaks were seen near Schenectady on the return trip.

S B C CALENDAR

FEBRUARY DATES

Election, Screen Tour, Trips

Sun., Feb. 17: SBC field trip; Green Island, Cohoes, and upper Hudson River; Don Tucker, leader. Meet at Palmer Avenue and Union Street at 8:30 a.m. or at Saratoga and Ontario Streets, Cohoes, at 9 a.m.

Thu., Feb. 21: Audubon Screen Tour, Central Park Junior High School auditorium, 8 p.m. Fran William Hall of Carleton College, "The Four Corners."

Mon., Feb. 25: Annual business meeting of Schenectady Bird Club, Inc.; Pine Room, First Methodist Church; 8 p.m. Officers and directors will be elected, and entertainment provided by the program committee.

MARCH DATES

One Tour, Four Trips

"High Horizons" by William Ferguson for the Screen Tour of Tuesday, March 25. Field trips scheduled: March 9, Sunnyside Road and Collins Lake; March 16, McCormack Road, Albany; March 23, Campbell and Schermerhorn Roads; March 30, Saratoga Lake.

FEDERATION CONVENTION

Here in May



Published by Schenectady Bird Club, Inc.

Vol.14 No.3

March, 1952

BOSTON BEANS AND BIRDS

Leon A. Wiard

In late October tentative plans were made with Boston friends for a January trip along the Massachusetts coast. The Hipplés and Wiards had wanted for a long time to add some of the wintering coastal and oceanic birds to their lists. Hank and Edith Halberg of Boston extended the invitation that made this possible.

On Saturday morning, January 19, we took off over dry roads and under sunny skies. Arriving in Boston late in the afternoon, we had an opportunity to visit some of the local waterways and turned up a female Green-winged Teal in with Mallards and Blacks. A Shoveller which had been wintering in Boston was not in evidence, nor was the Peregrine Falcon that was effectively taking care of the pigeons and starlings near the Copley-Plaza.

During the evening the light on the Hancock Insurance building, modern Boston's prototype of Paul Revere's famous light, showed red. The Weather Bureau was right and during the night a wet snow fell, followed by light rain Sunday morning.

North to Newburyport

We left Boston early Sunday morning, accompanied by the Halbergs, Art and Margaret Argue, and Ruth Emery, all of Massachusetts Audubon Society. Heading north for Newburyport and the Merrimac River through the drizzle, we saw very few birds. At one point a small flock of eight Meadowlarks was seen feeding along the shoulder of the highway.

A few Scaup and one American Merganser were seen from the bridge over the Merrimac above Newburyport. Downstream several Bonaparte's Gulls were flying back and forth, while across the river a Bald Eagle surveyed his domain from the top of a high tree.

Returning to Newburyport, we made a side trip to one of the schools in search of a Mockingbird. There in the rain and snow he sat, a very bedraggled wayfarer a long way from home.

There Were Ducks

Large flocks of ducks and gulls were found on the bay at Newburyport -- American Golden-eyes, Scaup and Old-squaws, Great Black-backed and Herring Gulls, and one Iceland Gull. It was also at this point that we saw our first European

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Cormorant. Not to be forgotten for a long time was the sight through the telescopes of the flock of male Old-squaws perkily sailing along with their heads and tails carried erect.

Plum Island

Crossing the salt flats on the way out to the Plum Island Coast Guard station we watched for a Snowy Owl which had been seen there. We came up with a Flicker. Shortly after reaching the end of the road at the beach, a lone Kittiwake flew by. At the Coast Guard station, however, many species were to be found.

In a little bay at the side of the station a Red-throated Loon was lazily enjoying himself. Several ducks near the breakwater were identified as White-winged Scoters. While watching these ducks our attention was drawn to a nondescript, stubby-billed duck which was diving so close to the breakwater that one wondered what kept him from being smashed by the waves against the rocks when he surfaced. This was identified as the Harlequin in winter plumage -- not the brightly plumaged bird of the breeding season but a very drab duck. However, it was our first introduction to the Harlequin, and definitely not to be scoffed at.

Horned Grebes were also found here, along with one Red-necked Grebe. The ever-present Red-breasted Merganser of the sea coast was found here in numbers, as well as at most of the other places visited.

Barrow's at Gloucester

As we worked our way down the coast we came to Gloucester where several Barrow's Golden-eyes were found with a flock of Americans. As we had expected, huge flocks of gulls were found at the fish docks and sheds. An immature Glaucous Gull in his odd pinkish brown plumage was found here. It was also near this general vicinity that we found our two Kumlien's Gulls and Black Guillemot.

Considerate Kittiwake

Our next-to-the-last stop for the day was at Andrew's Point. By this time the rain was over and the sun was trying to break through the overcast. Several more species were added to an interesting list at this and a nearby site, Halibut Point. As we watched a Razor-billed Auk, Brunnich's Murres and Common Eiders diving, one of the most beautiful of our gulls, an immature Kittiwake, flew by within a hundred yards of where we were standing. This bird has the black and white coloration common to gulls, but there is no sharp and hard contrast such as we find in most species. More, it is a soft blending of blacks and whites which make the immature Kittiwake so outstanding. This Kittiwake was also one of the most considerate birds we found, making several trips back and forth at close range to give us an excellent opportunity for observing it -- a female, no doubt.

One of the strangest sights for us inlanders was the flock of Purple Sandpipers, busily searching for food among the rocks below us. As we stood watching the sandpipers, they took off in their usual compact flock and flew up the coast. Following them with our glasses, way off in the dis-

tance we spotted several large white birds sailing and diving for food. Closer examination with the telescopes showed them to be Gannets.

Birds were not the only things seen before we left Hallibut Point. Just before leaving, two seals appeared at the foot of the cliff; farther out six dolphins appeared and reappeared; while far out in the distance a whale spouted.

Forty-three Species

This trip was made primarily for coastal and oceanic birds so that, although life lists were increased, the total number of species seen was not too great -- 43 in all. Species seen were:

Common Loon 12, Red-throated Loon 3, Red-necked Grebe 1, Horned Grebe 25, Gannet 5, European Cormorant 24, Black-crowned Night Heron 1.

Mallards, Black Ducks, Green-winged Teal 1, Greater Scaup 200, American Golden-eye 500, Barrow's Golden-eye 2, Oldsquaw 100, Harlequin Duck 1, Common Eider 3, White-winged Scoter 100, American Merganser 1, Red-breasted Merganser 100.

Red-shouldered Hawk 1, Bald Eagle 2, Sparrow Hawk 2, Purple Sandpiper 25, Glaucous Gull 2, Iceland Gull 3, Great Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull, Kumlein's Gull 2, Ring-billed Gull 10, Bonaparte's Gull 10, Kittiwake 2, Razor-billed Auk 2, Brunnich's Murre 6, Black Guillemot 1.

Flicker 1, Blue Jay 2, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee 6, White-breasted Nuthatch 2, Mockingbird 1, Starling, Meadowlark 8, House Sparrow, and Song Sparrow 1.

It has also become my firm conviction in regards to Snowy Owls that "there ain't no such bird!"

Oh yes, and we did have beans.

S B C FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Eslly Hallenbeck and Leon A. Wiard, Co-chairmen

IT SNOWED

February 17

One trip was scheduled for February -- on Sunday, the 17th, to Green Island, Cohoes and the Upper Hudson. The trip cancelled out. Starting time found a fresh heavy snowfall, and the storm continued.

PHEASANTS GALORE

Sunnyside Road, March 9

The March 9 trip proved to be in advance of spring, but that was expected. Led by Mr. and Mrs. John L. Voght, nine observers covered the territory which included Sunnyside Road, Collins Lake and Riverside Avenue. The weather was clear, and the temperature from 30 to 37 degrees.

Seventeen species were recorded, with a total of just a few more than 100 individuals. Most abundant was the Ring-necked Pheasant. The record:

Great Blue Heron 1, Sparrow Hawk 2, Pheasant 18, Herring Gull 2, Kingfisher 1, Downy Woodpecker 3, Blue Jay 2, Crow 4, Black-capped Chickadee 13, White-breasted Nuthatch 8, Winter Wren 1, Starling 17, House Sparrow 15, Evening Grosbeak 8, Goldfinch 5, Tree Sparrow 1, and Song Sparrow 5.



NEWS AND NOTES IN BRIEF

ELWOOD IS HONORED

National Post

Walter Elwood of Amsterdam, past chairman of the State Federation's conservation committee, has been named delegate to represent the American Ornithologists Union in its affairs with the National Resources Council. The council has its headquarters in Washington.

STATE FEDERATION

Here Comes the Convention

Schenectady Bird Club, Inc. is a charter member of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs. The fifth annual convention of the Federation will find S B C the host, here Saturday and Sunday, May 24 and 25. Samuel Madison is the general chairman on arrangements.

There are plenty of things to be done in advance of the two-day meeting, and there will be plenty for all SBC members to do during the convention. Field trips, both Saturday and Sunday, call for plenty of transportation, particularly by those who know their way to SBC's favorite birding spots. More transportation will be required to convey our guests from hotels to the meetings at the Edison Club, and back to the hotels later.

No SBC member should feel backward about volunteering assistance. There is plenty for all to do.

FEDERATION MEMBERSHIP

You Are Invited

SBC members automatically are members of the state federation, and as such are entitled to attend the general meeting May 24 and to participate in the field trips.

Relatively few members of SBC in addition maintain individual memberships in the Federation. Particularly in view of the Federation convention in Schenectady, an increase in individual federation memberships is being sought. Membership dues are \$2 per year, and include a subscription to The Kingbird, published quarterly by the Federation.

Membership application blanks may be obtained from Samuel Madison, Albany, or Guy Bartlett, Schenectady.

MORE PAGES

Next Month

This is the third consecutive four-page issue, but watch what happens in April -- a big, special convention issue.

EDNA HALLENBECK

February of 1952 brought a sad loss to the Bird Club in the death of Edna Hallenbeck, one of the Club's charter members. Although of late she was not always active on the field trips, she was unfailingly interested in the club and gave generously of her time and effort at Christmas parties and May breakfasts. It is particularly here that her ready smile and quiet humor will be missed. To her husband, Egly, and to all who feel her loss the Bird Club extends its sincere sympathy.

-- Beatrice Sullivan



Published by Schenectady Bird Club, Inc.

Vol.14 No.4

April, 1952

THE FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS AND ITS MEMBER CLUBS

As the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs enters its fifth year, the time is ripe to take stock. Dr. Gordon Meade and Winston Brooker, the two men most responsible for its organization, have guided the Federation as President in its critical, formative years and have left a permanent imprint. It is said that any human institution is the lengthened shadow of a man; but too many men and women have played, and are playing, a vital part in the activities of the Federation to make the epigram narrowly applicable.



The Federation was conceived to facilitate cooperation among the bird clubs and bird students of the state, and to promote interest in and conservation of bird life. The usefulness of the Federation is attested by the fact that almost every regional bird club in the state is now a member; in fact, the Federation has actively promoted and encouraged the organization of such clubs in areas where none previously existed. Consideration of the extent to which the Federation has fulfilled its purpose may indicate the respects in which more can and should be done.

Conservation

There had long been a need for a state-wide organization to voice the views and mobilize the opinion of bird students before the state legislature and state officials on conservation matters. The national conservation organizations frequently hesitated to inject themselves into state controversies on the ground that they might be regarded as intermeddling outsiders. Local clubs were often ignorant of the existence of pending measures affecting wildlife, were out of touch with other clubs, and thus were unable to make their weight felt. The organization of the Federation has worked a vital change -- chiefly because of the devotion and enthusiasm of Walter Elwood, who served as Chairman of our Conservation Committee until the present year. Our various affiliated clubs have been apprised of important proposed legislation, and their members have been urged to write to state legislators and other officials when the time seemed appropriate. In the field of conservation, to be effective, a citizen must do more than vote; he must be willing to write. Constant vigilance is essential not only to promote desirable legislation but to prevent emasculation of exist-

ing conservation laws and forestall the ever-present threat of encroachment on existing sanctuaries, parks and wildlife refuges. The present New York hawk and owl law was essentially the product of our efforts, aided by a number of other conservation organizations, whose assistance was enlisted by the Federation. Not all our battles have been crowned with success; but in this field a vigorous fight is never wholly a loss, for it emphasizes and increases the popular realization of the importance of conservation.

Publications

The Federation's quarterly magazine, The Kingbird, provides an important medium for recording knowledge and stimulating bird study. The national ornithological magazines cannot afford to publish much useful material that is essentially of State interest, and few local clubs have the means of maintaining a permanent publication. The Federation is very fortunate in having the services of our able and energetic editor, Allan Klonick. He requires support from our membership in the form of articles and notes. We hope that in time the Federation may be able to sponsor other publications, notably an up-to-date distributional account of the Birds of New York State. The Federation affords an ideal medium for the collection and evaluation of State records.

Exchange of Information

The Federation has afforded means of contact among the various clubs scattered throughout the state. Some of these clubs have been in existence for decades. Exchange of information as to methods of establishing and maintaining local sanctuaries, dealing with local conservation problems, keeping bird records, handling club meetings could be very useful. It should be possible for clubs to arrange for periodic exchange of speakers, field trips, and the like. The newer clubs should not hesitate to seek the advice of the more experienced societies.

Cooperative Studies

Students working on field problems frequently need, or could effectively use, reliable observations of watchers in other parts of the State. Through the Federation it is now easy to make contact with other such students of similar interest. The Snowy Owl incursion surveys were facilitated by the existence of the Federation, and an effort has begun to correlate hawk migration studies.

Annual Meeting

The annual convention of the Federation, open to all bird students in the State, has proved a thoroughly enjoyable and instructive event. The paper program, field trip and dinner have resulted in acquaintanceship and cooperation among bird-watchers throughout our State, and have stimulated and encouraged conservation activities. Incidentally, these meetings have promoted interest in birds in the localities where they have been held. The organizational meeting was in Amsterdam, and the annual meetings in succession in Rochester, New York City, Watkins Glen, Buffalo, Schenectady.

To encourage maximum affiliation and participation, dues payable to the Federation by affiliated Clubs have been made almost nominal (10¢ for each member of the affiliated club)

and members of such Clubs can hold any Federation office even though not themselves Individual Members of the Federation. The Federation thus operates on a very restricted budget, and must depend to a large extent upon the dues of Individual Members. Individual membership is obtained by the annual payment of only \$2 (though larger contributions are welcomed). The Individual Member receives a subscription to The Kingbird, and personal notices of meetings; but over and above that he has the satisfaction of knowing that he is making a vital contribution to the one organization representing the viewpoint of New York bird students on a state-wide basis.

-- Eugene Eisenmann, President of the Federation
 (Adapted from The Kingbird, April, 1952)

Bedford Audubon Society

A 1,000 per cent increase in membership in three years is the startling record of the Bedford Audubon Society in northern Westchester County. What is behind this phenomenal growth? Let's take a quick glance at its history.

Originally founded in 1913, dissolved about 1920, the organization lay dormant until 1948 when Stanley Grierson, a young naturalist living in Ketonah, decided to start a bird club. Charles E. Mohr, director of the Nature Center in Greenwich, Conn., suggested an Audubon unit instead.

A test Audubon film, "Wings, Fins and Antlers", shown in November, 1948 brought out a crowd of 300 people, clearly indicating an interest in conservation and nature. In December, 1948 the reactivated Bedford Audubon Society got under way with 35 members; today it has 323.

"Knowledge through pleasure", plus the sincere, hard-working enthusiasm of its officers, seems to be the happy formula for its rapid growth. The Society believes that the study of wild life and conservation may best be accomplished through entertainment. Lively evening meetings held once a month include a guest speaker and one or two color films. Field trips are held monthly. All gatherings are open to the general public, and draw big attendance.

The Bedford Audubon Society actively participates in conservation programs. It is currently concerned with the Bald Eagle. In 1950 it helped save the Snowy Owl in New York State. In the 1951 Bedford elections the Society initiated and carried through the removal of the local bounty law.

An important phase of the Society's work is handled by its educational committee, which has established 19 Junior Audubon Clubs with 550 members in schools of the area.

Recently the Society hired Mr. Grierson, its consulting naturalist and a director, on a full-time basis to conduct a widespread nature-study and conservation program in northern Westchester schools. He also lectures before local clubs. Within a month of the announcement of his appointment, 11 schools had signed for his services, and there is a waiting list. Obviously, people like what the Bedford Audubon Society has to offer and the way it's presented.

-- Alison Carter, Publicity Chairman

Brooklyn Bird Club

Brooklyn is located on the western end of Long Island. Although it is a part of the large urban area which is New York City, it is ideally situated to offer excellent birding. A variety of habitat is found here, ranging from the open ocean to ocean beaches and sand dunes, sheltered bays, salt marshes and a few fresh-water marshes, with dry fields (as a result of land-fill operations) and a few farm areas. Inland Brooklyn may be compared to an Open Woodland habitat with large parks and cemeteries offering superior birding.

In 1909 Dr. E. W. Vieter and a few associates organized the borough's nature students and formed The Brooklyn Bird Lovers' Club. In 1938 the name was "modernized" and, in order to maintain the identity, the change to The Brooklyn Bird Club was adopted.

The Club is dedicated to the protection of birds and their environment, and to the preservation of our natural resources. The Club takes an active part in conservation problems and appreciates the help of the Federation.

A series of weekly field trips, to study general natural history, all year 'round, gives our membership an opportunity to keep in touch with seasonal variations of bird populations in the region. All are welcome to attend these trips.

The Club meets on the second Thursday of each month, September to June inclusive, in the Art Room, Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, 30 Lafayette Avenue, Brooklyn. Visitors are welcomed.

The Club has published, and recently distributed, "The Birds of Prospect Park," a compilation of the records of birds seen in this local city park during the past 50 years. We have in preparation a check-list of the birds of western Long Island, which will contain more than 330 species which have been seen in Brooklyn and adjacent areas.

-- Edward J. Whalen, President

Buffalo Audubon Society, Inc.

The Buffalo Audubon Society, Inc. had its inception in 1908. It was decided at the first meeting to call the group "the Audubon Society of Buffalo." General meetings were devoted to lectures; walks were taken on Saturdays. Eight charter members are still connected with our group.

Edward Avery kept the club going as president for over 20 years. The start of the National Audubon Screen Tour program during A. B. Wells' wartime term began a new period, but the impact wasn't felt fully until Harold D. Mitchell was installed in office and The Buffalo Audubon Society, Inc. was born. The society went on trips every month, instead of just the spring "walks" of the recent past. An annual Christmas Count was begun in a tract southeast of Buffalo, centering at Chestnut Ridge Park.

In cooperation with the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences and the Buffalo Ornithological Society, The Buffalo Audubon Society, Inc. sent a scholarship student to the Maine Camp of National Audubon Society each summer. Representative teachers were sent each spring to the Greenwich,

Conn., camp. An active part through delegates was taken in the Conservation Forum of Western New York, helping to make conservation history. Buffalo Auduboners have been behind the Federation since it was organized. As a member club of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, the organization has for years met regularly in the Humboldt Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science, on the first Wednesday of the month at 8 p.m. Visitors are welcome.

While Francis T. Tilley was president the society became a branch of the National Audubon Society, thereby gaining in prestige and membership. A feeding-station committee has expanded the work of the society throughout western New York.

Two sanctuaries were brought into being. The Elmwood Avenue Sanctuary is an educational workshop in conservation in the heart of the city. The Beaver Meadow Wild Life Refuge in Wyoming County, with a beaver pond, was earlier called the Java Sanctuary.

A Buffalo Audubon quarterly was inaugurated this year to further the aims and purposes of the society.

-- Francis T. Tilley, Treasurer, and Past President

Buffalo Ornithological Society

The Buffalo Ornithological Society, an affiliate of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, was organized in November, 1929. We meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, except July and August, at 8 p.m. in the Buffalo Museum of Science, Humboldt Park, Buffalo.

Field trips are conducted on most Sundays or Saturdays throughout the year. Each year extensive field trips are taken to areas beyond the confines of our western New York territory. Four major seasonal censuses are held annually.

We have a monthly publication, The Prothonotary, which covers birds and birding activities in Western New York. Each year an exhibit is displayed in the Erie County Fair. From time to time special exhibits are arranged.

In 1949 we were instrumental in bringing the annual meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union to Buffalo. A check list of the birds of western New York is under preparation.

Highlights of club affairs are the anniversary banquets which are held every five years. A scholarship has been established to the Audubon Camp in Maine, the expenses being shared with two other organizations.

One of our most successful projects is a "Grape Vine," established to spread the word quickly, via telephone, when some rarity arrives in our territory. Our membership numbers over 150.

Visitors to Buffalo and western New York are invited to partake of our activities.

Write, or telephone to the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, GRant 4100, for information concerning current activities. Or, if in Buffalo on the right Wednesday, just drop in on us.

-- Winston Wm. Brockner, President

Burroughs Audubon Nature Club

In June, 1913 William B. Hoot invited all Rochesterians owning copies of John Burrough's Riverby Edition to meet at his office to consider founding a local Burroughs Nature Club. After several preliminary meetings, a meeting was called for June 26, when a constitution and by-laws were adopted. Mr. Hoot was elected president, and held that office uninterruptedly until 1930.

In 1915 the Club became affiliated with the National Association of Audubon Societies and changed its name to The Burroughs Audubon Nature Club. It was chartered by the New York State Board of Regents in 1927, its object being the promotion of science, particularly in the study of ornithology, botany, entomology, and conservation. The permanent charter from the State Board of Regents as an educational society is dated April 21, 1931.

The Club owns a Nature Sanctuary of about 30 acres at Railroad Mills, about 14 miles southeast of Rochester on Irondequoit Creek. The club house, formerly the historic Woolston residence, houses a very complete reference library and an herbarium descriptive of the flora found on the premises, besides affording accommodations to the members for overnight and week-end trips.

The Club sponsors interesting and instructive lectures on nature subjects at the Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences during the winter months, and schedules numerous field trips throughout the year under the leadership of competent instructors. The Club always has and will continue to examine all legislation affecting the natural resources of the state, particularly in that portion known as "Adirondack Preserve," and will resist all efforts which tend to exploit or despoil such resources, and will promote all efforts leading to the preservation of the natural beauty spots within the state.

The Club has an active membership of about 200, several of whom are junior members, encouraged to join the Club because of the active interest they have shown in their school nature program, or the hobby clubs of the Museum.

-- Helen M. Foster, Corresponding Secretary

Chemung Valley Audubon Society

Prior to 1950 the only organization with nature interests in the Chemung Valley was the Elmira Garden Club. A bird group sponsored by this club embraced about 25 members, but the activities of the group were subordinate to those of the parent organization.

In March, 1950 the most active bird-group members called a public meeting to discuss the advisability of forming the Chemung Valley Audubon Society. Nearly 100 people responded and voted to organize immediately, and to sponsor the Audubon Screen Tours. The new society was started with nearly 400 screen-tour members, and 165 on the active roll.

Miss Agnes Orbison was elected the first president, and Mrs. George M. Welles was named vice president and chairman of program and activities. Both were reelected for a second term. The Society publishes a mimeographed quarterly bulletin.

tin capably edited by Mrs. Harry York. Local field trips, the May census and the Christmas Bird Count were inaugurated. Two trips have been made to Hawk Mountain, and several to Montezuma Marsh. As the Chemung Valley has no body of water large enough to attract many of the water and shore birds, trips to other areas are essential to a well-rounded program.

Although handicapped by a shortage of experienced leadership, this young organization is showing definite progress. The active membership now stands at just under 100, having lost quite a number who rode the bandwagon for the first year. However, the decrease in numbers has been more than compensated by an increase in interest and activity. The outlook is most encouraging.

-- Al Fudge

Eaton Bird Club

Students of bird life have been actively organized in Geneva since March 26, 1913, when the Geneva Bird Club was established following a meeting called by E. Thayles Emmons, who became its first president. This club continued active a number of years; for some time following its last recorded meetings there was no organized bird club in the community.

On February 3, 1932 the Geneva Ornithological Club was organized and Prof. Glen P. Van Eseltine became its first chairman. Meetings were held frequently and regularly, and field trips were numerous. Projects in bird study such as were engaging the attention of ornithologists at that time were undertaken by the club members.

One of Geneva's outstanding ornithologists at that time was Dr. Elon Howard Eaton, head of the biology department at Hobart College, who was an active force behind the operation of the new society. Many of the projects of the club were proposed and carried out under the direction of Dr. Eaton.

When Dr. Eaton's death occurred in 1934 it was proposed to change the name of the Club to Eaton Bird Club, making the necessary alterations in the society's constitution. Shortly thereafter, also, it was voted to sponsor annually a bird-topic lecture, to be given free each year to Geneva people and to be known as the Eaton Memorial Bird Lecture. This practice has been followed consistently since then and has brought to the city some outstanding experts and lecturers on bird life.

The Club for years made an annual survey of local bird life, especially centering around Potter Swamp in Yates County. When the swamp was spoiled as a bird haven by being drained as a muck garden project, the survey was changed to the annual Spring Bird Census, and is continuing. The Club also participates annually in the Audubon Christmas Count. It keeps an accurate and complete record of bird residents and migrants, check-ups featuring all regular meetings.

When the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs was organized in 1947, the Eaton Bird Club participated in the initial meetings and shortly thereafter joined as a charter member. Today it is still continuing this most profitable association.

-- E. Thayles Emmons

Genesee Ornithological Society

The Genesee Ornithological Society was founded June 9, 1938 by 10 people meeting at the home of William L. G. Edson. The organization remained fairly small in the early days, meeting mainly at homes of the members. In 1946 the GOS was accepted into the Rochester Academy of Sciences as the Ornithological Section. Since that time the meetings have been held in the Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences, and at present there are about 90 members. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month from September through June, with at least one club field trip each month.

Among the noteworthy activities of the GOS are its publication, the Goshawk, which was started in 1948, and an Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Monroe County, by Ambrose Secker, which will soon be printed.

In June of 1949 several members of the GOS were instrumental in purchasing 84 acres of swampy woodland on Reed Road, south of Rochester. This was financed by contributions from members and other interested persons, and the area is now controlled by Bird Refuges, Inc. During the spring of 1951 a breeding-bird census was conducted on approximately 40 acres of the land. With the experience gained, better censuses will be taken in the future.

Other interesting activities of the Club have been the spring hawk migrations along the lakeshore, which were thoroughly investigated for the first time by Donald Bieber, Walter Listman, and Donald Wold in 1949 and 1950, and the gull-banding project at Henderson Harbor started in 1949 under the direction of Allan S. Klonick.

-- Gerhard W. Leubner, Secretary

Keuka Park Conservation Club

The Keuka Park Conservation Club was organized in 1934. For the initial efforts, credit goes to a local game protector, Eral Sutherland. The organization was most fortunate in having as members a number of naturalists who gave it wide interests. Among those who have contributed to the literature of the field are Verdi Burtch, Mae Baker, Hazel Ellis, Roland Hart, Nelson Jackson, Malcolm Lerch, Francis Orcutt, Robert St. John, Charles Spiker, and Berlin Wright. Kr. and Mrs. George Seymour have been active in building up the most complete herbarium of local plants in Yates County.

Since Keuka Park is a college community, several members of the faculty have contributed to the program. Frank Guthrie has been recorder for the bird group and has prepared reports each month for the Penn Yan Chronicle-Express. Contributions have been made by the Club in helping to buy valuable collections for the college, such as Flayhive Bird Collection, Stone Collection of eggs and shells, and Walcott Flower Prints.

Early it was recognized that steps should be taken to set aside good natural habitats for wildlife. In 1937 Keuka College consented to turn over a wooded area for such purposes. In 1951 the Club bought several acres of marsh at Branchport, at the end of Keuka Lake, as a memorial wildlife sanctuary in honor of the late Verdi Burtch.

The educational program has consisted of work with the rural schools, exhibits of bird nesting boxes and feeding trays, and poster material on wildflowers that need protection. Each year there have been several lectures at Keuka College by well-recognized naturalists.

-- Hazel R. Ellis, Chairman of Program

The Linnaean Society of New York

The Linnaean Society of New York was founded in 1878 by a group of naturalists that included such well-known figures as C. Hart Merriam, later to become the first Chief of the United States Biological Survey. From the beginning the Society was intended for those interested in any phase of natural history. In recent years its members have been primarily interested in bird study, although occasional programs relate to other phases of natural history.

The regular meetings of the Society are held at 8 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month from October through May, at the American Museum of Natural History. The annual meeting and dinner, with election of officers, is usually held in March at some suitable restaurant or hotel. During the summer months (June through September) informal meetings are held once each month, on the third Tuesday, at the Museum. The program of regular meetings vary in appeal from popular to technical. Guest speakers from many parts of the country appear before the Society. The programs are often illustrated by motion pictures or slides. The Linnaean Society sponsors field trips, and it is active in many ways in the study and protection of birds and other wildlife.

The Society issues three publications: Transactions, Proceedings, and News-Letter. The Transactions appear at irregular intervals and are intended for lengthy papers. They have included such important studies as the two volumes on the Song Sparrow by Mrs. Margaret M. Nice, for which she was awarded the Brewster Medal of the A. O. U.

The Proceedings contain shorter articles and notes on natural history as well as resumes of the activities of the Society. Ordinarily one number of the Proceedings is published annually, although recently this has not always been possible. The News-Letter is published monthly from October through June. It contains announcements of meetings and field trips, and other matters of current interest to the membership. Brief field notes are included. The News-Letter has been very popular.

Prospective members of the Linnaean Society must be known to at least two officers or two members of the Council. Persons living more than 50 miles from New York City may, if they prefer, apply for Associate rather than Active Membership; they need not be known personally to officers or council members. Regular meetings are open to all.

The Society has established an endowment fund, the proceeds of which are used for research and publication. There is also a special fund to enable the Society to maintain its activities at Great Gull Island, where a sea-bird sanctuary is administered jointly by the Linnaean Society and the American Museum of Natural History.

Naturalists' Club

The Naturalists' Club of the Triple Cities (Binghamton, Endicott, Johnson City) was organized in a Harpur College classroom at Endicott one evening in April, 1950. Some Harpur College instructors had been watching the Evening Grosbeaks so numerous throughout the community, and decided to translate their enthusiasm into something tangible. Although it was only a small group of people who responded to the notice of the first meeting, our membership has continued to grow so that it numbers about 50 at the present time.

As we began to meet we soon realized that our interests were not confined to birds alone but included all aspects of nature, and we hoped to attract to our organization everyone who would like to enjoy any of the out-of-doors with us. With this in mind we have tried to plan programs for our evening meetings, held once a month, in such a way as to appeal to every member's interest. We have had talks or pictures, sometimes both, telling about bird migration, nesting habits of shore birds, nature of plant life in our locality, effect of weather on wild life, and the like.

Another feature of our club program is our bird census, which we took the first Saturday in January this year. We also have Sunday-morning hikes in which 15 or 20 of our members participate. Since our Club has a membership largely of amateurs, we have not been disheartened when birds were scarce, because we have been learning to identify trees and studying animal tracks.

We felt that there must be many others in this area who might not be able to take field trips or attend meetings but who would like to share the pleasures of the out-of-doors with us. With these people in mind we brought a series of Audubon Screen Tours to Binghamton this past season. The success of our screen-tour program has made it possible for us to continue it another year.

-- Ada M. Carter

North Country Bird Club

The North Country Bird Club was organized at Watertown on October 9, 1948. Mrs. James A. Common took the lead in the formation of the Club, and served as its president until her death in January, 1950. The loss of Mrs. Common was a severe blow. For many years she had been a keen observer of nature, an active conservationist, writer and artist, and was the leading authority on bird life in the Watertown area.

At the time the Club was organized no active bird group existed in this part of the state, hence it was decided to form on a regional basis. There are now about 50 members living in Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence and Franklin Counties. An annual business meeting is held each fall, at which time officers for the ensuing year are elected. On two occasions this meeting has been combined with a field trip.

The Club conducts the annual Christmas Bird Count in Watertown. Field trips constitute the main activity. One of the many objectives is to explore the various bird habitats in the region.

-- John B. Belknap

Queens County Bird Club

As its name implies, the home territory of the Queens County Bird Club is in the outlying and rural eastern end of New York City, on Long Island, an area long famous for its excellent birding, being endowed with ample upland, hard woods, fresh-water lakes, salt marsh, fresh-water marsh, and open bays. The club has just completed its 20th anniversary, which makes it one of the oldest clubs in its area.

While the Club attempts to keep well informed as to the ornithology of its local area, it carries on an active field trip program aimed at birding in the choice locations on Long Island, such as Montauk Point, Orient Point, the outer strip including Fire Island, Jones Beach, and the Pine Barrens, and in the choice locations of the adjacent mainland, such as the Highlands at Bear Mountain and Fahnstock State Park, the Hudson River, and the inland marshes of New Jersey. It participates actively in the December Duck Census, and has conducted its Christmas Count for 20 years in the same 15-mile circle, one which reaches from Long Island Sound on the north to the ocean on the south, and is divided substantially equally between the rural sections of Queens County and the adjacent part of Nassau County. The Club concentrates on being extremely active along Long Island's ocean front, since all of New York State's oceanic bird life is confined to Long Island.

The Club has a carefully planned organization and aims to cooperate with, rather than compete with, neighboring organizations. It published its News and Notes monthly, except July and August, and distributes it to its members and associates. This paper keeps the members informed of all club matters, business as well as ornithological, and also disseminates a great deal of information regarding local natural history on Long Island, spreading broadly over all local fauna. Flora has been covered well by the Club by means of Kodachrome slides taken by members, of plants growing in their native state on the island.

-- Arthur T. Skopec, Secretary-Treasurer

Rockland Audubon Society

The Rockland Audubon Society, a branch of the National Audubon Society, was organized May 24, 1947. It includes all of Rockland County (194.15 square miles) in its territory; the entire county has a population of only 89,009.

The purpose of the Society is to study wild birds and other animals, plants, soil and water -- with particular attention to their interdependence; to protect these basic natural resources; to participate in local, state and national conservation projects; to promote such educational, legislative and other activities as will further these objectives.

During its first two years the Society put out four publications: "Bird Houses and Plantings to Attract Birds," "The Flowers That Bloom in the Spring in Rockland County," "Birds of Rockland County," and "Trails and Pleasant Walks in Rockland County." From the beginning the organization has published a quarterly, "The Rockland Audubon Observer."

The Society considers that one of its important functions is that of education. The purpose, as stated above, indicates that the Society is interested not only in birds but in all wildlife and the conservation of our natural resources. Therefore, in addition to the regular program of educational meetings and field trips the Society offers scholarships to National Audubon Camps, gives nature courses to leaders of youth groups, promotes Audubon Junior Clubs, and sponsors Audubon Screen Tours.

The Society also runs a weekly nature column in the only daily newspaper in the county. The column has a two-column box at the top, "Woods and Fields of Rockland County," the name of the organization, and the purpose of the Society. Our public relations with the newspapers are excellent. Our daily paper prints all our news. The five weekly newspapers are also cooperative. We have news stories and pictures in metropolitan papers, and have made the front page.

The Society has established a nature trail of 100 acres of county land. This is a cooperative project with the Rockland County Conservation Association. That Association has a demonstration woodlot on these 100 acres and, in time, with both organizations working together, we expect to have a nature center for the county here.

-- Mrs. William Gary Irving, President

Sassafras Bird Club

The Sassafras Bird Club, of Amsterdam, was formally organized March 27, 1933. It has pursued an active program, both indoors and out, for the past 19 years and has maintained an average membership of 175 adults. Established for the pleasure of its members, rather than the advancement of ornithology, its main lines of activity have been in the fields of conservation and education, with the Sassafras Bird Sanctuary a continuing project and challenge.

In pursuit of these broad aims it has promoted many types of activities -- conservation exhibits, prize contests, dramatics, reforestation projects, winter-feeding, nature trails, and close cooperation with Amsterdam's Public Schools Museum. Some of these, though successful at the time, for practical reasons have had to be discontinued, the Audubon Screen Tours being one of them. Others have been maintained year after year.

Cooperation with and contributions to national and state conservation organizations have been consistently a part of its program. Its relations with the National Audubon Society have been particularly enjoyable.

Cooperation with local youth groups has been another phase of its work, assisting the Girl Scouts to establish their permanent camp as a Lou Henry Hoover Memorial Conservation Project; and offering each year an Audubon Nature Camp scholarship to a candidate from one of the youth groups. For example, this year's recipient, our seventh, will be the County 4-H Club leader himself.

Our constitution, adopted in 1933, still reads: "The objects of this Club shall be the encouragement of interest in our natural heritage of wildlife -- birds, plants, trees and

animals; the stimulation of this interest through lectures, demonstrations, field trips, discussions and other available means; the conservation of birds and other natural resources both locally and in cooperation with national organizations; the preservation and maintenance of the Sassafras Bird Sanctuary and other refuge areas which may in the future become available."

-- Walter Elwood

Scarsdale Audubon Society, Inc.

The first meeting of the Scarsdale Audubon Society was held in the Scarsdale Village Hall in June, 1947. There were 19 persons present, either at the suggestion of John L. Wolff or in response to newspaper publicity. Richard H. Pough, research associate of the National Audubon Society, at the meeting gave suggestions as to organizations, projects, constitution and by-laws. At a second meeting on June 26, 14 persons were present. Both the affiliated and branch plans of memberships in the National Society were proposed; the group voted unanimously for the branch plan. It was also proposed that we should have associate members, who would be allowed local membership privileges, and junior members (under 15 years of age) who would not be allowed voting privileges.

The Society now has 192 members, including associates, junior, student, and branch members. The organization has abolished the classes of junior and associate members so far as new members are involved.

One of the most successful projects was that of raising money for feeding the waterfowl along the Westchester County Parkway between Bronxville and Scarsdale. By the very generous publicity given in the New York Times and the Westchester County press, we offered a receipt known as a Duck-U-Ment to anyone wishing to contribute 50 cents for the purpose of "adopting a duck." We raised sufficient funds to furnish duck food for four winters.

During the 1948-1949 season we had an Audubon Screen Tour series in Scarsdale. Two lectures were sponsored in 1951. This year, in Larch, "The Tawny Pipit" film was shown to raise funds for one or two scholarships at the Audubon Nature Camp in Maine in 1952. Three Society representatives have attended previous Maine camps.

The Society holds monthly meetings except in July and August, at which certain business and field notes are presented, as well as a lecture program. The annual meeting is in May. We have from one to three field trips per month, depending on the weather and birding possibilities. We publish a monthly (except July, August) mimeographed bulletin.

The Society helped staff a booth at the Westchester County Flower Show some years ago, and one of our members arranged for staffing the booth of the National Audubon Society at the International Flower Show in Grand Central Palace in Larch. Delegates from various Audubon branches in the metropolitan area volunteered their services. We maintained a nature trail along the Bronx River Parkway for some time.

-- Elizabeth S. Manning, Secretary

Schenectady Bird Club, Inc.

Schenectady Bird Club, Inc., encourages the study and appreciation of birds; the collection and publication of information on the subject, particularly with regard to local territory; and conservation of bird life. Classes in bird study and frequent field trips, together with illustrated talks by competent authorities on bird life, constitute important phases of Club activities. Advice is available on feeding stations, nesting houses, natural food sources, and the like, as well as help in problems of identification.

Members receive FEATHERS, the Club publication, each of the twelve months (This is the April, 1952 issue of FEATHERS) The magazine helps keep membership in touch with latest developments in bird lore, especially local. FEATHERS is augmented by a monthly supplement covering announcements and items of current interest.

Bulletins issued from time to time go into detail about habits and local distribution of different birds -- the Pileated Woodpecker, Purple Martin, Evening Grosbeak, and the Warblers have been so handled. Other Bulletins have summarized local bird records. The most recent Bulletin is the S B C Baedeker for the ten counties of eastern New York. Local check lists are issued.

Along with frequent meetings for Club members, there are one or two meetings each year with prominent outside speakers, with the meetings open to the public, and with Club members admitted free or at reduced cost. The seventh consecutive series of Audubon Screen Tours has just been completed, and the eighth is planned for 1952-1953.

Schenectady Bird Club was organized in 1939, and became Schenectady Bird Club, Inc. in 1948. It is a charter member of the State Federation, and actively supports the work of conservation groups and other bird clubs. Its membership is not limited to Schenectady County -- Albany, Rensselaer and Saratoga Counties are each represented by several members who participate prominently in Club activities. Its membership is relatively small -- fewer than 100 active members, and about 125 total memberships. Territorially, it embraces in its records the Counties of Albany, Columbia, Fulton, Greene, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, and Washington.

Watkins-Montour Bird Club

The first meeting of the Watkins Bird Club, as it was originally named, was held in 1914. The hostess, Mrs. James A. Hope, the president, Miss H. Bess Hope (deceased) and secretary-treasurer, Miss Grace L. White, were the organizers. There were 11 charter members; three -- Miss Grace L. White, Mrs. Nancy White and Mrs. James A. Hope -- are active in the club today. Five of the charter members are now honorary members.

From the beginning, meetings have been held at the homes of members on the first Friday of the month. Original papers, articles and interesting bird reports at roll call feature the meetings. An annual winter picnic supper (for-

merly an outdoor meeting) is held in February. Speakers and sometimes colored slides are obtained for this meeting. The Christmas Party also features guest speakers and an exchange of gifts for the birds. Some members, under the leadership of Miss Louise Helfer, participate in the annual Christmas Count.

At special meetings we have enjoyed outstanding ornithologists: Dr. Arthur A. Allen, Allen Cruickshank, Carl W. Buchheister, Professor Paul Kellogg, Dr. Hazel Ellis, and many others.

Bird walks have been and are taken in local birding areas, including Watkins Glen State Park, the adjoining cemetery, Seneca Lake front, Hidden Glen (upper glen), and the local marsh. Longer field trips are taken to Montezuma Marsh, Potter Swamp, and Cayuga Lake, all within easy driving distance. As an incentive for more active birding, the late Hon. Seaman F. Northrop offered prizes for the longest bird lists. This custom is still carried out from time to time.

The Club cooperates with the Department of Ornithology, Cornell University, by sending in information requested on their radio program, "Know Your Birds," over Station WHCU.

An associate club, a Junior Audubon Club, was organized in 1951 to study all phases of nature and conservation.

The Watkins-Montour Bird Club is affiliated with the National Audubon Society and the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, and it entertained the 1950 convention of the Federation.

We are proud of having a member of our Club, Miss Helfer, as present corresponding secretary of the Federation.

The present membership of the Club is 62, including 39 active, 14 associate, and 9 honorary.

-- Jamesine Hope Bardeen

Other Member Clubs

The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs included a total of twenty-one member clubs at the time the call was issued for the 1952 convention at Schenectady on May 24 and 25, 1952.

Brief descriptions of eighteen of the Clubs have been given in this issue of FEATHERS. Information was requested from the other three clubs, but was not received in time for inclusion.

Also maintaining membership in the Federation are these three additional clubs:

BALDWIN BIRD CLUB, with members in Freeport, Garden City, Floral Park, Rockville Center, Baldwin, and other communities in that area of Long Island.

BLUE HERON AUDUBON CLUB, with headquarters at Stony Brook, Long Island.

NORTHPORT VETERANS HOSPITAL BIRD CLUB, Northport, L. I.; Sponsored by Baldwin Bird Club.

Federation Officers, 1952

Eugene Eisenmann	New York City	President
Harold D. Mitchell	Buffalo	Vice-president
Albert W. Fudge	Elmira	Recording Secretary
Miss Louise Helfer	Watkins Glen	Corresponding Secretary
Mrs. W. B. English	Amsterdam	Treasurer

Member ClubsPage Member Club

- 27 Baldwin Bird Club, Baldwin, L.I.
- 15 Bedford Audubon Society, Bedford
- 27 Blue Heron Audubon Society, Stony Brook, L. I.
- 16 Brooklyn Bird Club, Brooklyn
- 16 Buffalo Audubon Society, Inc., Buffalo
- 17 Buffalo Ornithological Society, Buffalo
- 18 Burroughs Audubon Nature Club, Rochester
- 18 Chemung Valley Audubon Society, Elmira
- 19 Eaton Bird Club, Geneva
- 20 Genesee Ornithological Society, Rochester
- 20 Keuka Park Conservation Club, Penn Yan
- 21 The Linnaean Society of New York, New York City
- 22 Naturalists' Club of the Triple Cities, Endicott
- 22 North Country Bird Club, Watertown
- 27 Northport Veterans Hospital Bird Club, Northport, L.I.
- 23 Queens County Bird Club, Queens County
- 23 Rockland Audubon Society, Nyack
- 24 Sassafras Bird Club, Amsterdam
- 25 Scarsdale Audubon Society, Inc., Scarsdale
- 26 Schenectady Bird Club, Inc., Schenectady
- 26 Watkins-Montour Bird Club, Watkins Glen



FEATHERS

Published by Schenectady Bird Club, Inc.

Vol.14 No.5

May, 1952



Schenectady introduced something novel so far as Federation field trips have been concerned. All previous convention trips have been conducted in fair weather -- monotonously so. Something far different was inaugurated this year with rain in advance of and during and following the trip.

The birders accepted the challenge -- the 5 a.m. breakfast on Sunday played to a full house. Admittedly, species recorded were fewer, and not all those sought were found; even so, there were items of interest.

The steady downpour on Sunday, May 25, failed to daunt some 65 enthusiastic birders who met at 6 a.m. at the Central Park pavilion for the two formally planned trips. One of these included Vischer Ponds and Niskayuna Wide Waters, and the other incorporated Meadowdale, Indian Ladder, and Karners.

Several impromptu, fair-weather trips were made on Saturday to the Ponds, while other parties visited the Wide Waters, the Delmar Game Farm, and Mrs. Grace's Sanctuary. And bird-recording went right on during the Council meeting of Saturday morning, with Crested Flycatchers, Vireos, Waxwings and other species clamoring for attention just outside the Edison Club windows.

Each day's list featured a locally rare species. There was a Yellow-crowned Night Heron at the Ponds on Saturday; and five Ruddy Turnstones, as well as three Red-backed Sandpipers in the same area on Sunday.

The totals for the two days were 88 on Saturday, 87 on Sunday; with the week-end list 107 kinds. In the following table the key is:

A	Vischer Ponds, Saturday, May 24
B	Niskayuna Wide Waters, Saturday, May 24
C	Delmar and Slingerlands, Saturday, May 24
D	Meadowdale, Indian Ladder and Karners, Sunday, May 25
E	Vischer Ponds and Niskayuna, Sunday, May 25

This special issue of FEATHERS reports on, and goes to those attending the Fifth Annual Convention, Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, held at Schenectady, New York, on May 24 and 25, 1952

FEDERATION FIELD TRIPS, SCHENECTADY, MAY 24 and 25, 1952

Pied-billed Grebe	A	E	Catbird	A	C	D	E					
Green Heron	A	D	E	Brown Thrasher			D	E				
Black-cr. Night Heron	A	B	E	American Robin	A	B	C	D	E			
Yellow-cr. Night Heron	A			Wood Thrush	A		C	D	E			
Mallard	A		E	Veery				D	E			
Black Duck	A	B	D	E	Eastern Bluebird		B	C	D			
Blue-winged Teal	A		E	Cedar Waxwing	A				E			
Sharp-shinned Hawk			D	Common Starling	A	B	C	D	E			
Cooper's Hawk	A			Yellow-throated Vireo	A	B		D	E			
Red-shouldered Hawk		C		Red-eyed Vireo	A	B	C	D	E			
Marsh Hawk			D	Philadelphia Vireo					D			
Sparrow Hawk	A			Warbling Vireo	A			D	E			
Ring-necked Pheasant			D	E	Black and White Warbler	A			D	E		
Virginia Rail			D	Golden-winged Warbler	A				D	E		
Sora			D	Blue-winged Warbler	A							
Florida Gallinule	A	B	D	E	Tennessee Warbler	A						
American Coot				E	Parula Warbler					D		
Ringed Plover			D	E	Yellow Warbler	A	B	C	D	E		
Killdeer	A	C	D	E	Magnolia Warbler	A						
Ruddy Turnstone				E	Cape May Warbler	A						
Spotted Sandpiper	A	B	C	D	E	Chestnut-sided Warbler	A			D	E	
Solitary Sandpiper	A				Bay-breasted Warbler	A						
Least Sandpiper	A			E	Black-poll Warbler	A				D		
Red-backed Sandpiper	A			E	Pine Warbler					D		
Semipalmated Sandpiper				D	Prairie Warbler					D		
Herring Gull	A	B	D	E	Oven-bird	A				D	E	
Bonaparte's Gull		B			Northern Waterthrush	A				D	E	
Common Tern		B			Common Yellowthroat	A		C	D	E		
Black Tern				D	E	Canada Warbler	A					
Mourning Dove	A	B	C	D	E	Redstart	A				D	E
Chimney Swift	A	C	D	E	House Sparrow	A	B	C	D	E		
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird			C		Bobolink	A	B	C	D	E		
Belted Kingfisher	A	C	D	E	Eastern Meadowlark	A		C	D	E		
Yellow-shafted Flicker	A	B	C	D	E	Red-winged Blackbird	A	B	C	D	E	
Hairy Woodpecker			C		Baltimore Oriole	A	B	C	D	E		
Downy Woodpecker	A	C	D		Purple Grackle			B	C	D	E	
Eastern Kingbird	A			D	E	Brown-headed Cowbird	A	B	C	D	E	
Crested Flycatcher	A	C	D	E	Scarlet Tanager	A				D		
Eastern Phoebe	A	C	D	E	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	A				D		
Traill's Flycatcher	A			D	Indigo Bunting	A	B	C	D			
Least Flycatcher	A	C		E	Purple Finch	A		C				
Eastern Wood Pewee	A	C	D	E	Pine Siskin	A						
Horned Lark			B		American Goldfinch	A	B	C	D	E		
Tree Swallow	A	B	C	D	E	Eastern Towhee					D	
Bank Swallow	A	B		D	E	Savannah Sparrow	A	B		D	E	
Rough-winged Swallow	A	B		E	Grasshopper Sparrow						D	
Barn Swallow	A	C	D	E	Henslow's Sparrow						D	E
Cliff Swallow			C	D	E	Vesper Sparrow				C	D	E
Blue Jay			C	D	E	Chipping Sparrow	A		C	D	E	
American Crow	A	B	C	D	E	Field Sparrow					D	
Black-capped Chickadee	A	C	D	E	White-crowned Sparrow				C			
White-breasted Nuthatch	A	C			Swamp Sparrow	A				D	E	
House Wren	A	C	D	E	Song Sparrow	A	B	C	D	E		
Long-billed Marsh Wren	A			D								

-- Compiled by Frazer R. Turrentine, SBC Records Committee, and Chairman for Federation Field Trip

HEALTHY FEDERATION GROWTH IS REPORTED

Twenty-five clubs distributed throughout New York State, representing approximately 3,000 members, now belong to the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Miss Audrey L. Wrede, membership committee chairman, reported at the Fifth Annual Council Meeting of the Federation, held at the Edison Club, Schenectady, May 24, 1952. Five clubs were newly voted in:

Bedford Audubon Society
Naturalists' Club (Binghamton, Endicott, Johnson City)
Onondaga Audubon Society (Syracuse)
Staten Island Bird and Nature Club
Sullivan County Audubon Society

More than 50 applications for individual membership were also accepted.

Sixteen organizations, with 24 delegates, answered the roll call of member clubs when President Eugene Eisenmann called the meeting to order at 9:50 a.m. Incidentally, total registration of members and guests for the general meeting and dinner was 161. All officers and committee chairmen registered, and all committees met Friday or early Saturday.

New Membership Classes

Unanimous adoption was given the amendment to Chapter 1, Section 6, of the By-laws. It was previously sanctioned by two-thirds vote of member clubs. The amendment reads:

"There shall be six classes of Individual Members whose rights and privileges shall be the same except for a difference in dues: Annual Members, dues \$2 per year; Sustaining Members, \$5 per year; Supporting Members, dues \$10 per year; Life Members, dues \$100 payable at one time; Patrons, dues \$500 payable at one time; Founders, dues \$1,000 payable at one time. For those classes of members paying annual dues, such dues shall be payable on March 1 of each year, except in the year of election to membership, when such dues shall be payable one month after notice of election."

Conservation Liaison

An engineer has been appointed by the State Superintendent of Public Works to act as liaison officer between the Department and a committee representing the State Conservation Council, Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Federation of Garden Clubs, Izaak Walton League, and others.

H. Everest Clements, 1116 Sibley Tower Building, Rochester, was appointed to represent the Federation on this committee. Clubs with local problems having to do with the State Department of Public Works should contact Mr. Clements to present their case to the committee.

Samuel Madison, Conservation Committee chairman, presented the committee report and urged the clubs to follow thru on Conservation Bulletins with letters to Albany. His report on legislative matters showed continuing progress.

The Bald Eagle has been given partial protection in Alaska. A resolution was adopted commending Oscar Chapman, Sec-

retary of the Interior, for this order, while expressing hope full protection will be forthcoming

Howard Cleaves described the destruction of Staten Island ponds which are being used as garbage dumps by the New York City Sanitary Commission. The council passed a motion opposing such dumps. A like resolution was adopted concerning a similar situation near Buffalo.

State Book Needed

There is need for a new State Bird Book, it was reported by the committee which has been studying this subject. The present thinking of the committee is that several editors should handle different phases of the work, such as ecological data, migration, breeding-bird data, etc. Subcommittees were named to undertake studies of: (1) a basis for regional division of the state; (2) methods of reporting, and standards for censorship, of reports; and (3) the mechanics of handling the material and contacting the clubs. Each member club was asked to name a representative to serve as a contact for this committee, which is headed by Dr. Gordon S. Meade, Trudeau Sanitorium, Trudeau.

Success of THE KINGBIRD depends on individual memberships in the Federation, Allan Klonick, editor, pointed out in a report read at the meeting by President Eisenmann. Discussion of the content and format disclosed general satisfaction in the present plan of publication. An invitation was extended for the contribution of articles, including those of popular interest.

A Baedeker of Birding Areas in New York State was urged by Miss Hazel Ellis, Publications and Research Committee chairman. Local clubs were asked to submit maps and checklists for their own territories; seven clubs reported progress on this project. Miss Ellis also urged delegates to arrange for copies of club publications to be sent to her.

Officers Elected

The slate of officers presented by the Nominating Committee was unanimously elected for 1953:

President: Eugene Eisenmann, The Linnaean Society of New York
Vice Pres: Harold D. Mitchell, Buffalo Ornithological Society
Corr. Sec: Miss Louise Helfer, Watkins-Montour Bird Club
Rec. Sec.: Mrs. Frances Irving, Rookland Audubon Society
Treasurer: Mrs. William G. English, Sassafras Bird Club

Miss Ellis, Robert Arbib, Jr., and Dr. Neil Moon were elected to the nominating committee; the Council unanimously recommended that the committee govern its selections entirely on the basis of ability, without regard to club or district representation.

Winston W. Brockner and Guy Bartlett were named auditors. The "where and when" for the next annual meeting will be decided later by the Federation officers.

Adjournment of the Council Meeting of the Federation was at 1 p.m.

-- Adapted from the minutes of the Council Meeting as reported by Albert Fudge, Recording Secretary

THOSE WHO SIGNED THE REGISTER:

The registration book contained the names of 161 members and guests attending the fifth annual meeting. Naturally Schenectady Bird Club, Inc. had the highest registration; 72 of its members participated. There were several clubs with high listings; and some were penalized on the book because of dual memberships. Both Buffalo and Rochester have two organizations, and the Linnaean Society similarly has members who belong to local clubs.

Twenty clubs, out of a total of 25 when including the newly elected clubs, signed the register. Only Baldwin, Bedford, Blue Heron, Northport Veterans, and Queens were not represented. Included in those present were:

Brooklyn Bird Club: Elizabeth Feldhausen, Audrey L. Wrede

Buffalo Audubon Society: W. H. Almendinger, Anne M. Broadbent, Frances Polson, Helen Mintz, Helen Nowacki

Buffalo Ornithological Society: Arthur C. Brettle, Marion Brettle, Winston W. Brockner, Mrs. Winston W. Brockner, Mrs. J. A. Creighton, Mrs. R. Gardner Griffin, Meredith Lovelace, Harold D. Mitchell, Edwin C. Ulrich, Mrs. Edwin C. Ulrich.

Burroughs-Audubon Nature Club (Rochester): Robert G. McKinney, Dr. Neil Moon, Mrs. Neil Moon

Cayuga Bird Club: Peter Paul Kellogg, Kenneth C. Parkes, Robert W. Robinson

Chemung Valley Audubon Society: Marguerite Campbell, Albert Fudge, Vera Fudge, Lois R. Tomlinson

Eaton Bird Club (Geneva): Lucy F. Austin, Jason A. Walker, Loren D. Ward, Mrs. Loren D. Ward, E. Rosannah Wilson

Genesee Ornithological Society (Rochester): John Blackmer, Pauline Blackmer, H. Everest Clements, Mrs. James H. Davis, Robert T. Dobson, Milton Goff, Mrs. Milton Goff, Reginald W. Hartwell, Gerhard W. Leubner, Dr. Gordon S. Meade, Martin I. Sickels, Arthur Tanghe, Dr. Leo J. Tanghe, Mrs. Leo J. Tanghe

Keuka Park Conservation Club: Hazel R. Ellis, Francis H. Orcutt

The Linnaean Society of New York: Robert S. Arbib, Mrs. Robert S. Arbib, Eugene Eisenmann, Richard A. Herbert, Mrs. Kathleen Skelton

Naturalists' Club (Binghamton, Endicott, Johnson City): Mrs. Russell Easton, Gerald R. Rising

North Country Bird Club (Watertown): John B. Belknap

Onondaga Audubon Society (Syracuse): William F. Minor, W. B. Salim

Rockland Audubon Society, Inc.: Dr. Marjorie K. Hopper, Mrs. William G. Irving

Sassafras Bird Club (Amsterdam): Carrie A. Brown, Marguerite Caldwell, Lucy J. Collins, Dr. Marion Collins,

Florence DeGraff, Walter Elwood, Mrs. William English, Mrs. Gerald Fitzgerald, Ethel Gordon, Harriette Hastings, Daniel Kinsman, Mrs. Alida Lasher, Sara McGleary, Dorothy G. Niles, Mrs. W. B. Powell, Hazel B. Rosa, Leila Thielking.

Scarsdale Audubon Society, Inc.: Myrtle B. Hastings, Watson B. Hastings

Schenectady Bird Club, Inc.: 72 registrants from Albany, Alplaus, Altamont, Ballston Lake, Corinth, Delmar, Elsmere, Gallupville, Rensselaer, Schenectady, and Scotia

Staten Island Bird and Nature Club: Howard Cleaves

Sullivan County Audubon Society: Kenneth D. Niven, Norma Niven

Watkins-Montour Bird Club: Louise Helfer, Mrs. Albert Smith, Mrs. Lucy Viglione, Madge S. Woodward

Individual Members: Mrs. Charles B. Andrews, Clinton, N.J.; Minot Ortolani, Buffalo; Ralph S. Palmer, Albany

VARIETY OF INTERESTS FEATURES GENERAL PAPERS

A wide variety of interests was covered in the series of ten papers and two dinner talks presented at the Fifth Annual General Meeting of the Federation, held Saturday afternoon and evening, May 24. Dr. Minnie B. Scotland of S B C, professor of biology at State College, Albany, presided as Program Chairman of the afternoon session; Barrington S. Havens, S B C, was toastmaster at the dinner.

Beaver Meadow

Western New York has a new Audubon sanctuary, the Beaver Meadow Wildlife Refuge. It was described by W. H. Almen-dinger of Buffalo Audubon Society. He related the circumstances which led to the acquisition of the property, told about some of the plans for its future, and reported on the flora and fauna as recorded during the first sanctuary year.

Verdi Burtch Memorial

There are questions and problems when a club becomes a sanctuary owner and operator, Francis H. Orcutt of Keuka Park Conservation Club pointed out. About a year ago the club purchased the marsh in back of the lifelong Verdi Burtch residence at Branchport, and established it as a sanctuary. Clubs contemplating similar acquisitions will find considerable help in the complete paper as presented by Mr. Orcutt.

Gull Populations

Gulls of the St. Lawrence and of Lake Ontario have been under observation for years; John D. Belknap of North Country Bird Club has been one of the prime movers in these studies. He has previously reported on his findings, both at Federation meetings and in the pages of THE KINGBIRD. In this paper Mr. Belknap briefly reviewed the history of the breeding gulls, Ring-billed and Herring, in northeastern Lake Ontario. Four islands are the principal colony sites,

and the nesting Ring-billed Gulls are really concentrated on them. Mr. Belknap described the method used in making population counts, and pointed out the limitations; counts from May, 1950, to date were presented. His paper also dealt with feeding habits in northern New York, and with the winter distribution of the species in eastern United States.

Bird-banding

Thirty-nine Baltimore Orioles were banded in two seasons at Bird Haven by Mrs. Gerald Fitzgerald of Sassafras Bird Club (and of SBC). Twelve hundred Evening Grosbeaks were banded there during the 1951-1952 winter, she reported. Records of returns and of "foreigners", observations concerning changes in plumage and in color of the beak, evidence of territorialism, and activities during mating season were among the items included in Mrs. Fitzgerald's talk, as well as the history of Snowball, an albino Robin.

Tape Recordings

Many of those at the afternoon meeting heard a bird song with which they were not familiar; others found it possible to identify the bird readily. The bird had been singing at Rochester earlier this year. It was a Western Meadowlark, so like the eastern species in appearance but so different in voice. Again, the audience was asked to contribute some imitations of bird songs. They did, and moments later were able to listen to their imitations. John Blackmer and Reginald W. Hartwell of Genesee Ornithological Society were demonstrating the tape recorder which they had adapted for use in recording bird songs in the field.

Detailed information and diagrams were presented to show that "anyone can set up a similar apparatus at a price no greater than that of a good camera, and that no more than average ability is required" -- but Mr. Hartwell did point out that the ideal situation is to have one ornithologist and one radio engineer for the working team. Their equipment can be used in the field, away from power lines, since it has been adapted, by means of a power converter, to work from 6-volt storage-battery power to provide the required 110-volt, 60-cycle current. Since a preamplifier is used, bird calls can be picked up at considerable distance from the microphone. The equipment is easily transported in an automobile.

It was suggested that there will be scientific value in bird-song recordings made by people in different localities, and that records may be labeled and filed, much like a collection of bird skins.

Advances in Song Studies

Advances in song studies and recording methods have been many and important, Dr. Peter Paul Kellogg of Cayuga Bird Club emphasized. Early recordings called for bulky equipment, elaborate set-ups, and exacting conditions for operation. Today the story is different, and even more simple recording methods are being developed, he said. A new song record of Florida birds, including the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, was announced by Dr. Kellogg. It was suggested that still other records restricted to birds of a state or particular region be issued.

Schenectady Bird Club, Inc.

Guy Bartlett Editor
1053 Parkwood Blvd.Flash Photography

An ample amount and proper quality of light are required for good color photography of birds, Milton R. Goff of Genesee Ornithological Society pointed out. Photoflash lamps of both the conventional and electronic types answer the specifications. Mr. Goff described a basic two-lamp set-up in which the main front lighting is supplemented by a secondary back light, presented a graphical method for determining lamp position, and explained the use of simple artificial backgrounds to relieve dark background typical of most flash photographs.

Roosting Grosbeaks

How in a series of late afternoon and early morning observations he was able to track a flock of Evening Grosbeaks to their roost in woods miles from his feeding station was narrated by Stephen C. Fordham, Jr., of SBC. His paper also briefly reviewed the history of Evening Grosbeak movements in the northeast, particularly in this state, and presented observations and comments about the food, migration, and meeting and roosting habits of the species.

The Snowy Owl

Some of the age-old superstitions about owls and some of the life history of the Snowy Owl were included in the paper prepared by Eleanor Roberts of Watkins-Lontour Bird Club. There was, as well, a plea for complete protection of the Snowy Owl in this state.

At the Dinner

Guest speaker at the dinner was Morris Mandel Cohn, City Manager of Schenectady. He spoke, however, not as manager but as New York State Commissioner and Chairman, Northeast Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission, with "Water Conservation Policies in New York State" as his subject.

Mr. Cohn emphasized that water conservation -- both protection of water resources and correction of pollution problems -- is a subject of which state and national legislative bodies are well aware, and that each succeeding year will see real advances in conservation. Conservationists must remain alert, he emphasized.

"Animals Are Exciting" was the subject of a new color film presented by Howard Cleaves, Staten Island. His story of the story behind the scenes was particularly interesting.

Mr. Cleaves was also the Hopper who presented membership cards to two new members of HOPS, Messrs. Kellogg and Brockner. Membership in HOPS, or Human Ornithological Perch Society, to spell it out, is limited to those who have served as a perch for a mature, wild bird subject to no restraint.

Held over from the afternoon session was "Pause in Review" by Winston W. Brockner of Buffalo Ornithological Society. It included a collection of photographs in color showing field trips of all previous Federation meetings.

Sunday luncheon at Tippecanoe was entirely informal, and marked the completion of the planned program of this, the Fifth Federation Convention. Toward evening the rain was no more.



Published by Schenectady Bird Club, Inc.

Vol.14 No.6

June, 1952

EUROPEAN WIDGEON FEATURES FIELD TRIPS

S B C field trips between mid-March and early June accounted for 120 species -- leaving out of the figuring the two really big trips, the Century Run and the Federation week-end. Twelve trips were scheduled, but one -- to Water-vliet Reservoir on April 5 -- was cancelled by the weather.

Highlighting the trips was either the recording of the European Widgeon or the total absence of owls. That absence of owls on field trips seems, however, to be routine. The list included the Mute Swan, Canada Goose and 17 species of ducks; and seven kinds each of hawks and flycatchers.

It Was Windy and Cold

McCormack Road, March 16

Seventeen S B C members met at McCormack Road and New Scotland Avenue, Albany, on a very windy and cold March 16. Even the expected common birds were not to be found, to say nothing of getting such as the Snow Buntings and Pileated Woodpeckers that were observed on the Friday before in the area. However, a Blue Jay and three Mourning Doves gave a moment of encouragement. With nothing more to count, the party drove on to the Delmar Game Farm.

This was a wise decision because on the way seven of the group saw 27 Cedar Waxwings, a Gray Shrike, a Sparrow Hawk, and three American Mergansers, while the rest spotted a Red-tailed Hawk. At the Game Farm the birds were plentiful. There were Evening Grosbeaks, Juncos, Tree Sparrows, Chickadees, White-breasted Nuthatches, Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, Blue Jays and Crows. Including the Starling and House Sparrow, the count for the morning trip reached 17 species.
-- Dr. Minnie B. Scotland, Leader

Singing Creeper

Campbell-Schermerhorn, March 23

A Mute Swan and a singing Brown Creeper featured the trip of March 23 along Campbell Road, Ten Broeck Street, and Collins Lake. The Creeper was at the old Campbell farm. Since Schermerhorn Road was closed to traffic, the trip was continued in Scotia. The Mute Swan took off from the river near Sanders Avenue, as did some American Mergansers. At the foot of Ten Broeck Street were about 40 Herring and 10 Ring-billed Gulls. By then it was raining so hard the trip was concluded. Madison, Fordham and Stone stopped at Collins Lake on their way home and added a Great Blue Heron. The list reached 21 kinds.

-- Esly Hallenbeck

Geese and DucksSaratoga Lake, March 30

The Canada Goose and ten species of ducks were accounted for on the field trip of March 30 to Saratoga Lake. Black Ducks predominated, and American Golden-eyes were second in abundance. Included in the list of 42 species were one each of Rusty Blackbird and Fox Sparrow.

-- Leon A. Wiard

Quality, Not QuantityTomhannock, April 12

The Tomhannock trip scheduled for Saturday, April 12, produced a list of 43 species. Despite the fine weather -- a clear but somewhat cool day -- only seven persons attended. The bulk of the trip's list was accumulated in the area from Clums Corners via the tamarack swamps to the reservoir.

At Tomhannock the water birds were few in quantity, though fairly well distributed as to species. The Loon, three species of grebes, and eight of ducks were counted. It was a fair day for hawks; nearly as many defied identification because of height and distance as were successfully "pinned down."

-- Byron T. Hipple, Jr.

Straggler from AbroadVischer Ponds, April 20

Several who were on the Vischer Ponds field trip of April 20 already had seen the European Widgeon on the ponds this year. A special effort was made on the trip to locate the bird, a full-plumaged male, and success was ours at last.

Birding was not bad, in spite of a high wind. While the European bird featured the list, a Gadwall was also one of particular interest. The day's total, 49 species.

-- Dorothy Sawyer

Late LeaderCentral Park, April 27

The leader of this trip, attended by a half dozen birders, showed up late. At 4:52 a.m. that morning he had located an Evening Grosbeak roost near Lawson's Lake. The park offered nothing unusual in its 34 species; Brown Thrashers and Red-breasted Nuthatches were conspicuous, and Field Sparrows heard almost continuously.

-- Stephen C. Fordham

And BreakfastCentral Park, May 4

Probably the annual breakfast did not bring out the birds but it did bring out the birders. And those who arrived early accounted for 39 species. Included were a Sharpshinned and two Broad-winged Hawks; a few warblers, including three Pines; four Evening Grosbeaks; and a variety of sparrows.

-- Esly Hallenbeck

Heard at DuskRiver Road, May 7

It was a cold, November-like evening May 7 when six die-hard members of S B C sought the Woodcock and Whip-poor-will. Leaving the city before sunset they headed toward the junction of Rosendale and River Roads. The rollicking song of a Rose-breasted Grosbeak held them several minutes until the singer was spotted in some maples. Then the trip continued

directly to the selected spot to enjoy, if one could endure the cold wind, the evening songs of some of the birds. The ardent watchers were not disappointed; songs of several were audible above the worst of the wind. As the cold colors of the sunset faded into the somber evening the "peent" ground note of the Woodcock was heard. More and more "peent" notes were heard, and then off he soared, holding the cold folk spellbound with his beautiful, liquid flight song. This was interrupted by the call of the Whip-poor-will. It was not necessary to continue to Vley Road to listen for and perhaps not hear the Whip-poor-will there, so home the watchers came. Species listed: 19.

-- Beatrice Sullivan

It RainedLadder-Meadowdale, May 11.

Although scheduled as an Indian Ladder S B C trip, the "multitude" were rained out on May 11. Sam Madison and the leader comprised the total in the group. Enroute home, after trying to dodge successive showers while locating birds, we came to the point where a few more rain drops on sodden clothes would make no difference. Continuing in that enlightened spirit, 42 species were recorded, including the Scarlet Tanager and, in greater numbers, the Goldfinch, Wood Thrush, and Catbird. A pair of Canada Geese were on the Blessing Farm, New Scotland.

-- Stephen C. Fordham

Olive-sidedKarners, May 30

The annual Karners trip of Memorial Day had seven observers, including the leader. The unusual species heard were the Black-billed Cuckoo and the "hic, three beers" of the Olive-sided Flycatcher. Prairie and Pine Warblers were studied in adjacent trees. The birds seemed to stay put for a long time, affording everyone a leisurely look.

Members also had the opportunity to look into the nests of Towhee, Field Sparrow, and Chickadee. The group went down into the ravine, but no Chat was to be found; the Canada Warbler did make a showing, however. All in all, the trip was a great success, with 36 species seen or heard.

-- Edward D. Treacy

Full ReservoirAlcove, June 8

At 8 o'clock Sunday morning, June 8, four birders met with the leader in Albany. Soon two cars were off to Route 32 which leads to Alcove Reservoir. After the first causeway, a turn left on the dirt road led through less-frequented area and among mixed forest growth. By leaving the cars at various spots and walking up into the woods or clearings the list grew to 57 species. The reservoir was so full that ducks were scarce; only two Blacks were seen, in flight. About 40 miles were traveled, mainly over Routes 143 and 32.

The group met with wives and children at the ball park, where 14 enjoyed picnic lunches in a shady, protected spot. There were no special bird treats. It was a glorious day, however, to be out and to enjoy the sights, sounds and scents of nature.

-- Pauline E. Baker

Those Recorded

120 Species

A March 16, McCormack Road
 B March 23, Campbell-Scher.
 C March 30, Saratoga Lake
 D April 12, Tomhannock
 E April 20, Vischer Ponds
 F April 27, Central Park
 G May 4, Park Breakfast

H May 7, Dusk Songs
 I May 11, Ladder - Meadowdale
 J May 30, Karners
 K June 8, Alcove Reservoir

ABCD EFGH IJK

Common Loon	d			
Red-necked Grebe	d			
Horned Grebe	d			
Fied-billed Grebe	d	e		
Great Blue Heron	b	e		
Green Heron			i	k
Black-cr. Night Heron		e	h	
American Bittern		e		i
Mute Swan	b			i
Canada Goose	c			
Mallard	cd	e		
Black Duck	cd	e		k
Gadwall		e		
European Widgeon		e		
American Widgeon		e		
Pintail	d			
Green-winged Teal		e		
Blue-winged Teal		e		
Wood Duck	c			
Ring-necked Duck	cd	e		
Greater Scaup	c			
Lesser Scaup	c			
American Golden-eye	cd			
Barrow's Golden-eye	c			
Buffle-head	cd			
American Merganser	abcd			
Red-breasted Merganser	d			
Sharp-shinned Hawk	d		g	
Red-tailed Hawk	a cd			k
Red-shouldered Hawk	c	e		jk
Broad-winged Hawk			g	
Marsh Hawk	cd	e		
Osprey		e		
Sparrow Hawk	a cd	ef		ijk
Ring-necked Pheasant	bcd	ef		ijk
Killdeer	c	fg		ijk
American Woodcock			h	
Spotted Sandpiper				ijk
Herring Gull	bcd	e		
Ring-billed Gull	b	e		
Mourning Dove	a cd	efgh		ijk
Black-billed Cuckoo			i	
Whip-poor-will			h	
Chimney Swift				ijk
Belted Kingfisher	cd	efg		k
Yellow-shafted Flicker	bc	efgh		ijk
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		e		
Hairy Woodpecker	ab	f		
Downy Woodpecker	abcd	efg		ijk
Eastern Kingbird				ijk
Crested Flycatcher				ijk
Eastern Phoebe	cd	efgh		jk
Trail's Flycatcher				k
Least Flycatcher				jk
Eastern Wood Pewee				k
Olive-sided Flycatcher				j
Horned Lark		f		

Tree Swallow		cd	e	h	k
Rough-winged Swallow					i
Barn Swallow			gh		ijk
Blue Jay	abcd		fg		ijk
American Crow	abcd		efgh		ijk
Black-capped Chickadee	abcd		efg		jk
White-breasted Nuthatch	a cd		fg		
Red-breasted Nuthatch	d		f		
Brown Creeper		b	e		
House Wren			fg		ijk
Winter Wren			e		
Catbird					ijk
Brown Thrasher			fgh		jk
American Robin		od	efgh		ijk
Wood Thrush			h		ijk
Hermit Thrush			e		k
Veery					jk
Eastern Bluebird		cd	ef		k
Golden-crowned Kinglet		d	e		
Ruby-crowned Kinglet			efg		
Cedar Waxwing	a		e		k
Gray Shrike	a		efgh		ijk
Common Starling	abcd		efgh		ijk
Yellow-throated Vireo					k
Solitary Vireo			g		
Red-eyed Vireo					jk
Black and White Warbler			g		
Golden-winged Warbler					k
Nashville Warbler			g		
Yellow Warbler			fg		ijk
Myrtle Warbler					i
Chestnut-sided Warbler					jk
Pine Warbler			g		j
Prairie Warbler					j
Oven-bird					k
Northern Waterthrush					k
Common Yellowthroat					ijk
Canada Warbler					ijk
Redstart					ijk
House Sparrow	abcd		efgh		ijk
Bobolink		bcd	e		ijk
Eastern Meadowlark		bcd	efg		ijk
Red-winged Blackbird		bcd	efg		ijk
Baltimore Oriole			c		ijk
Rusty Blackbird					ijk
Purple Grackle		bcd	efgh		ijk
Brown-headed Cowbird		bcd	efgh		ijk
Scarlet Tanager					ijk
Rose-breasted Grosbeak				h	ijk
Indigo Bunting					jk
Evening Grosbeak	a		g		
Purple Finch			efg		
American Goldfinch			g		ijk
Eastern Towhee			fgh		ijk
Vesper Sparrow		od	fg		jk
Slate-colored Junco	a cd		efg		
American Tree Sparrow	abcd				
Chipping Sparrow			fg		ijk
Field Sparrow		d	efgh		ijk
White-throated Sparrow			efg		
Fox Sparrow		c			
Swamp Sparrow		d	efg		ijk
Song Sparrow		bcd	efgh		ijk



Published by Schenectady Bird Club, Inc.

Vol.14 No.7

July,1952

1952 CENTURY RUN HAS REAL FEATURE -- GLOSSY IBIS IS AMONG THE 143 KINDS

Composite Total Reaches 201 — Rough-legged Hawk, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoos, Brewster's (Hybrid) and Mourning Warblers, and Orchard Oriole Also Additions — Barred Is Only Owl Seen

Frazer R. Turrentine

The first local record of the Glossy Ibis, seen at Vischer's Ponds at rest and in good view, was the outstanding find of the year's Century Run, held on Saturday, May 17. The Ibis was spotted by Chester Moore, and seen by all members of Party A. It was also seen at the same location on each of the following two days, but could not be located during the State Federation field trips of May 24 and 25.

Twenty-one individuals in ten groups participated in the Century Run. The day's list of 143 was a close second to the 1948 record of 146; six species added on Sunday brought the week-end total to 149.

Eight kinds seen on Saturday were new for Century Runs: Glossy Ibis, Rough-legged Hawk, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoos, Brewster's (a hybrid) and Mourning Warblers, and Orchard Oriole. The composite list for all local Century Runs now numbers 201, and for trips from 1946 on totals 197. The half dozen species added on Sunday included the White-winged Scoter, Pigeon Hawk and Lesser Yellowlegs by Donald Tucker, and the Green-winged Teal, Shoveller and Dowitcher by Rudd Stone and Frazer Turrentine; the Shoveller and Dowitcher would have been added species for the composite list if seen the day previous.

Only 11 kinds -- Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Phoebe, Black-capped Chickadee, Catbird, Robin, Redstart, Redwing, Cowbird, and Chipping and Song Sparrows -- appeared on lists of all parties. As usual, there were some unexpected misses; the Least Bittern, Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks, Eagle and Osprey, Upland Sandpiper, and Purple Martin might be so described -- not to mention the owls. There were two records of Barred Owls, but none of the others. Incidentally, ten years of Century Run records show: Barn Owl, none; Screech Owl, 1949 only; Horned Owl, never; Snowy Owl, never; Barred Owl, 1932, 1946, and 1948 through 1952; Long-eared Owl, 1933 only; Short-eared Owl, 1951 only; and Saw-whet Owl, never. The Century Run date would be late for the Snowy, but not out of line for the others.

Schenectady Bird Club, Inc.

Guy Bartlett Editor
1053 Parkwood Blvd.The Weather Helped

The day started cool, with a heavy fog over the lowlands and river until mid-morning; it was overcast in the afternoon, with the temperature rising to about 60.

Twenty-three One-timers

It has already been mentioned that 11 species appeared on the lists of all parties. At the other extreme were 23 kinds on one list only.

Party A had the Glossy Ibis, Greater Yellowlegs, Ring-billed Gull, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, and Blue-winged Warbler.

Party B had the Common Loon, Water Pipit, Brewster's Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Black-capped Warbler.

Party C had Double-crested Cormorant, Rough-legged Hawk, Black-billed Cuckoo, and Winter Wren.

The American Merganser and Mourning Warbler showed on only the Party E list; the Gray-cheeked Thrush on Party G; and the Rusty Blackbird on Party H.

To the north, Party J contributed lone records for Pileated Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Brown Creeper, and Ruby-crowned Kinglet.

Participants and Localities

Party A Chester N. Moore, Alice Holmes, Guy Bartlett, Esly Hallenbeck, Nelle G. Van Vorst, Dr. Minnie B. Scotland; Niskayuna, Vischer's Ponds, Karner, Meadowdale, Indian Ladder; 4 a.m. to 9 p.m.; 104 species.

Party B Rudd Stone and Frazer Turrentine; Niskayuna, Karner, Wemple Road, Ravena, Alcove Reservoir, Meadowdale, Indian Ladder; 4 a.m. to 10 p.m.; 109 kinds.

Party C Samuel R. Madison and Leon A. Wiard; Indian Ladder, Meadowdale, Slingerlands, Karner, Rosendale Road, Crescent, Vischer's Ponds, Vly Road; 4:30 a.m. to 9:45 p.m.; 97 species.

Party D Lillian C. Stoner and Pauline Baker; Vischer's Ponds, Karner, Meadowdale, Washington Park; 5:15 a.m. to 6 p.m.; 74 species.

Party E Mr. and Mrs. Stephen C. Fordham and sons; Delmar Game Farm, Washington Park, Karner, Watervliet Reservoir, Meadowdale, Indian Ladder, Alcove and Basic Creek Reservoirs, Lower Hudson; 4:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.; 94 species.

Party F Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Mattimore; Washington Park, Meadowdale, Indian Ladder; 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.; 51 species.

Party G Mrs. Mabel W. French; area bounded by Loudon Road, Menands Road, Schuyler Road, and Bacon Lane; 6:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., and rest of day near home; 63 species.

Party H Stephanie Podrazik; Central Park and Ravena; 72 species.

Party I Mrs. Chester Zimmer and Naomi Zimmer; vicinity of home at Gallupville; 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.; 27 species.

Party J Barrington S. Havens; West Mountain, Corinth; 46 species.

May 17, 1952 CENTURY RUN 143 Kinds

Common Loon	B	Brown Thrasher	ABCD H
Pied-billed Grebe	ABC	American Robin	ABCDEFGHIJ
Dbl-crested Cormorant	C	Wood Thrush	ABCDEFGHIJ
Great Blue Heron	BCD	Hermit Thrush	ABC H J
Green Heron	ABC E	Olive-backed Thrush	A E G
Black-cr. Night Heron	ABC E GH	Gray-cheeked Thrush	G
American Bittern	ABCDE	Veery	ABC E GH J
Glossy Ibis	A	Eastern Bluebird	ABCDEF HIJ
Canada Goose	C EF	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	J
Mallard	ABC E	Water Pipit	B
Black Duck	ABCDE	Cedar Waxwing	CD H
Blue-winged Teal	BC	Common Starling	ABCDEFGHI
Wood Duck	EF	Yellow-throated Vireo	ABCDEF
Greater Scaup	B E	Solitary Vireo	ABCDE G J
American Merganser	E	Red-eyed Vireo	ABCDE GH J
Turkey Vulture	C E	Warbling Vireo	AB DE GH
Red-tailed Hawk	C E H	Black and White Warbler	ABCDEFGHI J
Red-shouldered Hawk	ABC E GH J	Worm-eating Warbler	C E
Broad-winged Hawk	B	Golden-winged Warbler	AB GH
Rough-legged Hawk	A C	Blue-winged Warbler	A
Marsh Hawk	A C	(Brewster's Warbler)	B
Sparrow Hawk	ABCDE H	Tennessee Warbler	AB G
Ruffed Grouse	C E	Nashville Warbler	AB G J
Ring-necked Pheasant	ABCDEF GH	Parula Warbler	AB DEFG
Virginia Rail	BC	Yellow Warbler	ABCDE H
Florida Gallinule	ABCD	Magnolia Warbler	B E H J
Ringed Plover	AB	Cape May Warbler	B DEFG I
Killdeer	ABCDE GH	Black-thr. Blue Warbler	AB DEFGH
American Woodcock	ABC	Myrtle Warbler	ABCDEFGHI J
Spotted Sandpiper	ABCDE H	Black-thr. Green Warbler	ABCDEFGHI J
Solitary Sandpiper	ABC E	Blackburnian Warbler	ABCDEF G J
Greater Yellow-legs	A	Chestnut-sided Warbler	ABCDEFGHI J
Least Sandpiper	CD	Bay-breasted Warbler	DEFG
Semipalmated Sandpiper	AB	Black-poll Warbler	A DEF
Herring Gull	ABC E	Pine Warbler	ABC H
Ring-billed Gull	A	Prairie Warbler	ABCDE
Mourning Dove	ABCDEF GH	Oven-bird	ABCDE GHIJ
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	A	Northern Waterthrush	AB
Black-billed Cuckoo	C	Louisiana Waterthrush	AB E
Barred Owl	H J	Mourning Warbler	E
Whip-poor-will	AB	Common Yellowthroat	ABCDE GH J
Common Nighthawk	CD H	Yellow-breasted Chat	B
Chimney Swift	ABCDE GHI	Black-capped Warbler	B
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	A C EFG I	Canada Warbler	AB
Belted Kingfisher	AB E H	Redstart	ABCDEFGHIJ
Yellow-shafted Flicker	ABCDEFGHIJ	House Sparrow	ABCDEFGHI
Pileated Woodpecker	J	Bobolink	ABCDEFGHI
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	J	Eastern Meadowlark	ABCDEFGHI
Hairy Woodpecker	ABC EF HI	Red-winged Blackbird	ABCDEFGHIJ
Downy Woodpecker	ABCDEFGHIJ	Orchard Oriole	B H
Eastern Kingbird	ABCDE F H	Baltimore Oriole	ABCDEFGHI
Crested Flycatcher	ABCDEFGHI J	Rusty Blackbird	H
Eastern Phoebe	ABCDEFGHIJ	Purple Grackle	ABCDEFGHI
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	A	Brown-headed Cowbird	ABCDEFGHIJ
Least Flycatcher	ABCDE G J	Scarlet Tanager	ABCDEFGHI
Horned Lark	B H	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	ABCDEFGHI J
Tree Swallow	ABCDE IJ	Indigo Bunting	ABC FG J
Bank Swallow	ABCDE F H	Evening Grosbeak	BCDE
Rough-winged Swallow	ABC E H	Purple Finch	ABCDE GHIJ
Barn Swallow	ABC EFGH J	American Goldfinch	ABCDEFGHI
Cliff Swallow	ABCDE	Eastern Towhee	ABCDE GH
Blue Jay	ABCDEFGHI J	Savannah Sparrow	ABC
American Crow	ABCDEFGHI J	Grasshopper Sparrow	AB DE
Black-capped Chickadee	ABCDEFGHIJ	Henslow's Sparrow	AB
White-breasted Nuthatch	ABCDE GHI	Vesper Sparrow	AB DEF H
Red-breasted Nuthatch	BC E H J	Slate-colored Junco	A C E J
Brown Creeper	J	Chipping Sparrow	ABCDEFGHIJ
House Wren	ABCDEFGHI	Field Sparrow	ABCDE GH
Winter Wren	C	White-crowned Sparrow	ABCDEFGHI
Long-billed Marsh Wren	ABCDE	White-throated Sparrow	ABCDE GH J
Catbird	ABCDEFGHIJ	Swamp Sparrow	ABCDE GH
		Song Sparrow	ABCDEFGHIJ

NEWS AND NOTES IN BRIEF

LOUDONVILLE CARDINAL

First in Twenty Years

A female Cardinal, the only Cardinal I have recorded from Loudonville during the 20 years I have lived here, appeared as a surprise New Year's visitor. She was a beautiful bird, with a deep red tail, considerable of a brighter red in the wings, and a conspicuous deep pink bill touched with yellow. In addition to the first date, she was also seen January 5, 6, 9 and 10. The bird may easily have been in the yard several times when I did not see her here, for she could appear apparently out of nowhere and disappear into it again with bewildering rapidity.

I did not see her feeding in the driveway, although she would perch in a lilac and a small spruce nearby and watch the other birds feeding. She either did not get the idea or was too timid to join them. What she obviously did do was drift around with the House Sparrows, which consistently carry bread from our back-door feeding spot and that of a neighbor to bushes about the place, and often drop a great deal of it. I frequently saw the Cardinal eating under shrubs along the farther line of our yard, where the sparrows were or had been eating bread they had carried there. Once I saw her deliberately dart at a sparrow and force it to drop the bread it was carrying.

The only sound I heard the bird make was a sharp, high-pitched "Chip" very different from the throaty "Choke" I remember hearing from the male bird.

-- Mabel W. French

SAME BARN OWL ?

At Least, Same Roost

Back in the summer of 1948 a Barn Owl which seemed to be a first-year bird roosted regularly in a tree in the front yard of 304 Ten Broeck Street, Scotia. It was there at least three weeks during July, and was first reported by Schuyler Miller.

Schuy again reported a Barn Owl in the same tree this summer, first seen June 3 and using the tree regularly as its daytime roost. As in 1948, the bird would leave at dusk for the nearby Mohawk flats.

STRAIGHTENING THE RECORD

Two Were Subspecies

In the report on the 1951 Christmas Counts (FEATHERS, January, 1952, page 1) it was said that the composite total for Schenectady-Troy-Jenny Lake had reached 83 species, plus subspecies. The correct figure is 81 species, plus Prairie Horned Lark and Greater Redpoll as recorded subspecies.

It was correctly stated at the end of the report that the Peregrine Falcon became Bird No. 77 in the Schenectady Count but it also is Species No. 75 in that list.

Incidentally, the six species in the composite list which are not in the Schenectady column are the Common Loon, Pintail, Old-squaw, Hooded Merganser, and Bald Eagle, on the Troy list; and the Red Crossbill on the Jenny Lake count.

Schenectady enumerations have produced 75 species in 23 successive years; Troy has 36 species in four counts; and Jenny Lake 19 species in four.



Published by Schenectady Bird Club, Inc.

Vol.14 No.8

August, 1952

1951 FIELD TRIPS SET NEW HIGH COUNT WITH 183 SPECIES LISTED LOCALLY

Esly Hallenbeck and Leon A. Wiard

The local area supplied such rarities as the Mute Swan, Barrow's Golden-eye, Golden Eagle, Great Black-backed Gull, Carolina Wren, and Cerulean Warbler during the 1951 field trips. In addition, there were numerous out-of-season records, and relative abundance of unusual species, such as the crossbills. And those who participated in the non-local trip, the State Federation one at Buffalo, also had the Whistling Swan, Blue Goose, and Kumlien's (hybrid) Gull.

The 23 field trips accounted for 188 kinds of birds, of which only five were non-local. The 10-county total of 183 species set a new high -- five more than the previous list of 179 in 1950.

In the following table the page references are to the detailed reports in FEATHERS during 1951. In the other table, p. 46, the species followed by (*) were seen only at Buffalo.

Key	Date	Place	No. Seen	Page
a	Jan.14	Upper Hudson	15	19
b	Feb.18	Upper Hudson	21	27
c	Mar.11	Collins Lake	23	27
d	Mar.24	Rice and Schermerhorn Roads	35	28
e	Apr. 1	Saratoga and Round Lakes	51	37
f	Apr. 8	State Federation trip, Buffalo	44	33, 54
g	Apr. 8	Watervliet Reservoir	43	38
h	Apr.15	Tomhannock Reservoir	38	38
i	Apr.22	Vischer Ponds	35	44
j	May 6	Central Park	47	44
k	May 9	Songs at Dusk	18	44
l	May 12	Century Run	140	41
m	May 20	Wolf Hollow	66	53
n	May 27	Indian Ladder and Meadowdale	78	53
o	May 30	Karner Sand Barrens	69	53
p	Jun. 5	Indian Ladder Picnic	15	54
q	Jun.10	Berne Swamp	59	59
r	Jul.15	Niskayuna Widewaters - Vischer Ponds	56	60
s	Aug.19	Watervliet Reservoir	45	66
t	Sep.16	Lower Hudson, Alcove Reservoir	57	73
u	Nov.11	Saratoga and Round Lakes	32	88
v	Dec.22	Troy Christmas Count	25	1952-1
w	Dec.30	Schenectady Christmas Count	38	1952-1

Common Loon			F H		L				U
Red-necked Grebe					L				U
Horned Grebe			G H						U
Pied-billed Grebe			E F G H		L			T	U
Blk-crested Cormorant					L	O			
Great Blue Heron					L	O	Q R	T	U
American Egret							R	T	
Green Heron					L	N O	Q R S T		
Black-cr. Night Heron				I	L	O	R	T	
American Bittern				I	L	N O	R S T		
Mute Swan									
Whistling Swan (*)			F						
Canada Goose			E F G H		L				
Blue Goose (*)			F						
Mallard	A B		F		L	N	Q R S T		V
Black Duck	A B	D	E G H	I	L	M N	R S T		V
American Widgeon			E	I					
Pintail			F H		L				
Green-winged Teal				I					
Blue-winged Teal				I	L			T	
Wood Duck		D	G		L	N		T	
Ring-necked Duck			E G H	I	L				
Canvas-back (*)			F						
Greater Scaup	B	D	E F						
Lesser Scaup		D	E		L				
American Golden-eye	A B	D	E F						U V
Barrow's Golden-eye	B								
Buffle-head	B		E F						
Old-squaw									U
White-winged Scoter					L				U
Ruddy Duck (*)			F						
Hooded Merganser	B	D	E						V
American Merganser	A B	D	E G		L				U V W
Red-breasted Merganser		D	E F						
Turkey Vulture			F			N			
Goshawk									W
Sharp-shinned Hawk			F		L			T	U
Cooper's Hawk					L	O	S		W
Red-tailed Hawk		D	F		L		Q	T	W
Red-shouldered Hawk			E F G H	I	L	O	R	T	U
Broad-winged Hawk			E	I					
Rough-legged Hawk		C							
Golden Eagle			G						
Bald Eagle							Q	T	V
Marsh Hawk			F G		L	N	Q	T	
Osprey			H	I	L		S	T	
Peregrine Falcon									W
Sparrow Hawk	A B C D		E F G H	I	L	M N O	Q	T	V W
Ruffed Grouse			E G		L		P Q	T	U V W
Ring-necked Pheasant		D	E F		L	N	Q	T	V W
King Rail					L				
Virginia Rail			G		L				
Florida Gallinule					L	N O			
American Coot			E F		L				U
Ringed Plover					L			T	
Killdeer		D	E F		J K L	M N O	Q R S T		
American Woodcock					K L	N			
Upland Sandpiper				H	L	M N O		T	
Spotted Sandpiper					L				
Solitary Sandpiper					L				
Greater Yellow-legs					L				
Pectoral Sandpiper					L				
Eastern Dowitcher								T	
Semipalmated Sandpiper								T	
Great Black-backed Gull			E		L	N			
Herring Gull	A B C D		E F		L	N		T	U V W
(Kumlien's Gull) (*)			F						
Ring-billed Gull		C D	E F	H	L			T	U V
Bonaparte's Gull			F		L				

Cape May Warbler				J	L															
Black-thr. Blue Warbler					L															
Myrtle Warbler				J	L															T
Black-thr. Green Warbler				J	L															
Cerulean Warbler																				
Blackburnian Warbler					L															
Chestnut-sided Warbler					L															
Black-poll Warbler																				
Pine Warbler					L															
Prairie Warbler					L															
Palm Warbler					L															
Oven-bird				I	J	K	L													
Northern Waterthrush																				
Louisiana Waterthrush																				
Common Yellowthroat					J	K	L													
Yellow-breasted Chat																				
Canada Warbler					J	L														
Redstart					J	L														
House Sparrow	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L								
Bobolink																				
Eastern Meadowlark				D	E	F	G	H	I	J	L									
Red-winged Blackbird				C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	L								
Baltimore Oriole					E															
Rusty Blackbird					E															
Purple Grackle				C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L							
Brown-headed Cowbird				D	E	F	G	H	I	J	L									
Scarlet Tanager					E															
Rose-breasted Grosbeak																				
Indigo Bunting																				
Evening Grosbeak																				
Purple Finch					E		H				J	L								
Pine Grosbeak																				
Pine Siskin					E	G						L								
American Goldfinch				C	E	G					I	J	L							
Red Crossbill												J	L							
Eastern Towhee												J	K	L						
Savannah Sparrow											I	L								
Grasshopper Sparrow												L								
Henslow's Sparrow												K	L							
Vesper Sparrow												J	L							
Slate-colored Junco				C	D	E	F	G	H	I		L								
American Tree Sparrow	A	B		D	E							L								
Chipping Sparrow												J	K	L						
Field Sparrow													K	L						
White-crowned Sparrow													L							
White-throated Sparrow					D							I	J	L						
Fox Sparrow				C	D															
Swamp Sparrow																				
Song Sparrow	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L								
Lapland Longspur																				

WAR ON PIGEONS

And on Starlings !

City officials, the Chamber of Commerce, Game Protector, and others have declared war on gutter pigeons and starlings, of which there are too many of both in down-town roosts.

No "bird lover" is apt to find fault with elimination of either. One complication is that the pigeons are not being eliminated, but driven from favorite roosts to other areas. And those areas are increasingly in residential areas where they compete with beneficial species.

The "war" was announced in the Gazette of July 12.



Published by Schenectady Bird Club, Inc.

Vol.14 No.9

September, 1952

BIRD NAVIGATION

Dr. Donald R. Griffin, Cornell University

Bird migration is something almost everyone has heard about; for the presence of many kinds of birds in summer and their absence in winter is something which can hardly escape one's notice. Human curiosity being what it is, people have wondered how birds manage to make their annual journeys, which may extend for thousands of miles from a summer range in northern latitudes to some tropical winter resort where the rigors of cold weather are avoided. The smaller migrating birds are particularly impressive; some of the sandpipers that are no larger than the common House Sparrow migrate from the shores of the Arctic ocean to tropical regions in South America. These migratory flights can properly be admired in many different respects; for instance, the sheer muscular effort required for such a small creature to fly five or six thousand miles is truly amazing.

How Do They Find Their Way?

But I think the most intriguing aspect of bird migrations is the problem of navigation; how do the birds find their way? There are thousands of species of birds in the world — and not all of them migrate; but the majority do, and many of these fly courses that would tax the navigator of even the most modern and well-equipped aircraft. For example, the Pacific Golden Plover spends the summer along the coast of the Arctic ocean in Siberia and northwest Alaska and then flies every fall to a winter range in Australia, the East Indies, and most of the islands of the southwest and central Pacific — including the Hawaiian Islands. Some of the birds must fly across a minimum of 2,000 miles of open ocean to reach these islands; and the flight seems to be made non-stop, since no one has ever seen a Golden Plover swimming or resting on the open sea. Just to make the migration seem even more impressive, we find that a very closely related race of Golden Plover migrates south across the continents of North and South America, flying from Arctic Canada to a winter range in Argentina. And the young birds fly south by a different route from that used by the adults, so that these birds at least cannot be guided during their first migration by older birds which know the way.

When a scientist looks at bird migration he wishes to ask two basic questions: First: what feature of the bird's envi-

(Talk delivered May 28, 1952, during the General Electric Science Forum program over Station WGY, Schenectady, N.Y.)



Schenectady Bird Club, Inc.

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ronment provides the information that the bird can use to steer its proper course?; and second, what sense organ does the bird use to detect this aspect of the world around it? Now it is not difficult to find aspects of the bird's environment which would provide good navigational information, that is, which would be related to the correct direction of the migratory flight. One such "armchair solution" is to think of that basic tool of human navigation -- the magnetic compass, and simply to assume that the birds must have some sort of built-in, physiological compass. This theory answers the first question quite adequately; the earth's magnetic field is available all over the globe, it is related to geographical direction in a reasonably simple fashion; and if it could be felt by the birds, it would provide a plausible basis for navigation.

No Evidence

The difficulty comes when we ask the second question: can a bird actually sense, or detect, the earth's magnetic field; unfortunately there is no good scientific evidence if they can. Dozens of experiments have been performed by scientists in several countries, all seeking to answer this simple question -- can a bird sense the earth's magnetic field? And in every case the result has been negative -- no convincing evidence that this aspect of the world around us can be sensed by a bird any more than we ourselves can feel the force that turns the needle of a magnetic compass. Of course, if a magnetic field is strong enough, it can stimulate the nervous system of a man -- or a bird -- just as a blow on the head will make a man "see stars." But it takes at least 1,000 times the magnetic field strength of the earth's magnetic field to excite the human nervous system in this way -- and there is no reason to believe that the birds are any more sensitive than we to magnetic fields.

Experiments with Live Birds

Rather than try to tell you about any of the many other ingenious unconfirmed armchair theories that have been advanced to explain bird navigation, I think it would be more interesting to mention some experiments with real birds that were actually making long cross-country flights. One such experiment was done in the Canadian province of Alberta with the common Crow. Young crows were caught before they could fly and kept all summer in cages large enough so that they could learn to use their wings. In November these young crows were released in different areas of Alberta, in cold weather, long after all the wild crows had migrated south to their winter range in Kansas and Nebraska. By means of an intensive publicity campaign people in Alberta were asked to watch for any unseasonal crows seen just after this release, and about one quarter of the young crows were thus reported within the next two weeks. Some had not traveled any significant distance; but those that had were all reported from places to the southeast of the release point. In other words, they had done their best to migrate in the right direction for their species. The same sort of result has also been obtained from similar experiments in Europe, involving other species. In some birds, at least, the ability to mi-

grate in a certain general direction is an inherited behavior pattern.

Direct experiments of this sort with actual migratory flights are very difficult because of the great distances involved, and the virtual impossibility of learning just what route is actually flown by an individual bird. As a result, biologists have concentrated considerable attention on a sort of artificial migration known as the homing experiment.

Homing Ability

In such an experiment birds are caught at their nests, transported in closed boxes to a considerable distance and then released. In a surprising number of cases they find their way back to their nests within a few days, even though they have been carried many hundreds of miles away -- sometimes into totally unfamiliar territory. This homing ability, which of course is also displayed in a highly developed form by the domesticated homing pigeon, would appear to be a case of long-distance navigation comparable in many respects to the natural migrations. At least it would be most interesting to know how the birds navigate on these long homing flights, if only for any light such knowledge might throw on the problem of migration. Because the start and the end of a homing flight can readily be observed, the total elapsed time is known, and the experimenter also has some control over the conditions under which the flight is performed. Hence the homing experiment is a more feasible phenomenon to analyze.

Straight Home?

One aspect of these homing flights that had puzzled investigators was the fact that with most wild birds the total time required was considerably greater than one would expect if the birds flew straight home. A bird which can fly thirty miles per hour, for instance, requires something like two days to make a 200-mile homing flight -- 48 hours to cover a distance that it could fly in six. It is natural to theorize that the bird must rest and feed on the way, and that perhaps the remaining 42 hours are used up in other activities than cross-country flight.

But another explanation would be that the birds did not fly straight home; but deviated widely from the direct course. To resolve this question I decided a few years ago to learn to fly myself, and to fly along with some homing birds, in a small airplane, in order to see just where they went. It was necessary to select a large and easily visible species that could be seen from as far away as possible, in order that the presence of the airplane would not frighten it or otherwise alter its normal behavior.

Flying with the Gannets

These requirements seem to be amply satisfied by the Gannet, a large white sea bird, with a wingspread of about five feet; we could see them from an airplane circling 2,000 feet above; and we followed several individuals for as far as 230 miles. During this time they were homing from a release point far inland, in totally unfamiliar territory where they had never been before.

To our surprise the Gannets did not head at all straight for their home; instead each flew in a different direction, some going 100 miles farther from home than the release point itself during the few hours while they were under observation. Yet the majority did return home, and they homed just as rapidly whether or not they had been observed from the airplane.

Exploration Seemed Required

Evidently in this species homing was accomplished by a process of exploration, the birds flying with a gradual curvature suggestive of crude spiraling and thus covering a wide area surrounding the release point. This process was apparently kept up doggedly until the birds reached familiar territory along the coast.

Now this experiment with Gannets certainly does not solve the whole problem of bird navigation, particularly for such spectacular migrants as the Golden Plover on their flights across the open ocean. But it does show how many surprises lie ahead as these biological phenomena are studied in more detail. It also shows that we should be wary of jumping to the most plausible explanation of an animal behavior problem like this, until enough detailed information is available to let us know what we are really talking about. No one has actually traced the flight paths of the Golden Plovers across the Pacific, and until something of the sort is done, we must be content to wait for a truly satisfactory explanation. In the meantime let us be content to admire the migratory feats of birds, and reserve judgement as to their methods of navigation.

WHICH IS WHAT?

One of the questions on the Ornithology examination last June at State College, Albany, was the following on identification. In the column at the right are "key notes" to the identification of the birds in the column at the left. Select the most fitting characteristic in each case, placing the correct number to the left of the bird's name. Answers are on page 54.

Blk.-cr. Night Heron	..1	White crescent in front of wing
Mallard	.....2	Song: "Glorified House Sparrow"
Black Duck	.....3	Long-drawn appearance in flight
American Widgeon	.....4	"Konk-la-reee"
Ring-necked Duck	.....5	White rump, bird 18" to 24"
American Golden-eye	..6	"Winter Chippy"
American Merganser	...7	Black wing-tips
Red-shouldered Hawk	..8	"Teacher" bird
Marsh Hawk	.....9	Long, sweeping, pointed tail
Osprey	.....10	White-backed; stiff, spiny tail
Sparrow Hawk	.....11	"Drink your tea"
Ring-necked Pheasant	..12	"Sewing-machine" song
Killdeer	.....13	Black mask
Herring Gull	.....14	Piercing whistle, "kee-yer"
Mourning Dove	.....15	Cocks its tail over its back

Chimney Swift	16	The "firethroat", with orange throat
Yel.-shafted Flicker.	17	Rusty breast
Downy Woodpecker	18	Cigar with wings
Eastern Kingbird	19	Tail-wagging ground bird
Eastern Phoebe	20	Chestnut-red under tail-coverts
Tree Swallow	21	"fee-bee-ee", first note higher
Bank Swallow	22	Swallow-tailed; white spots in tail
Barn Swallow	23	Triangular look in flight
Cliff Swallow	24	Russet rump
Blk.-capped Chickadee	25	"Seeit hear-it tell-it" all day long
White-br. Nuthatch ..	26	Clear white below; black cheek
House Wren	27	Hovers in one spot
Catbird	28	Black bib on male
Wood Thrush	29	White crown
Bluebird	30	"Please, please please ta meetcha"
Water Pipit	31	Large round white spot front of eye
Cedar Waxwing	32	Streaked breast, large central spot
Starling	33	"Tail wagger"
Red-eyed Vireo	34	Conspicuous white outer-tail feathers
Myrtle Warbler	35	Crest
Blackburnian Warbler.	36	Yellow spot front of eye
Chest-sided Warbler..	37	Green head
Ovenbird	38	Two breast bands
Common Yellow-throat.	39	"Upside-down bird"
House Sparrow	40	Distinct band across light breast
Eastern Meadowlark...	41	Steely blue above, snow white below
Red-winged Blackbird.	42	Black V on yellow breast
Evening Grosbeak	43	Dull greenish yellow bill
American Goldfinch ..	44	White rump, bird 13" to 14"
Eastern Towhee	45	Yellow epaulets (shoulder patches)
Slate-colored Junco..	46	White band across tail
Amer. Tree Sparrow ..	47	Reddish head, round spots on breast
Chipping Sparrow	48	Extremely undulating flight
White-thr. Sparrow ..	49	Pointed tail
Song Sparrow	50	Large bill, black on head, gray below

WILLIAMSTOWN GROSBEAKS, 1951-52 Professor Willis I. Milham

Evening Grosbeaks first appeared in Williamstown for the season on October 12, 1951. At first they appeared sporadically but then settled down to a regular routine. The visitation can be said to have ended on May 24, 1952; this is as late as they have ever stayed during the last 13 years. From October 12 until May 24 they consumed 560 pounds of sunflower seed!

October As mentioned, the first record was October 12. On Oct. 16 Mrs. Samson L. Faison saw five in her trees but they did not come to the feeders. On Oct. 19 a flock of 35 by count was seen by Mrs. Faison on Stratton Road, more than a mile from her residence. On Oct. 21 and again on Oct. 23 a very few were heard but not seen in various places.

November On Nov. 9 Mrs. Faison had about 40 in her trees. On Nov. 13 Mrs. Milham, at 24 Hoxsey Street, saw about 40 in our trees, but they refused to come to the feeders. Since the early part of November they have been coming to feeders.

They much prefer the feeders at the Williams Inn and at the residence of Professor and Mrs. Faison, about 400 feet from the Inn. In a couple of square miles in the center of Williamstown there are perhaps 100 Grosbeaks. About half of them come to the feeders every day. Most of them are males, and no banded birds have been seen.

December The number of Evening Grosbeaks in Williamstown during December has remained nearly constant. It is estimated from 150 to 200 birds are in the central part of the town. From their behavior it would seem to be a flock which has settled down and developed a regular routine. The feeders visited have become a little different. There are probably more now at the feeders of the Milhams than at all of the other feeders together. As many as 100 have often been counted in the trees at one time, and as many as 40 in the feeders. Since their first arrival Oct. 12 about 80 pounds of sunflower seed have been consumed here. The number varies somewhat from day to day, being at times nearly twice as many as at other times. The average time of coming to the feeders is about 7:30 a.m.; they have come as early as 7 and as late as 9:30. The time of coming and the number do not seem to depend on whether clear or cloudy, fair or snowy, warm or cold. They depart usually between 2 and 3 p.m., and it is not yet certain where they spend the night. The foothills of Mt. Greylock, about five miles away, are suspected.

They will eat practically nothing but sunflower seed and (if you please) they much prefer the larger, more expensive, gray-striped seed to the smaller, darker and less expensive, so-called Mexican sunflower seed. Once or twice a very few have been seen pecking at suet placed on a tree. They are always quite nervous feeders. There may be perhaps 20 at a feeder; suddenly two or three become panicky and fly, and the rest fly away at once. In five or ten minutes they are back again. This may repeat a half dozen times.

The ratio of males to females seems to be getting a little nearer parity. However, males still predominate. Only one banded bird has been seen, just once by one observer. It had a red band on the right leg, and a plain one on the left. This was on Nov. 28. No injured birds, no birds with unusual plumage, and no young birds have been seen so far this year.

Pigeons, Blue Jays and squirrels will keep the Grosbeaks from the feeders, and practically no other bird will feed with them. We have about 20 Chickadees and 10 or more Goldfinches that come more or less regularly after 3 p.m., when the Grosbeaks have gone, to gather up the crumbs that "fall from the rich man's table."

January As regards numbers there has been a slight increase if anything during January. It is now estimated that there are about 250 in the central part of the village. They are

T H E A N S W E R S to the questions on pages 52 and 53:

1-50 2-37 3-43 4-29 5- 1 6-31 7- 3 8-14 9- 5 10-26
 11-27 12- 9 13-38 14- 7 15-49 16-18 17-44 18-10 19-46 20-33
 21-41 22-40 23-22 24-24 25-21 26-39 27-15 28-20 29-47 30-17
 31-19 32-35 33-23 34-25 35-45 36-16 37-30 38- 8 39-13 40-28
 41-42 42- 4 43- 2 44-48 45-11 46-34 47- 6 48-12 49-36 50-32

still, as always, rather nervous, jittery feeders. On the whole the flock has become a little tamer. It is possible to stand at an open window within two feet of them without disturbing them. If a couple of pigeons land within eight or ten feet of them it is possible to drive the pigeons away without disturbing the Grosbeaks.

They are erratic as regards the number coming to the feeders. For example, on Jan. 18 in the morning there were none in the nearby trees, and only one came to the feeders. A very few came later in the day. On Jan. 23 at 8:15 a.m. there were 150 in the nearby trees and about 50 in the feeders at the same time.

One banded male has been observed three times: on Jan. 17, 19 and 26. It has a silver band on its right leg, but no other marks.

Another center has developed at Cricket Creek Farm, about six miles south of Williamstown. They report from none to 15 or 20 daily. It is supposed that they spend the night in some evergreens not far from the farm buildings. It is not yet determined where the birds from the center of the village spend the night. It is certainly farther away than three miles.

February There has been perhaps a slight increase during the month. There are about 300 in the central part of the village. Males still predominate. The birds are nervous, jittery and quarrelsome as always. The only marked or banded bird (a male with a silver band on his right leg) to appear at our feeders this winter came four times during the month - Feb. 4, 13, 14 and 26. He had also come three times in January.

We now have a male Grosbeak with only one leg. He gets along quite well considering, although he sometimes makes "crash landings" when he comes to the feeders. He appears about twice a week during midmorning for his "second breakfast." For a steady diet he much prefers the feeder of Mr. W. H. Blake, School Street, which is about one-third of a mile away. The other Grosbeaks show this bird no kindness or special consideration of any kind.

The number of Goldfinches has now increased to about 40, and they come at the same time as the Grosbeaks and feed right among them. The Grosbeaks pay no attention to them, except to give them a good peck if they sit in their way.

Around Feb. 18 the Grosbeaks suddenly developed "spring fever." They began coming to the feeders as early as 6:40 instead of their usual 7:30. There has been no change in their appetite; they have consumed to date about 300 pounds of sunflower seed.

March The number has remained practically the same -- an estimated 300 in the central part of the village; males still predominate. At the beginning of the month they were coming to the feeders about 6:30 a.m. Now, at the end of the month, they arrive about 6 a.m. Our one banded bird appeared at the feeders at least five or six times during the month. They are as hungry as ever, and show no signs of getting ready to depart.

April Our Grosbeaks are becoming fatter, lazier, tamer, and wiser. If one goes out to the feeders with sunflower seed they will almost alight on one's shoulders. If the pigeons

come to the feeders the Grosbeaks come to the back door with loud squawks until someone goes out and drives the pigeons away. The number has remained about the same -- 300 -- and all this in spite of mild, polite suggestions that it is about time they considered migrating north or west or wherever they may go. If the amount of food is made a little less, then disgruntled, almost angry squawks are the result.

At the beginning of the month they were coming to the feeders about 6:10 a.m. At the end of the month it is about 5:15 a.m. EST. It looks a little as if migrations were just beginning. Our bird with one leg came to the feeders on Apr. 12 for the last time. On Apr. 2 there appeared a male with an aluminum band on the right leg, a yellow band on the left, and a red blotch on the right wing. He was accompanied by a few others which were lean and gaunt, as if the feeding had not been good. They did not like it either, for they remained just one day. On Apr. 27 there appeared a female with a yellow band on the left leg. She appeared only once. On Apr. 29 there appeared a female with aluminum bands on both legs; she also stayed just one day.

May May is the migration month for Grosbeaks. The migrants from other places began passing through Williamstown Apr. 2 and the last one went through May 8. The banded and marked migrants which were observed are as follows:

- May 1: Two males, aluminum right
 Female, aluminum right, red left
- May 3: Male, silver right, gold left, S on right wing
 Male, blue and silver on right; a fine, distinct,
 dark-blue F on right wing
- May 4: Male, silver right, gold left; red blotch, right wing
 Male, silver left, gold right, red S on right wing
 Male, silver right
 Female, silver right
 Male, gold left
- May 5: A few with gold on left
- May 6: Two males, silver right
 Female, silver right
 Two males, silver left
 Male, silver right, gold left, red S on right wing
- May 7: Female, silver right
- May 8: Male, silver right
 Female, silver right

After May 8 no more marked or banded birds were observed; our bird with one leg disappeared Apr. 12. On May 20 he reappeared for one day. He seemed fat and happy, and apparently was the rear-guard of the migrants.

The home flock stayed right on in the usual large numbers, coming at the usual time each day until May 19. Then the numbers decreased rapidly.

On May 20 there were about 40 at our feeders; and on May 21 there were about 20. On May 22 the count was 10, and on May 23 was 10.

On May 24 there were about 6, and on May 25 only 2. A few weaklings are apt to remain a couple of weeks, or even all summer.

The Grosbeak visitation can thus be said to have ended on May 24, 1952. The date equals the previous late record -- May 24 of 1946.



Published by Schenectady Bird Club, Inc.

FEATHERS

October, 1952

AUDUBON NATURE CAMP, 1952

Viola Matb

It was a dark day with increasingly heavy showers when Hellen Cole and I left the Parkway and approached the Audubon Nature Camp at Greenwich, Conn., where we were to attend the Delegates' Session August 10 to 16. After many wanderings in various directions (all the wrong ones) to avoid a bad piece of road construction, we vowed it was the hardest place to find that we ever searched for. We arrived, however, in time for lunch and met the staff: Mr. Mohr, the director; Dr. Niering, his assistant; Miss Brasch, art teacher; and Mr. Bradley, botanist of Fairchild Garden. We also met the other delegates briefly, and were assigned to our sleeping quarters.

The evening session was reserved for really getting acquainted, when we played a game similar to the old parlor game called "Gossip" which was a real test of one's memory for names. We discovered that some of our fellow delegates had traveled some distance to attend: there were Miss Sampson of Atlanta, Mrs. Kennedy of West Palm Beach, Mr. Willson of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Mrs. Walker of Madison, Wisc., and Mr. Le Clerc of Quebec. Mr. Mohr gave a preview of the coming week's program, and showed a film of the various activities of previous camps.

Luxuriant Bayberries

Monday morning brought sunshine. Promptly at 9 we set out with Mr. Mohr and Dr. Niering on a field trip for study of a field habitat and plant succession. Many interesting plants were seen on this trip, some of them not native to our locality, Indian hemp and musk tomato being examples. The bayberries were the most luxuriant I ever saw, being five feet high and full of great clusters of berries. On this trip a family of baby cottontail rabbits discovered running about the field was captured and photographed by Mr. Mohr while they were being held with great difficulty by two members of the group.

Tuesday morning we explored thicket and woods communities and Mr. Mohr explained the progression of plant life to a climax where the forest is in balance.

Pileated

It is about time some mention was made here of the birds about the camp and on field trips, but I can report nothing unusual, probably because of the lateness of the season. A Pileated Woodpecker was heard and is often seen near the

FEATHERS

Schenectady Bird Club, Inc.

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buildings, but few of our group saw it, even though some of them arose early. The weather was not altogether favorable for field trips, and only one early-morning trip was planned. One evening I discovered a House Wren feeding several young birds just out of the nest. During one night I heard a Barred Owl very near the house.

While walking along one of the nature trails, a gray fox trotted along ahead of me.

The trip on Wednesday to Fairchild Garden, the wildflower sanctuary, was delightful. So was the walk through the hemlock woods. Dr. Bradley, the botanist in charge, has done a wonderful piece of work, both in encouraging native plants and introducing new ones.

Amateurs Can Be Good

The discussion on Planning and Operating Field Trips brought out the ideas that amateur leaders are sometimes better than experts, that trips may be varied by a visit to a bird-banding station, etc., and that all trips should include observations of plants, trees, etc., as well as birds.

Dr. Baker, president of the Audubon Society, visited the camp Wednesday evening and addressed the group in a very informal way, telling about the work of the Society. He spoke of its early history, later development, broadened program, and its conservation aims.

A very important session was the one on programs for juniors. The Junior Audubon Clubs receive "Outdoors Illustrated", a fine magazine illustrated in color, for \$1 per year. Ten or more children of elementary, junior or senior high school age may form a club. A minimum of 10 members or \$1.50 in dues is necessary to enroll a club. The Society is making a special offer to clubs organized before November 1.

About 1:30 p.m. on Thursday the group climbed into station wagons and left for the beach owned by the City of Greenwich on Long Island Sound for a study of the ecology of the seashore, followed by a picnic supper on the rocks. Many interesting water-birds were seen on this trip.

Pyramid of Life

In discussing Wild Life Conservation Problems, Mr. Mohr showed us the manner in which all life is completely dependent on plants, using the Pyramid of Life to illustrate his talk. The American Museum of Natural History has a fine representation of this in the new Hall of the Landscape. The Hall of the Forests is now in preparation. The climax of this session was the showing of "The Web of Life," the latest and finest film produced by the Conservation Foundation. Community projects such as adult courses and seminars, exhibits, nature trails, bird-house projects, etc. were discussed, and many new and interesting ideas for programs were brought out.

Stimulating Discussions

Afternoons were generally given over to group discussions and it was very stimulating to hear what other clubs are doing about publicity, public relations, publications, sanctuaries, program building, field trips, junior activities,

wildlife conservation, and community projects. I took many notes during these sessions, and hope our Committee Chairmen may be able to use some of the ideas which have been found useful by other clubs. Several very fine films were shown, and we were given a selected list of Conservation films, as well as the Audubon Audio-Visual catalog.

A party with skits, quizzes, etc., and the presentation of diplomas brought the eventful week to a close. By this time we were all old friends, and said our goodbyes with regret that the wonderful week had passed so quickly.

My thanks to S B C for a fine experience and the opportunity to learn more about nature and the work of National Audubon Society; to gather many new ideas for our Club; and to meet many interesting people.



NEWS AND NOTES IN BRIEF

HAWKS APLENTY

Down the Hudson

Spending the week-end of September 20-21 in the vicinity of Ossining, I was somewhat surprised when I heard and saw two Red-shouldered Hawks in the wooded section back of the house. About noontime on Saturday I was enjoying several Palm Warblers in their fall plumage when I paused to watch the hawk soaring over the house. I chanced to look at the sky almost overhead, and saw about 25 hawks, some Broad-winged and others Red-shouldered, circling to gain altitude.

Then more hawks joined the group, and all continued to circle and gain altitude until they disappeared. There were probably about 60 in all, with Red-shouldered the most common. I have been to Mt. Tom, Mass., and to Hawk Mountain, Pa., but have never seen anything like this.

-- Nelle G. Van Vorst

ANOTHER CARDINAL

And Vultures

On the morning of May 19 a male Cardinal was seen in Elsmere by Betty Wiard.

Five Upland Plover were seen by the Wiards July 31 on Tygart Road, near the Altamont-Voorheesville Road.

Seen by them August 10 were eight Turkey Vultures, near Cooksburg in the southwest corner of Albany County.

WATCH THAT MOON

Really Revealing

Along with Bird Clubs across the nation S B C is finding out that there is some interesting work to be done in watching the birds fly across the face of the full moon. And some really worthwhile observations are being obtained. SBC had August records by the Fordhams at Delmar; September counts again at Delmar and newly at Collins Park, Scotia; and early October readings at a number of stations.

Those wishing to participate should communicate with Leon Wiard or Stephen Fordham in Albany, or with Esly Hallenbeck or Rudd Stone in Schenectady. There are plenty of good telescopes already available for all those wishing to participate. There is work for both observers and recorders, and plenty of openings for all.

FOUR SPECIES OF HERONS

Lillian C. Stoner

Four members of the heron family were among the 51 species the 23 participants recorded on the Stoner Hudson River trip September 14. The sky was overcast and the temperature was 64° at 7:30 a.m. when the cars left Albany. As we drove down the east side of the river the visibility became increasingly poor; haze and fog increased to mist near the city of Hudson. Little could be seen when we crossed Rip Van Winkle Bridge and at the picnic park near the west end of the bridge. Because of the unfavorable weather we made only one stop on the return trip, a little north of the bridge at the river end of a side road called Hamburg Boulevard. The recorded temperature was 68° when we concluded our 80-mile trip at Albany at 2:30 p.m.

Since low tide at Albany was at 9 a.m. our downward journey moved along faster than usual. Some of the herons were seen feeding in mud flats before and just after the tide started to come in again. About 25 of the 52 American Egrets were thus noticed, standing in the low water or flying about. Most of the remaining 27 were observed from the river bank at Hamburg Boulevard, roosting in trees across the river just north of Rip Van Winkle Bridge. This was at 1:30 p.m., when tide was quite high.

The lone Cormorant resting on a stick in midstream, the two unfrightened Soras at a little pool, and the male Scarlet Tanager in its moulting plumage and perched at the top of a dead tree were memorable sights. Conservative estimates were made of the numbers of ducks, crows, starlings, house sparrows, and red-wings seen on the trip.

Had the weather been more favorable, we feel certain that we could have recorded more than the 2,225 individuals and probably more than 51 species. The writer on a scouting trip one week earlier listed a Meadowlark and several Barn Swallows and Warbling Vireos.

Those Recorded

The list: Pied-billed Grebe, 2; Double-crested Cormorant, 1; Great Blue Heron, 20; American Egret, 52; Green Heron, 4; Black-crowned Night Heron, 10; Mallard, 28; Black Duck, 94; Blue-winged Teal, 33; Wood Duck, 1; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Marsh Hawk, 2; Osprey, 2; Pheasant, 1; Virginia Rail, 1; Sora, 2; Florida Gallinule, 1; Killdeer, 16; Lesser Yellowlegs, 2; Herring Gull, 10; Ring-billed Gull, 1.

Mourning Dove, 4; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 1; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 1; Belted Kingfisher, 4; Flicker, 4; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 5; Phoebe, 1; Blue Jay, 12; Crow, 50; Black-capped Chickadee, 10; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; House Wren, 3; Long-billed Marsh Wren, 1; Catbird, 7; Robin, 4; Bluebird, 1.

Cedar Waxwing, 45; Starling, 600; Yellow-throated Vireo, 1; Red-eyed Vireo, 1; House Sparrow, 100; Red-winged Blackbird, 1000; Purple Grackle, 10; Scarlet Tanager, 1; American Goldfinch, 50; Chipping Sparrow, 15; White-throated Sparrow, 2; Swamp Sparrow, 3; and Song Sparrow, 2.



Published by Schenectady Bird Club, Inc.

Vol. 14 No. 11

November, 1952

A WHOLESALE ATTRACTION, BUT NOT DESTRUCTION, OF MIGRATING BIRDS BY THE ALBANY (N.Y.)

AIRPORT CEILOMETER

Guy Bartlett

During the nights of August 30-31 and August 31-September 1, 1952, hundreds of migrating birds were attracted to and "held captive" by the ceilometer at the Albany (N.Y.) airport. None of the birds seemed to have been killed, however, so the observations were unlike those reported at Nashville, Knoxville, and Symrna^(1,2,3,4).

I was driving past the airport at 9:45 p.m., eastern standard time, Saturday night, August 30. The ceilometer is within 400 feet of the highway, but traffic occupied my attention. Mrs. Bartlett glanced at the ceilometer beam and inquired what might be happening, -- her quick look had raised a question about possible "fire-works" in the beam of light.

We thereupon turned around at the first convenient corner and returned to the airport. While still 1000 feet away we could see a multitude of bright flashes in the vertical light beam. We drove closer, to about 500 feet, and shut off the engine. Chip notes were loud and abundant; and we were close enough to determine that the column of light was filled with birds, from 20 to about 500 feet above ground.

The airport is 280 feet above sea level. It is two miles directly south of the Niskayuna wide-waters section of the Mohawk River, and $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles directly west from the Hudson River at Green Island. The Schenectady postoffice is $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles northwest by west; the Albany postoffice $7\frac{1}{4}$ miles south southeast; and the Troy postoffice $6\frac{1}{4}$ miles east by south.

The ceilometer, about six feet high, is on the ground, away from runways and buildings. We drove into a road passing within 100 feet of the ceilometer, and parked at the closest spot along the road.

Now it became evident that the birds were circling the beam of light, usually passing through the beam horizontally but frequently rising vertically or occasionally dropping between 10 and 20 feet before curving out of the primary beam. Cloud-height readings were 4800 and 5000 feet, visibility was 10 miles, and there was enough haze so that the spill, or secondary beam, could be seen readily from our position. This beam extended out to about a 45-degree angle, or a total secondary-beam width of 90 degrees.

Too Brilliant for Colors

We could see birds without difficulty in the secondary beam to an elevation of about 300 feet; they all showed as

grayish blue-white. Upon entering the main beam they showed as brilliant blue-white, and could be observed at 600 feet elevation or more. At 10 p.m., EST, there were two rather distinct groups -- those at 500 feet or so, and those, even more numerous, at 75 feet or less. From our position we could see about six thrush-size birds fluttering around the top edge of the ceilometer, and many birds flying into the secondary cone from low levels.

My daughter and I walked slowly along separate paths to the ceilometer itself, watching for crippled or dead birds, or for ones we might flush into flight. Neither saw any, and the birds in flight did not seem to drop below 10 feet above ground. The birds we had seen at the top edge of the ceilometer rose before we were close to them.

Thrush, bobolink and warbler notes were heard, and flight mannerisms, shapes and sizes indicated sparrows, horned larks, and vireos as well. We could not get any color values -- those that were near were sweeping around too rapidly and were too brilliantly illuminated; those that were high became silhouettes in the secondary beam and, again, were too brilliant in the main beam for color distinction.

At 10:30 p.m. we resumed our return to Schenectady. Chip notes of migrants were numerous and near over the city.

Fatalities Elsewhere

Plans had already been made to conduct a lunar bird count at Collins Park, Scotia, on the night of September 3-4. The publication "Studying Nocturnal Bird Migration by Means of the Moon", by Robert J. Newman, issued by the Museum of Zoology, Louisiana State University, had been read within the preceding few days. One section reads:

"One of the most startling developments during the migrations of recent years has been the wholesale destruction of birds at ceilometers, which are devices used at airports to send a powerful beam of light into the sky. The puzzling thing about ceilometers is that, while on occasion they are deadly, causing birds by the hundreds to crumple up and crash to earth, the reported instances of their having any effect at all in migration are comparatively few^(1,2,3,4). Apparently, in some circumstances these beams of light are terrifically destructive, while in other circumstances they do no harm whatever. What can the respective circumstances be?

"As a starting point toward the unravelling of this mystery, we need to know something about the flight densities and directions of migration in the vicinity of ceilometers on nights when birds are being killed and on nights when they are not being killed. If you live near an airport that has one of these instruments, you could accomplish a great deal this fall by taking your telescope out to the airport and measuring the migrations by the lunar method. Perhaps you could also determine by experiment whether the telescope makes it possible to see birds high up in the beam of the ceilometer, without the aid of the moon. If it does you may be able to determine whether birds are passing safely through the illuminated area at high altitude. The closer you are to the ceilometer, the longer the section of the beam that can be encompassed in the field of the scope."

I returned to the airport at midnight. There were just as many, or even more, birds in the beam then. On the way out I had stopped occasionally and had continued to find the chip notes unusually frequent and loud. That had also been the case between 8:30 and 9:45 p.m. while driving from Chatham, N.Y., past the airport.

At the airport itself the chip notes were numerous and loud at the ceilometer at midnight. I walked over to the lighted areas at the hangars, offices and runways, and continued to hear far more than usual chip notes. The lights were relatively low street-lighting and floodlighting units, horizontal or below in direction. Birds were not seen away from the ceilometer.

I visited the weather bureau station, about 500 feet from the ceilometer, and talked with Kenneth Murray, on duty at that time. The weather-bureau observers that night had noticed the activity in the ceilometer beam, but had attributed the flashes to insects. L.R. Murray did not recall previous occurrences of birds in the light beam. He told me, however, that there were instructions to shut off the light if informed by state conservation representatives that migrating birds were affected.

Lights Out

Mr. Murray agreed to help with some questions I had, by shutting off the light for a while at 1 a.m., and to let the patrol know what was going on so I would not be picked up. So far the observations indicated the birds would enter the cone of light from all directions, but with a slight predominance in coming in from the north-northwest (the ground wind was south-southeast at 10 mph). The altitude of the birds' entrance also seemed to be without rule. In general they would curve in, clockwise when viewed from below. Not all would go through the bright beam; some would hesitate and swerve, return on a sharp curve, go through the beam, and continue on a large arc. There were many moths and other insects in the secondary beam, but they did not seem to be taken or pursued by the birds.

Mr. Murray cut the power at 1 a.m., but only for about five seconds. This break seemed hardly to affect the overhead flight pattern. In another two minutes power was again cut for about five seconds, and again there was no noticeable effect.

A few minutes later the power was again shut off, this time for 20 minutes. There seemed to be no diminution in the chip notes for 45 seconds. Within three minutes the overhead notes seemed normal -- relatively infrequent, and not close to ground. The same level of notes prevailed the rest of the time the ceilometer was off.

During this blackout period I could see occasional birds in the beam of the airport's rotating beacon, a double-beam light mounted 40 feet above ground, and about horizontal in direction. Birds so seen were in a NNW-SSE direction at about 40 to 50 feet elevation and not more than 500 feet away from the beacon itself. Those birds were not attracted to the beacon, but had been intercepted by the beam. Eighteen birds were thus recorded in 14 minutes.

A Repeat Performance

I had been working on my back right beside the ceilometer, using 6x4.2 binoculars, a 17x4.2 prism scope, or just the upper part of my bifocals. The binoculars were a better tool than the scope. I kept this working position for most of the remaining time.

When the light was turned on again, the first bird observed came into the outer cone in eight seconds, from NNW and at about 500 feet. Next was from N at about 400 feet, four seconds later. After one minute from the time the beam was turned on there were about 30 birds high in the beam, and none had yet been seen at 300 feet or less. By then the circling flight was apparent, and the direction of entering was no longer ascertainable. Not until after the fourth minute were birds seen to enter the cone at low levels; they came in from all directions. They might have been birds that dropped from the higher level; chip notes did not indicate low migrants. The count slowly built up, but not enough to equal the count at 1 a.m., before the ceilometer was turned off.

How many birds were involved in the merry-go-round is a question, for there could easily have been constant replacements after a bird had swung around the light beam a few times -- no exhausted birds were seen. At any moment between 10 p.m. and 1 a.m. the count was estimated at 1200 or more. At 3 a.m., when the count was terminated, there were about 600 in the beam. The moon had not been visible through the night, and very few stars or planets could be observed.

An inspection of the ground around the ceilometer revealed no dead, injured or exhausted birds at 8 a.m. Aug. 31.

Another Repeat Performance

The following evening had much the same pattern. There was a similar ground haze and even better visibility (15 miles). The cloud ceiling was lower, however, from 2000 feet at 8 p.m. down to 800 feet at 4 a.m. Again the wind was S to SSE, from 6 to 10 mph. Observations were started at 6:45 p.m. EST, before real darkness set in. The build-up of birds in the cone of light followed the pattern noticed after 1:30 a.m. the previous night.

The first bird through the main beam was seen at 7:04 p.m., at about 700 feet and from the north. Until 7:30 p.m. the count of those seen was about four per minute, at about the same height, and entering from between west and north. Thereafter the count built up, and by 7:40 p.m. the circular flight could be seen. By then several birds were simultaneously in the wide beam, with frequent flashes as they went through the main beam. The count slowly built up, and between 10 and 11 p.m. probably included 600 birds in view at once. Observations were discontinued at 10 p.m. On the following morning there were again no signs of birds in distress.

The chips and the flight, size and shape indicated that the birds of the second night were much the same species as those of the first night, with two additions. At 7:10 p.m. a screech owl flew through the outer cone in a N-S direction,

about 20 feet above ground, with no apparent regard for the beam of light. The owl continued in straight flight over my automobile and disappeared beyond. On three occasions starlings were recognized at heights of about 50 feet, flying fast through the outer cone from west to east; these observations were several minutes apart, and apparently not of a circling bird.

Other Evenings

The ceilometer was not inspected again until the evening of September 8, at 9 p.m. Ceiling and visibility were unlimited, wind was south at 8 mph, and it was cool. The moon was visible, and stars were numerous. The ceilometer beam was reaching high into the sky. In the absence of haze, the main beam was not spilling much light; its contrast was so low that stars could be seen through it. The secondary beam was practically absent. For 15 minutes both the moon and the ceilometer beam were watched, Mrs. Bartlett using the 17x prism scope on the moon. No migrants were seen by either of us, nor were any chips heard.

The evening of September 11 was warm and somewhat hazy, so the ceilometer was visited again, at 8:45 p.m. About six birds were observed, rather low in the beam. Chip notes, both there and in other local areas, indicated relatively few migrants in flight.

On October 5 to 9 inclusive there were occasions for observing airports at Schenectady, Boston, Albany, Bridgeport, and Philadelphia. At some of the ports there was light haze; temperatures and winds were low. No chip notes were heard at any of the ports, and no birds were observed in ceilometer or beacon beams.

The Albany airport was visited again from midnight to 2 a.m. of October 18-19. Planes were icing at 5000 feet, and a frost was forecast. Chip notes were heard only three times. The ceiling was high and the secondary beam of the ceilometer was inconsequential. On four occasions a lone bird flew slowly through the beam, two at from 75 to 100 feet above ground and two at 300 feet or more. None circled in the beam. In addition there were two slow-flying birds, minutes apart, that circled the beam twice at about 300 feet.

The Ceilometer

Ceilometers at different airports are much alike, and those of one make have parts interchangeable with those from another manufacturer. The one at Albany is like the one at Nashville, for instance -- A.E.Craft of the Albany station was at Nashville before the reported flight disaster there on September 9-10, 1948.

The Albany ceilometer, of Crouse-Hinds make, uses a General Electric 1400-watt, 1400-volt, high-intensity, mercury-vapor quartz lamp, with a rear-surface parabolic mirror. Candlepower is variously mentioned as 25- to 33,000,000. Motor-driven fans supply forced-air cooling. The ceilometer operates continuously, day and night. Cloud heights are read to 15,000 feet or more, and the beam can be seen from at least 30,000 feet. The beam is adjustable, and is usually set for about a two-degree spread. Its spot on the underside of a cloud is often visible for miles.

Weather Data

Reports of the U. S. Weather Bureau at the Albany Airport station for the nights mentioned and one preceding are shown below. Winds aloft are by courtesy of the National Weather Records Center, Asheville, N.C.

Date	Time, E S T	Cloud ceiling, in feet	Ground visibility, mi.	Ground		Winds aloft			Temp., deg. F	Barometer, in. Hg	Humidity, %
				Direction	wind velocity in mi. per hr.	height in mi.	Direction	Veloc., mi. per hr.			
Fri 8-29	8pm	6,000	15	S	3	1	W	30	74	29.70	74
	12	6,500	10	0						.72	87
Sat 8-30	8pm	3,500	10	SSE	9				72	29.88	70
	10	4,800	10	SSE	10	1	SE	30	70	.91	64
	12	4,500	10	SE	18/25				68	.91	58
	2	5,500	10	SSE	10				66	.91	64
	4	4,200	8	SE	8	1	SE	30	65	.92	66
Sun 8-31	8pm	2,000	15	SSE	10				66	29.86	72
	10	1,500	15	S	6	1/3	S	18	64	.83	84
	12	1,000	15	SSE	12				64	.79	85
	2	1,000	15	SSE	10				64	.76	88
	4	800	10	S	6	1/3	SSE	18	65	.76	87
Mon 9-8	8pm	clear	15	S	7	1	W	10	55	30.12	73
	12	30,000	15	S	9	3	NNE	10	52	.13	84
Thu 9-11	8pm	30,000	10	VNW	11	1	N	20	76	29.82	70
	9	30,000	10	VNW	6	2	NW	45	74	.82	75

Perhaps, as has been suggested by Newman, it would be possible to investigate night flight by using the beam of a ceilometer instead of the moon. The usual terrestrial prism telescope, or spotting scope, would have certain disadvantages, however, since the line of sight would be almost vertical.

An astronomical reflecting telescope with its right-angle eyepiece, or a refracting telescope with its eyepiece similarly positioned, would seem to offer advantages.

Whether or not the ceiling is unlimited and the ground visibility at maximum would also affect results, since high-flying birds would be less brilliantly illuminated if there is haze to absorb the light.

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 - (3) Laband, K.A. 1951. An accident to birds at the ceilometer near Symrna. *Migrant*, 22:63.
 - (4) Laskay, A.R. 1951. Another disaster to migrating birds at the Nashville airport. *Migrant*, 22: 57-60.
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BROAD-WINGS, QUANTITATIVELY OBSERVED

SBC's half-dozen summer field trips accounted for 104 species, but with no particularly outstanding observations. American Egrets were in usual abundance along the Hudson below Albany, but were scarce in other sections. A southbound flight of a hundred or more Broad-winged Hawks was noted on the September 21 trip. There was a Black Tern along the Mohawk River August 24.

In general the attendance was small on the trips -- that has been the case every summer.

The Broad-winged Hawks of September 21 were not the only hawks of interest. The trip of September 7 indicated a start on hawk migration, with five species recorded.

To the list of summer trips might be added the Lunar Count of September 3-4. It was held at Collins Park, Scotia, and accounted for a goodly number of birds -- but they pretty well remained unidentified as to species.

Cuckoos

Vischer Ponds, June 22

It was a cloudy Sunday, June 22 -- a day of cool temperature, with not many birds and not much bird song. The birders numbered nine and the birds recorded reached 53 species.

Construction of a dike has made some mud flats and sandy stretches where migrants stop for food and rest -- later in the summer should reveal many fall migrants.

Perhaps the Black-billed Cuckoo was the best Sunday record; the Yellow-billed was found the previous day, but escaped the Sunday hikers.

-- Nelle G. Van Vorst

Marsh Wrens and Egrets

Lower Hudson, July 20

Sunday, July 20, followed the pattern already set, weatherwise, by June and early July. The sky was clear, except for scattered thunderheads toward mid-day, and became progressively warmer. A few hardy souls met at the Albany Plaza at 7:30 a.m. and took off for the swamps below Rensselaer and the Stockport Flats. As we were leaving the first swamp we were met by the Fordham family.

The Marsh Wren population seems to be increasing in the swamps. Long-bills were everywhere in the cattails, and appeared to be of all sizes and ages. One nest was found.

Three immature Virginia Rails crossed the swamp road in front of the Fordhams as they were coming in to meet us. One youngster very obligingly returned for a curtain call when the balance of the party came out.

Swamp Sparrows were also chattering away, and off in the reeds we heard the chicken-like calling of the Gallinule. Farther down the road a lucky stop for a "listen" produced an Indigo Bunting. Although he was giving out with his double-note calls, he was a very lazy bird about it. But who could blame him on such a day?

A trip back to the river farther downstream produced a "peep" and some Killdeers working over the mud flats, while farther downstream we saw our first Egret. As he waded through the low water of an ebb tide we had a glimpse of his black feet, identifying him as the American Egret.

Schenectady Bird Club, Inc.

Guy Bartlett Editor
1053 Parkwood Blvd.

The Stockport Flats, although the tide was out, produced no shorebirds; and only another Egret, Green Herons, and an Osprey were added. The total count for the trip amounted to 49 species.

-- Leon A. Wiard

Observers Few, Birds MoreThe Ponds, August 24

The field trip to Vischer Ponds August 24 had a clear, cool morning, with September temperature of 52 and no wind. Because of the vacation season only eight people were out. It would seem that the migration of the Kingbird, Red-wings, and Bobolinks was at the peak for that area. A list of 65 species was recorded, but nothing outstanding for the day except the Black Tern.

-- Nelle G. Van Vorst

Hawks AplentyWide Waters, September 7

A last-minute change in plans because of the possibility of too few shorebirds resulted in the substitution of locale for the SBC trip of September 7. Although extensive mud flats are available at Johnsonville Reservoir, it was felt it might be a little too late to warrant the long trip. Subsequent events proved this to be true.

The first stop was at the Coal Pocket, where we visited the two small ponds along Dyke Road. Rains a few days previously had filled these ponds, and there was a scarcity of birds of any kind. However, the river produced a few birds to start the list. There were quite a few ducks, mainly Blacks and Pintails, over the rushes, with here and there a heron or egret.

The trip wound up at Vischers, where several different warblers were found along the towpath. One feature of the trip was the evidence of a start in the hawk migration, five kinds having been seen. There were eight observers, and a list of 46 species.

-- Leon A. Wiard

Four Kinds of HeronsHudson River Trip, September 14

The story of this trip has already been told (FEATHERS; October, 1952; page 60).

Hawks in FlightWatervliet Reservoir, September 21

Waterbirds were scarce at Watervliet Reservoir September 21. Only four species of ducks, three Pied-billed Grebes, and one Green Heron were seen. Three species of shorebirds were recorded: Spotted and Pectoral Sandpipers, and Killdeer. A Sora dashed out in view of most of the party of nine as they stood on the bridge before the trip started.

There was a lot of activity at the western end of the reservoir where, across the stream, the shrubs were alive with Nuthatches, Chickadees, Finches and Sparrows. One attractive bird, no doubt a friend in some strange autumn garb, puzzled us and got away unidentified.

The highlight of the trip was when the lists were being prepared. Suddenly 50 Broad-winged Hawks were discovered directly overhead. Within a half hour 50 more were seen in groups of 2 to 8. They would circle awhile, then peel off one by one and sail south. Sandwiched in with the Broad-wings were two Nighthawks which brought the list to 44, not counting one unidentified vireo.

-- Samuel R. Madison

(See FEATHERS, October, 1952, page 59, for other observations of Broad-winged Hawks on September 21.)

The Totals104 Species

In the following composite checklist, the trips are designated as:

A	Vischer Ponds	June 22	53 species
B	Lower Hudson	July 20	49
C	The Ponds	August 24	65
D	Wide Waters	September 7	46
E	Lower Hudson	September 14	51
F	Watervliet Reservoir	September 21	44

Details concerning weather conditions, exact locations, and counts by species are available in the records of both the field-trip committee and the records committee.

Pied-billed Grebe	c d e f	Bank Swallow	a b c
Dbl-crested Cormorant	e	Barn Swallow	b c d
Great Blue Heron	a b c d e	Cliff Swallow	c
American Egret	a b d e	Blue Jay	c d e f
Green Heron	a b c d e f	American Crow	a b c d e f
Black-cr. Night Heron	a b c e	Black-capped Chickadee	a c d e f
American Bittern	a b c d	White-breasted Nuthatch	b d e f
Mallard	a b c d e f	House Wren	a b e
Black Duck	a b c d e f	Long-billed Marsh Wren	a b e
Pintail	d	Catbird	a b c d e f
Blue-winged Teal	d e f	American Robin	a b c d e f
Wood Duck	c d e f	Wood Thrush	a b
Sharp-shinned Hawk	b	Veery	b
Cooper's Hawk	b c d	Eastern Bluebird	b c e
Red-tailed Hawk	b c e	Cedar Waxwing	a b c d e f
Red-shouldered Hawk	d	Common Starling	a b c d e f
Broad-winged Hawk	f	Yellow-throated Vireo	a d e
Marsh Hawk	d e	Red-eyed Vireo	a c e
Osprey	b c d e	Warbling Vireo	a
Sparrow Hawk	b c d f	Yellow Warbler	a b f
Ring-necked Pheasant	a c e	Magnolia Warbler	f
Virginia Rail	b e	Myrtle Warbler	c d f
Sora	e f	Black-thr. Green Warbler	d
Florida Gallinule	a b c d e	Blackburnian Warbler	d
Ringed Plover	c	Chestnut-sided Warbler	a c f
Killdeer	a b c e f	Bay-breasted Warbler	d
Upland Sandpiper	a	Black-poll Warbler	d f
Spotted Sandpiper	c d f	Northern Waterthrush	d
Solitary Sandpiper	c	Common Yellowthroat	a b c d
Lesser Yellow-legs	c e	Yellow-breasted Chat	a
Pectoral Sandpiper	f	Black-capped Warbler	c
Semipalmated Sandpiper	b c	Canada Warbler	c
Herring Gull	c d e	Redstart	a c f
Ring-billed Gull	e	House Sparrow	a b c d e f
Black Tern	c	Bobolink	a c
Mourning Dove	a c d e	Eastern Meadowlark	a c
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	e	Red-winged Blackbird	a b c d e f
Black-billed Cuckoo	a	Baltimore Oriole	a
Common Nighthawk	f	Purple Grackle	a b c e
Chimney Swift	a b c	Brown-headed Cowbird	a b c d f
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	c e	Scarlet Tanager	a e f
Belted Kingfisher	a b c d e f	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	f
Yellow-shafted Flicker	a b d e f	Indigo Bunting	a b f
Hairy Woodpecker	c e	American Goldfinch	a b c d e f
Downy Woodpecker	a b c d e f	Eastern Towhee	a f
Eastern Kingbird	b c	Savannah Sparrow	d
Crested Flycatcher	a b c	Vesper Sparrow	c f
Eastern Phoebe	a b c d e f	Chipping Sparrow	a b c e f
Trail's Flycatcher	b	Field Sparrow	f
Least Flycatcher	a c	White-throated Sparrow	c e f
Eastern Wood Pewee	c	Swamp Sparrow	a b c e
Tree Swallow	a b c	Song Sparrow	a b c d e f

GOLDEN EAGLE AND MUTE SWAN FEATURE 1951

RECORD-BREAKING LIST OF 215 LOCAL SPECIES

Frazer R. Turrentine, Records Committee Chairman

The 10-county area covered by SBC "local" records netted a new all-time high of 215 species in 1951, bettering the previous high count by five.

The Mute Swan made its first appearance (other than on the Hudson below Catskill) in a big way, two to four being seen repeatedly in May and June; and one in December.

Also featured was the first record of the Golden Eagle in nearly a quarter century.

Several species deserve special mention. We had had only four previous records of the Great Black-backed Gull; in 1951 there were six records in March and April, of as many as six individuals at a time. The Iceland Gull was reported for the third time -- three years in a row. A Baltimore Oriole was reported as a wintering bird for the first time, one at Ballston Lake from February to April, and two there in November.

Still other outstanding records were: Barrow's Golden-eye, Golden Plover, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, and Blue-winged Warbler.

The 1951 field trips, with their record-breaking 183 species in local territory, already have been summarized (FEATHERS, August, 1952, pages 45-48). The following, greatly condensed list gives only the first and last dates recorded, and an indication of the periods of the year commonly present. Rare species and extreme dates have been underlined, and in most such cases the observer has been indicated. SBC field-trip records have not been particularly designated. Abbreviations of observers' names are tabulated at the end of the list. Dates shown are inclusive.

1951 Records

215 Species

LOONS

- Common Loon Trans.vis. Apr.13-June 13 (below Catskill, GB);
Nov. 4-17
Red-throated Loon One, Saratoga Lake, April 21 (RS,RY)

GREBES

- Red-necked Grebe Trans.vis. May 12, Oct.21-Nov.17
Horned Grebe Trans.vis. Apr. 8-21, Oct.21-Dec.2
Pied-billed Grebe Trans.vis. Mar.29-May 12, Sep.16-Nov.17; summer res.

CORMORANTS

- Dbf-crested Cormorant Trans.vis. May 12 and 30, Aug. 31, Nov. 4

HERONS

- Great Blue Heron Trans.vis. Apr.10-June 10, Aug.12-Nov.17; also, two,
Berne Swamp, July 15
American Egret Summer visitor July 15- Oct.19
Little Blue Heron One, Saratoga Lake, August 18 (RY)
Green Heron Summer resident May 4 to Oct. 29
Black-cr. Night Heron Summer resident March 19 to Sept. 16
American Bittern Summer resident Apr. 21 to Oct. 31 (RS)
Least Bittern Summer res., recorded Jul.15, Sep.16, Oct.12 (RS)

DUCKS, GEESE, SWANS

<u>Mute Swan</u>	Straggler; first local records except on Hudson below Catskill. Two, Schenectady, May 27-June 8; four Castleton, June 13 (GB); one, Saratoga Lake, Dec. 2 (LAW)
Canada Goose	Trans.vis.Mar.11-May 12, Oct.21-Nov.4; planted pairs with young May 31 and June 8; flocks on three August dates, probably Conservation Department stock. Recorded every month.
Mallard	Common, recorded every month.
Black Duck	Common, recorded every month.
American Widgeon	Trans.vis. Mar.17-Apr.22, Oct.12-Nov.17
Pintail	Trans.vis. Mar.11-May 12, Oct.12
Green-winged Teal	Trans.vis. Apr.8-May 5, Aug.18-Sep.16
Blue-winged Teal	Trans.vis. Apr.22-May 12, Aug. 18-31
Wood Duck	Summer resident March 24 - October 12
Redhead	Flock of 50, Saratoga Lake, Nov. 4 (RS)
Ring-necked Duck	Trans.vis. Mar.28-May 21 (pair, Watervliet Reservoir), November 4
Canvas-back	Flock of 11, Saratoga Lake, Nov.4
Greater Scaup	Trans.vis. Feb.18; 1,000, Saratoga and Round Lakes, Apr. 1; 45 at Saratoga Lake Nov. 4
Lesser Scaup	Trans.vis. Apr.1-May 12, Oct.21-Nov.4
American Golden-eye	Winter and trans.vis. to Apr.21, returned Oct. 21
<u>Barrow's Golden-eye</u>	Two males, Mechanicville, Feb.18
Buffle-head	Trans.vis. Feb.18 to Apr.21, Nov. 4 to 17
Old-squaw	Saratoga Lake, Nov. 11-17
White-winged Scoter	Trans.vis. May 12, Oct. 21- Nov.17
Surf Scoter	Saratoga Lake, 30 on Oct. 21, 8 on Nov. 4 (RS)
Ruddy Duck	Trans.vis. Nov. 4-17
Hooded Merganser	Trans.vis. Feb.18-Mar.21, Nov.4-Dec.22
American Merganser	Winter vis. left June 13 (GB), arrived Nov. 4
Red-breasted Merganser	Trans.vis. Mar.25-Apr.21, Nov. 17
<u>VULTURES, HAWKS</u>	
Turkey Vulture	One April 25, two May 20, two May 27
Goshawk	Winter visitor to Jan.26, returned Dec. 26
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Trans.vis. May 12, Sep.16-29; winter visitor November 11 and December 30
Cooper's Hawk	Trans.vis. May 12-30, Aug.19-Oct.14; winter visitor December 22 and 30
Red-tailed Hawk	Recorded each month except July, August and October
Red-shouldered Hawk	Recorded March 9 to May 30, July 15 to November 17
Broad-winged Hawk	Trans.vis. Apr. 1-28, Aug. 24-Sept. 23
Rough-legged Hawk	Winter visitor to March 1, and December 28.
<u>Golden Eagle</u>	One at Watervliet Reservoir April 8 (BTH, RS, RY); only one previous recent record.
Bald Eagle	Six records: Jan.13, June 10 & 13; Sep.16 (three, SBC Hudson River trip); Oct.14; and Dec.22
Marsh Hawk	Summer res. Apr.8-Sep.30; also Nov.4 and Dec.2
Osprey	Trans.vis. Apr.15-June 9, Aug.18-Sep.22
Peregrine Falcon	One, Dec.30 (SBC Christmas Count)
Sparrow Hawk	Resident
<u>GALLINACEANS</u>	
Ruffed Grouse	Resident
Ring-necked Pheasant	Resident
<u>RAILS, GALLINULES</u>	
King Rail	One record, May 12
Virginia Rail	Summer res. Apr.8(SBC) to Aug.24
Sora	Summer res., recorded Apr. 8 and May 26

- Florida Gallinule Summer resident May 4 to September 16
 American Coot Trans.vis. Apr.1-May 12, Sep.22-Nov.17
- SHORE BIRDS
- Ringed Plover Trans.vis. May 12 and 25, Sep.16
 Killdeer Summer res. Feb.25 (GMHausler) to Nov.6 (RS)
 August 21 (EH)
- American Golden Plover Summer resident, arrived April 13
 American Woodcock Trans.vis. Apr.13-June 9, Sep.16-Oct.12
 Wilson's Snipe One record, Sep.16 (SBC)
 Upland Sandpiper Summer resident, arrived April 15
 Spotted Sandpiper Trans.vis. May 12
 Solitary Sandpiper Trans.vis. May 12-26, Aug.12-Oct.12
 Greater Yellow-legs Trans.vis. May 12, Aug.31-Sep.16
 Pectoral Sandpiper One record, May 26, Vischer Ponds
 White-rumped Sandpiper Four, Niskayuna, August 31
 Least Sandpiper One, Hudson River trip, September 16
 Eastern Dowitcher Three, Niskayuna, Aug.31; 22, Hudson River, Sept.16
 Semipalmated Sandpiper One, second-year plumage, Scotia, Mar.19 (RS, DT)
- Iceland Gull Six records: Mar.3 to Apr.1, one to six individuals
Great Black-backed Gull Recorded every month
 Herring Gull Winter and trans.vis. to May 12, arrived Aug.18 (RS)
 Ring-billed Gull Two on May 6, one May 12
 Bonaparte's Gull One record, May 12
 Common Tern One record, May 12
 Black Tern One record, May 12
- DOVES
- Mourning Dove Recorded each month; special survey made in fall
- CUCKOOS
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo Summer res., recorded July 15 to September 16
 Black-billed Cuckoo Summer resident, May 27 to September 3
- OWLS
- Barn Owl One record, Loudonville, July 10 (LWF)
 Screech Owl Resident. One banded at Delmar Oct., 1950, found dead in Wood Duck nest box Jan. 23.
 Horned Owl Resident, recorded October, November and December
 Snowy Owl Five records: January, February and November
 Barred Owl Recorded only in May and June
 Short-eared Owl One, May 12
- GOATSUCKERS
- Whip-poor-will Summer resident, recorded May 1 to June 15
 Common Nighthawk Summer resident May 15-Sep.16; many trans.vis. on August 18 (NVV)
- SWIFTS, HUMMERS
- Chimney Swift Summer resident April 29 to October 6
 Ruby-thr. Hummingbird Summer resident May 12 to August 18
- KINGFISHERS
- Belted Kingfisher Recorded every month
- WOODPECKERS
- Yellow-shafted Flicker Recorded every month except February
 Pileated Woodpecker Resident
 Red-headed Woodpecker Recorded May 23 and Nov.7
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker Trans.vis. Apr.8-May 12, Sep.29-Oct.7; summer resident at Jenny Lake
- Hairy Woodpecker Resident
 Downy Woodpecker Resident
 Arctic Woodpecker Pair at Ballston Lake late Jan. and early Feb.
- FLYCATCHERS
- Eastern Kingbird Summer res. May 12-Oct.14 (6, Renss.County, SCF)
 Crested Flycatcher Summer resident, May 6 to September 11
 Eastern Phoebe Summer resident, March 28 to October 14

- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher Trans.vis. May 20, Aug.30, Oct.2
 Traill's Flycatcher Summer resident May 12 to August 24
 Least Flycatcher Summer resident May 4 to September 11
 Eastern Wood Pewee Summer resident May 20 to September 16
 Olive-sided Flycatcher One, Vale Cemetery, May 26
- LARKS
 Horned Lark Recorded Jan. through May; November and December
- SWALLOWS
 Tree Swallow Summer resident, March 31 - September 4
 Bank Swallow Summer resident, April 28 - August 31
 Rough-winged Swallow Recorded April 30 to May 26
 Barn Swallow Summer resident, April 8 - September 3
 Cliff Swallow Summer resident, May 12 - August 24
 Purple Martin Recorded May 12, June 1, August 24
- CROWS, JAYS
 Blue Jay Resident
 American Crow Resident
- TITMICE
 Black-capped Chickadee Resident
- NUTHATCHES
 White-breasted Nuthatch Resident
 Red-breasted Nuthatch Winter and trans.vis. to May 12, returned Sept.22
- CREEPERS
 Brown Creeper Winter and trans.vis; none June, July, August
- WRENS
 House Wren Summer resident, April 28 - October 5
 Winter Wren Winter and trans.vis. to June 5; arrived Sept. 22
 Carolina Wren One, mid-April through mid-July, Rexford (RS)
 Long-billed Marsh Wren Summer resident, May 4 - September 16
 Short-billed Marsh Wren One, Meadowdale, June 10 (RS)
- MOCKERS, THRASHERS
 Mockingbird Third recent local record, Sep.26, Delmar (SCF)
 Catbird Summer resident, May 4 - October 16
 Brown Thrasher Summer resident, April 26 - September 18
- THRUSHES
 American Robin Present throughout year; 300, near Amsterdam, Jan. 29
 Wood Thrush Summer resident, April 30 - October 12
 Hermit Thrush Local summer resident; one at feeding station, early January (Mrs.WLButler); recorded Apr.13-Nov.2
 Olive-backed Thrush Trans.vis. May 12 (marked wave)-May 26, Sep.18-Oct.1
 Gray-cheeked Thrush Trans.vis., recorded Oct.1 and 5
 Veery Summer resident, April 27 - August 24
 Eastern Bluebird Summer res. and winter vis. None Feb, Nov, or Dec.
- KINGLETS
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher Pair and three young, Lake Lonely Outlet (CRRobins)
 Golden-crowned Kinglet Winter and trans.vis.; trans. Apr.8-26, Oct.5-28
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet Trans.vis. Apr.9-May 20, Sep.8-Oct.18
- PIPITS
 Water Pipit Trans.vis; 80 on Apr.8; Sep.16 - Nov.6
- WAXWINGS
 Bohemian Waxwing Flock of 11 reported in Feb. (Albany newspaper)
 Cedar Waxwing Recorded every month except Dec.; albino in Feb.
- SHRIKES
 Gray Shrike One, December 30, Scotia
 Loggerhead Shrike One, Duaneburg, Apr.1 (RY), two Apr.20, Karners (MBS)
- STARLINGS
 Common Starling Resident
- VIREOS
 Yellow-throated Vireo Summer resident, May 5 - September 16

- Solitary Vireo Trans.vis. May 6-20, Sep.29-Oct.12; also June 10 at Berne Swamp as possible summer resident
- Red-eyed Vireo Summer resident, May 12 - September 18
- Philadelphia Vireo Recorded September 16, Niskayuna (RS)
- Warbling Vireo Summer resident, May 6 - September 11
- WARBLERS
- Black and White Warbler Summer resident, April 26 - September 3
- Worm-eating Warbler Three, Ravena, May 12, probable summer resident
- Golden-winged Warbler Summer resident, May 6 - August 12
- Blue-winged Warbler Recorded May 12-19, Vischers Ferry
- Tennessee Warbler Trans.vis. May 12-26, Sept. 4
- Nashville Warbler Summer resident, May 16 - September 18
- Parula Warbler Transient visitor May 12 and September 16
- Yellow Warbler Summer resident, May 4 - August 24
- Magnolia Warbler Trans.vis. May 15-26, Sep.1-23; local summer resident
- Cape May Warbler Trans.vis. May 4-12 and Aug.31
- Black-thr. Blue Warbler Trans.vis. May 3-27, Sep.23-26
- Myrtle Warbler Trans.vis. Apr.21-May 12, Sep.2-Nov.8 (RS)
- Black-thr. Green Warbler Summer resident May 5 - September 30
- Cerulean Warbler Recorded May 20, Wolf Hollow (SBC trip)
- Blackburnian Warbler Trans.vis. and summer res., arrived May 12
- Chestnut-sided Warbler Summer resident, May 5 to September 5
- Bay-breasted Warbler Trans.vis. May 17, September 3 - 11
- Black-poll Warbler Trans. vis. May 19-30, Sep.20 - Oct.5
- Pine Warbler Summer resident, arrived April 3.
- Prairie Warbler Local common summer resident, Karners, arrived May 12
- Palm Warbler Trans.vis. Apr.22-May 12, Sep.16-29
- Oven-bird Summer resident, May 6 - September 18
- Northern Waterthrush Transient visitor May 12
- Louisiana Waterthrush Summer resident, arrived April 28
- Mourning Warbler Summer resident at Jenny Lake, recorded June 24 (RS)
- Common Yellowthroat Summer resident, May 5 - September 29
- Yellow-breasted Chat Summer resident, recorded May 26 - July 15
- Black-capped Warbler Transient visitor May 14
- Canada Warbler Summer resident; trans.vis. May 6-30, Aug.12-Sep.1
- Redstart Summer resident, May 6 - September 29
- WEAVER FINCHES
- House Sparrow Resident
- BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES
- Bobolink Summer resident, May 9 - September 16
- Eastern Meadowlark Summer resident; none Jan, Feb or Dec.
- Red-winged Blackbird Summer resident; no Jan. record; 3000, Oct.12, Nisk.
- Baltimore Oriole Summer res. May 5-Sep.9; female, Ballston Lake, Feb. 12-Apr.21 and pair there after Nov.17
- Rusty Blackbird Trans.vis. Mar.11-Apr.22, Oct.12-Nov.7
- Purple Grackle Summer resident; recorded every month
- Brown-headed Cowbird Summer resident, Mar.17 - October 12
- TANAGERS
- Scarlet Tanager Summer resident, May 12 - October 1 (MWF)
- FINCHES, SPARROWS
- Cardinal Female, Glermont, Feb.10 (SCF); two, Catskill, July 28 (EH); female, Schenectady, Dec.2 (Mrs.DCPrince)
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak Summer resident, May 7 - September 12
- Indigo Bunting Summer resident, May 12 - September 29
- Evening Grosbeak Winter visitor, departed April 4, arrived October 14
- Purple Finch Winter and trans.vis.; none June, Nov. or Dec.
- Pine Grosbeak Winter vis., arrived Oct.31 (SCF)
- Fine Siskin Winter and trans.vis.; departed May 12; unusually common in autumn, arrived September 22 (RS)

American Goldfinch	Resident
Red Crossbill	Trans.vis. March 11 - May 30
Eastern Towhee	Summer resident, April 26 - October 14
Savannah Sparrow	Summer resident, April 8 - October 10
Grasshopper Sparrow	Summer resident, arrived May 12
Henslow's Sparrow	Summer resident, May 2 - August 19
Vesper Sparrow	Summer resident, April 8 - October 12
Slate-colored Junco	Winter and trans.vis; none June, July, August
American Tree Sparrow	Winter visitor to May 12, arrived October 28
Chipping Sparrow	Summer resident Apr. 14 - Nov. 1; also Dec. 14 (EH)
Field Sparrow	Summer resident, April 8 - November 1
White-crowned Sparrow	Trans.vis. Apr. 22 (DS) - May 14, Oct. 12-21
White-throated Sparrow	Trans.vis. April 13 - May 30, Sep. 23 - Nov. 10; also recorded March 24, December 22 through year
Fox Sparrow	Trans.vis. Mar. 7 (NVV) - Mar. 31; Oct. 29 - Dec. 2 (MWF)
Lincoln's Sparrow	Transient visitor May 13 and September 26
Swamp Sparrow	Summer resident, Apr. 8 - Nov. 4; also Jan. 26 (DT) and Dec. 22 - 29
Song Sparrow	Resident
Lapland Longspur	Winter vis., recorded Jan. 17, Nov. 6, and Dec. 29
Snow Bunting	Winter visitor, recorded Jan. 7, Nov. 6 and 12

KEY to Abbreviations:GBartlettSCFordhamMWFrenchEHallenbeckBTHippleDSavyerMBScotlandRStoneDTuckerINVorstLAWiardRYunick

 NEWS AND NOTES IN BRIEF
MONTEZUMANot So Bad

In view of the appeals in recent months concerning the Montezuma Refuge, the following quotation from The Bulletin of the Chemung Valley Audubon Society is of local interest:

"A letter from Dr. Monford of Clifton Springs Sanitarium early in September informed us of the state of things at the Montezuma Refuge which he visits twice weekly. To the many who love the place he gave encouragement. It was his judgment that the new highway being built through the marsh might not be frightening the birds as much as we feared.

"The shorebird migration was on and he saw more than he had ever seen in his life. As the great dump carts poured sand and stones into the new roadbed, a White-rumped Sandpiper would dodge the stones, then continue to feed.

"Some of us were spurred on to make a visit there to see for ourselves. It was a fascinating sight to find hundreds of Sandpipers and Plovers of many kinds running around and whirling over the freshly dumped earth, and also on the further pond which had been drained in order to get rid of the carp. Here we saw Ruddy Turnstones, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Dowitchers, Golden and Black-bellied and Semipalmated Plover; Least, Semipalmated and Solitary Sandpipers.

"The shorebirds will soon be gone, but they will be followed by vast numbers of ducks. There is always something

to see at Montezuma and it is encouraging to believe that all is not lost because of this new highway, though it cannot improve conditions for birding."

PILEATEDBecoming Suburban

"Pileated Woodpeckers seem to be undergoing increasing urbanization" was a statement in FEATHERS of June, 1951, in commenting on a Pileated seen along a Schenectady street.

Now Mrs. Mabel W. French of Loudonville has asked, "Are Pileated Woodpeckers becoming dooryard birds? At about mid-morning of September 27 I saw one alight on a wild cherry just inside a tiny piece of woods at the back of my neighbor's yard. My last sight of it showed it bounding away in the general direction of the intersection of Menands and Loudon Roads."

PEREGRINEMain-router

A Peregrine Falcon was observed in Rensselaer County on Sunday, November 2, flying to the east along the Routes 20-9 main highway beyond East Greenbush. -- G.B.

CHRISTMASAnd the Big Counts

Saturday, December 27 -- rain or snow or ice or hail or good weather or bad weather notwithstanding -- SBC will make its 14th Christmas Count.

It is the big field trip of the year -- the one with the longest SBC history (in fact the Count is 10 years older than the Club itself). It is the one with the greatest number of participants; and the one with the most interesting, although not the most numerous, list of species.

Details are being arranged by the co-chairmen of the Field Trip Committee, Esly Hallenbeck in Schenectady and Leon A. Wiard in Albany. Those planning to participate should communicate with either of the chairmen, and also endeavor to attend the SBC meeting in December (see this supplement for details).

Feeding stations should be watched particularly closely during mid-December; they frequently attract species otherwise missed. And Owls always have been a problem on local Christmas Counts; they are usually missed.

Last year's Schenectady list had 4790 individuals of 31 species on the "official" day, with an additional seven species on the preceding day. There was no duplication of territory in the two days, so for the Club's report the records were combined for totals of 38 species and 5528 individuals. The record for most species was set in 1944 with a total of forty. Down through the history of the count, 75 species have been recorded in the local 15-mile circle.

Others will participate in a Hudson-Tomhannock Christmas Count on Sunday, December 28. That area offers waterbird possibilities better than those within the ice-bound Schenectady area. It is a newer count, the first having been in 1947. Last year's count was 25 species, 1829 individuals. Its composite includes 36 species.

Jenny Lake has also been Christmas Counted since 1947. Its composite total is 19 species.

Altogether, in the three SBC areas there has been a grand total of 81 species. There are plenty of possibilities to add to the list this time -- Saturday, December 27. Plan on participating!



Published by Schenectady Bird Club, Inc.

Vol.14 No.12

December, 1952

THE TINIEST WATERFOWL

Rudolph H. Stone

While Frazer Turrentine and I were riding along the north shore of Saratoga Lake at about 11 a.m. on Saturday, November 1, Frazer suddenly exclaimed at a bird he almost missed, swimming very close to shore, that was much smaller than the numerous Horned Grebes nearby.

We backed up to the spot and soon identified a nervously twitching sandpiper-like bird of "peep" size as a Phalarope. We noticed the needle-like bill and the dark ear patch. Upon examining Peterson we noticed the streaked back, which proved this to be a Northern Phalarope, always rare and seldom seen here.

Winter-plumaged

We watched him leisurely for many minutes at very close range. This bird was in winter plumage, drab in contrast to the colorful breeding dress. He was very tame, and unconcerned over the fuss on his account.

A fresh wind blew large breaking waves against the shore. But this tiny fellow faced into the waves, rode the crests; and if the wave broke he fluttered over the crest, showing a strong white wing stripe.

A Twirler

He twirled continually this way and that way, dabbling incessantly, probably for bits of food on the water's surface. Most of his food is minute animal life, including crustaceans. We did not see him on shore, although Phalaropes feed on land too.

Besides a strong southwest wind, the temperature was near 60 F, and the atmosphere was hazy with the inescapable forest-fire smog.

Several other observers saw this bird later, at this and other spots along the north shore between a lone willow at the water's edge near Shore Inn Restaurant and the dirt road which passes Alsvor's Store.

Eslly Hallenbeck saw the bird last, on November 5, still in the same general region.

S B C FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Esly Hallenbeck and Leon A. Wiard, Co-chairmen

FALL PLUMAGES

Karners, Oct. 5

Are you a Cape Cod fan? If so you should have been on the field trip of October 5 in Karners Sand Barrens to appreciate the similarity. As one looked in every direction small hills, brightly colored, were in sight. As the party paused several times to look at a sparrow, it almost seemed as if ocean was just on the other side of the dunes. The sumac -- red, dull or brilliant as the light changed -- made the entire setting a blaze of glory.

The birding was rather uninteresting, as it can be at this time of the year. A few summer stragglers, robins, towhees, thrushes, and various kinds of sparrows were in evidence, with many Blue Jays.

The all-confusing warblers in their fall plumage caused lots of discussion, with some left unsettled. The juncos also gave us a surprise when we thought we heard a Ruby-crowned Kinglet but then saw and heard a Junco utter the call. The total, 26 species. -- Nelle G. VanVorst

FILEATED

Central Park, Oct. 19

A surprise was in store for the three who were out for the Central Park trip of October 19. A beautiful male Fileated Woodpecker was seen. One doesn't think of seeing Fileated Woodpeckers in a city; for the park it was a new species on SBC records. The list, 17 species.

-- Esly Hallenbeck

CANCELLED

Vischer Ponds, Oct. 26

For the purpose of the records, just a note -- the October 26 trip to Vischer Ponds was cancelled, in advance, because of the opening of duck-hunting. The area is a public shooting one.

TASTE OF WINTER

Tomhannock, Nov. 9

The Tomhannock Reservoir trip was a real November experience. The sky was overcast and mackerelled, with a promise of snow; the air was raw and penetrating, at 24°.

At 8 a.m. there were eight members ready to start over Congress Street Bridge. Later the Hipplees joined, to make the number 10. Only 22 species were seen, but some of the antics and groupings were interesting and very picturesque. Colorful reflections in the water, cloud formations, and flight and rest patterns were lovely to see. The rewards were not great, but they were worth the effort.

-- Pauline Baker

QUIET WATERS

Saratoga, Nov. 16

Sunday, November 16, was one of those very rare, warm November days when Saratoga Lake was a broad reflection of blue sky, white clouds, and cottages along the shore. Snake Hill stood upside-down in the quiet surface of the water.

Early on the bird trip dense fog had prevailed, but this

also an unpublished record of a few on the deep water of the Hudson River near Castleton in late September, 1949; in the records of Ernest Geiser.

LOUDONVILLE RECORDS

Acadian Flycatcher September 29. While working in my kitchen, a different note cut through the "seepings" of the White-throats in the yard. Not recognizing it, I traced it to a small flycatcher in a Japanese nut tree between our house and a patch of woods. The call was repeated several times -- "ka-peep"! My third record of the bird, but I previously heard only a one-syllabled note. The date late, and Acadian not supposed to speak much in the fall; but this was a balmy day, and even the Scarlet Tanager nearby was indulging in a "whisper song." Saw bird clearly; it tallied with my other Acadians, although I could not have been sure of it without the note.

Philadelphia Vireo October 3. My second record, the other being October 4, 1946, seen along the same brook-bed area but farther from the house. This bird's behavior pattern followed that of the first. It alternated between exploring rooty tangles of swamp bushes to flights into the trees. Seen clearly and repeatedly. Both birds were part of a migrating group including four or five species of warblers.

Black-throated Blue Warbler October 6 and 8. Dates following a frost; temperature on the 8th about freezing in early morning. The bird, a male, on the 8th was crouching in the dirt at our back doorstep, where the sun warmed the earth at that southern exposure. The bird was obviously trying to warm itself. It at last hopped off into the hollyhocks.

Black-throated Green Warbler November 3. A full-plumaged male weaving around among c lusters of still-green leaves at the tip of apple-tree branches. This is a record late date for the species in this area.

-- Mabel W. French

CATSKILL CARDINALS

This morning, November 13, I spotted a pair of Cardinals in the bushes behind the apartment house in which I am living. The flash of red caught my eye, and I became curious. Upon further investigation I was delighted to find a beautiful male Cardinal, and near him his drab mate. Getting up early in the morning has its rewards! -- Louise Stone Smith

REVISED CENTURY-COUNT TOTAL

The July, 1952, write-up on the Century Run (page 41) indicated the composite total has reached 201. That is correct, in a way. The total now stands at 199 species, plus two hybrids -- Brewster's and Lawrence's Warblers.

CHRISTMAS RECORDS

Just a reminder that the SBC Christmas Count will be made Saturday, December 27. Watch for, and report on all the birds you see that day, particularly owls, and any of those unusuals that pop in unexpectedly at feeding stations.